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THE GRADUATE IMPACT

Advanced degrees are a key driver for innovation in a wide variety of fields — providing not only a well-trained workforce but also a fresh perspective and enthusiasm. It is the graduate students of today who will be the researchers of tomorrow, and who will solve what until now have proven to be intractable problems in need of new thinking and approaches.

The world's prosperity is tied to our ability to be innovative and creative, and to translate good ideas into solutions that build our economy, strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for individuals.

The collaborative environment at MSU, where graduate students transform into emerging scholars and put to the test by experienced faculty, is perhaps our greatest asset when it comes to generating new ideas and innovation. As graduate and professional students complete their training, they also provide critical support for faculty in their ongoing research efforts. Our ability to attract and retain top faculty who build dynamic research programs is directly related to them having great students to work with.

Many undergraduate students find success because a graduate teaching assistant provided the boost they needed to cross the finish line of that dreaded required economics, or psych, or math class. Graduate students are some of the most innovative and enterprising instructors in the classroom — and because our graduate student population is quite diverse, they frequently become key mentors who are able to connect with students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Graduate students will impact the lives of thousands of undergraduate students during their training and in their future careers.



Dr. Thomas D. Jeitschko

Dean and Associate Provost for Graduate Education

MSU AT-A-GLANCE

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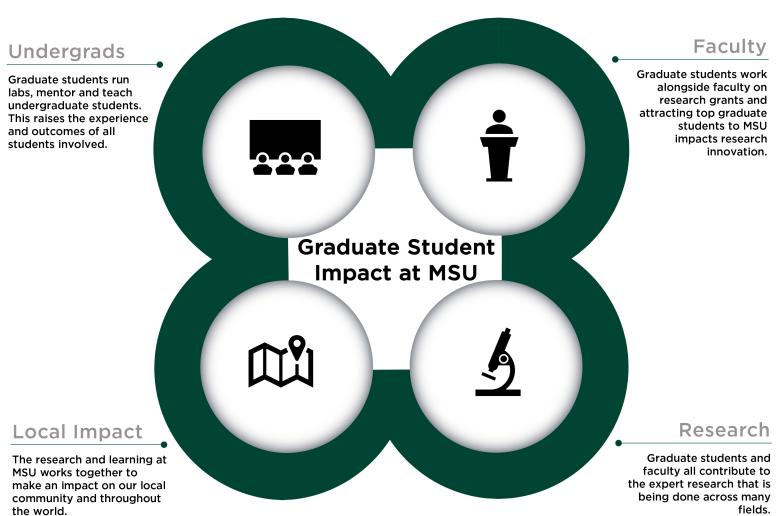
in the Big Ten and No. 22 in the nation for employability of graduates 25

Programs ranked in the top 20 nationally 200

Programs of academic study through our 14 colleges

With over **50,000** undergraduate and graduate students, our community is vibrant with representation from over **140** countries and all **50** states. **51.9%** of the student population is comprised of women, **20.6%** are of people of color and **12.4%** are international students.

GRADUATE STUDENTS AT MSU



ILLUMINATING THE PATH FORWARD

CHITTENDEN HALL

The physical home of the Graduate School has a long history at Michigan State. Chittenden Hall acquired its name in 1969, named after Professor Alfred K. Chittenden who led the academic Forestry program from 1914-1930. The State Registry of Historic Sites includes Chittenden Hall. At the Graduate School, we continue to build on this legacy by illuminating the path forward - fostering a community where graduate students are able to thrive and grow.

The Graduate School is a place for all graduate students to gather, to access professional development programming, wellness programming, leadership coaching, and Teaching Assistant training- all while, connecting with cross-section of institutional partners that make MSU a leader and innovator in Graduate Education. We facilitate the development of an active learning community through opportunities for graduate students to build cross-disciplinary networks and foster collaboration. Join us in illuminating futures, and supporting the community building efforts that have existed at the Graduate School since its founding.



GRADUATE SCHOOL VISION and MISSION

To provide strategic leadership in graduate education that advances humanity and furthers knowledge to shape the future.

To lead in the creation of inclusive cultures and innovative practices so that emerging scholars and professionals will thrive.

VALUES

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVITY

We nurture and promote individuals' varied experiences and ideas, assuring that structures and processes allow full participation by all members of our communities. These core values underpin our other values.

COLLABORATION

We strengthen relationships within our communities; working together to articulate and reach shared goals.

INTEGRITY

We act with honesty, transparency, and accountability.

EMPATHY

We listen with open minds, respecting the diverse needs and aspirations of those we lead and serve.

EXCELLENCE

We promote the highest standards in scholarship and outreach while adhering to ethical professional practice.

RANKED FIRST IN THE NATION FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

AFRICAN HISTORY

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

GRADUATE DEGREES IN THE TOP 10 NATIONALLY

Criminal Justice
Curriculum & Instruction
Educational Administration
Education Policy
Educational Psychology
Operations & Sourcing

INDUSTRIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

REHABILITATION COUNSELING

SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUPPLY CHAIN & LOGISTICS

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GOALS

STUDENT SUCCESS

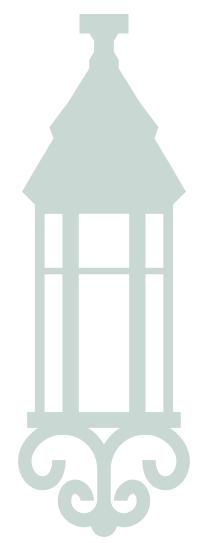
We have provided nationally recognized programs and models for fostering students' growth and well-being throughout their education. We will expand inclusive mentoring practices and catalyze continuous improvement across units to implement evidence-based practices.

DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

We have provided programs and initiatives to support and enhance diversity. We will expand our campus and external partnerships to implement inclusive recruitment and retention practices.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

We have actively collaborated with campus and external partners to innovate across all dimensions of graduate education. We will create and support networks that increase collaborations and improve educational opportunities.







John Tran

Leadership

Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Steering Committee Member

Editor-in-chief of AGEP Research Bulletin, Science Today

Accepted into the American Society of Plant Biologists Conviron Scholars Program 2018-2019

Program of Study Department of Plant Biology, Doctoral Program

Faculty Advisor Dr. Curtis Wilkerson

Imagine the impact on the world

John works as a part of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center on solutions aimed to make the expensive process of breaking down plant secondary cell walls easier, so biofuel production could be easily accomplished and affordable. "When we talk about nature we tend to think of ourselves as 'outside' of it. We're here and nature is out there. The future of this work is to have a future. Humans have a real impact on the world," says John. He emphasizes that, "It'll be great for us to have biofuels, but biofuels aren't the only solution. We need to be approaching the future in a 'portfolio approach' because there is no panacea. Nature works in balance and congruence... and researchers will have to do the same."

Highly regarded university

John says that "being a Spartan is a nationally recognized... even internationally recognized- intellectual brand." He had never witnessed people recognizing each other as a part of an educational community like Spartans do with "Go Green, Go White!" which he says made him feel like he "was a part of a university without borders." It was because John was admitted with supporting fellowships that he was able to enroll in MSU's program.

Role of support for graduate students

For John, the MSU Graduate School has been an incredible resource. "In speaking with other graduate students at other universities, they don't have what we have," says John. He notes resources to become a better graduate researcher, plus professional and personal development programming provided through programs like AGEP have helped him along the way. John emphasized the important role that graduate students play at MSU in everything from intellectual and research contributions to national advocacy and communication beyond the institution. That said, John feels that greater representation across diverse groups in faculty and administrative staff would be encouraging for him in his work. "Recruitment fellowships help the university have a more diverse pool of scholars and researchers on campus and widen how things are done and can be done in the future. They encourage departments to take chances on early career scholars and go beyond candidates that fall within the traditional admission metrics but have great potential. Likewise, recruitment fellowships encourage highly competitive applicants to take a chance at MSU."

GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS

MSU's committment to funding graduate studies

Graduate fellowships bring students to MSU who have dedicated themselves to the pursuit of knowledge in specific academic fields. They work collaboratively with faculty and other graduate students to advance research, help teach and mentor undergraduates, and lay the groundwork for leadership in their own careers.

University Distinguished Fellowships and University Enrichment Fellowships are used to help MSU recruit the best and brightest graduate students from around the country. They are competitively awarded based upon academic excellence, leadership potential, and contribution to a diverse educational community.

The Graduate School offers fellowship programs that provide financial support for outstanding students who plan to enroll in a doctoral or master of fine arts program. We are particularly aware of the special role that graduate education plays in training the next generation of leaders in academia, government and the private sector. In helping MSU to achieve its educational mission, our goal is to foster an intellectually vital and diverse educational community that will prepare graduate students to assume their professional roles in a diverse society. The Graduate School's recruitment fellowships support departments and programs in their goal of attracting a cohort of students who:

- Show evidence of leadership potential or of the capacity to make a distinctive professional or scholarly contribution
- Contribute to a diverse educational community, as evidenced in personal history and experience, research goals, or the promotion of understanding among persons of different backgrounds and ideas
- Have different racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic, geographic, and disciplinary backgrounds
- Have demonstrated academic excellence
- Articulate their commitment to research goals well matched to department or program doctoral emphasis areas

Fellowships by the Numbers

- 40 University Fellowships; 1 Endowed Fellowship
- Over 600 PhD graduates have benefited from University Fellowships in the last 25 years

How you can support Graduate School Fellowships

To help solve the world's most complex problems, invest in PhD fellowships for graduate students. The Univeristy distinguished Fellowship Fund supports students who are working hard to meet their research goals, demonstrate leadership potential, and contribute to a diverse educational community. Giving to PhD student fellowships will impact the lives of students who are overcoming obstacles as they pursue academic excellence.

Invest in the future and give to graduate education.



Olivia Chesniak

Leadership

Co-founder of Women in Chemistry, a graduate student organization focused on creating a community for female chemists to grow professionally and personally through workshops and events. Graduate Leadership Fellow

Program of Study

Department of Chemistry, Doctoral Program Certificate in College Teaching

Faculty Advisor Dr. Milton "Mitch" Smith

Impact beyond the discipline

While her research involves developing biocompatible nanomaterials for gene delivery therapeutics, Olivia has plans to continue actively participating in the global community that is working toward equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by bolstering communities where diverse scientists can thrive. Olivia also hopes to play a role in what it means to support future professionals. "There's a lot more to being a scientist than just doing science: you have to be able to talk about it, and convince other people of its importance. I spent a lot of time feeling timid in my program, but the programs and support I have received at MSU have helped me grow, and now I am a confident scientist."

Collaborative and mentored university experience

Olivia is grateful that MSU creates a "collaborative space where people will support your success." After taking many courses and beginning her own research, it was Olivia's research mentor who really encouraged her. "He believed that any of the world's problems could be solved by understanding chemistry," she said. Olivia wanted to better understand and ultimately improve how chemistry is taught in higher education, which brought her to Michigan State to pursue a Ph.D.

Nurturing Career Success

Olivia embraces personal and professional growth, and being in community with others who strive to improve themselves. "When I began applying for jobs, I decided to work with Ph.D. Career Services. They helped me tailor my cover letter to job ads, which was incredibly useful." Olivia is also a Graduate Leadership Fellow with Graduate Student Life and Wellness, where she is working to make professional development programming for women in STEM more accessible. "I like that the fellowship is interdisciplinary with people who are excited about bettering themselves and the university." Olivia's other memorable experience was her participation in the Certification in College Teaching (CCT) at the Graduate School. "I didn't come alive in my program and my interests until I started planning my CCT teaching project. Digging into the education scholarship got me so excited to pursue a career that will allow me to improve how scientists learn and prepare for their careers."

GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE and WELLNESS

MSU's committment to Graduate Student Life & Wellness

The Office of Graduate Student Life & Wellness is committed to student well-being and believes it is a key foundation for academic, career, and life success. In support of the academic mission of Michigan State University and in collaboration with campus partners and beyond, Graduate Student Life & Wellness works diligently to ensure that graduate students receive an engaged and holistic education, achieve their potential, and remain connected to the University. With the goal of improved retention, productivity, creativity, and innovation in support of educational excellence, research, and community service, Graduate Student Life & Wellness advocates for graduate students and delivers guidance, academic support, services, programs, and resources that support graduate students as they invest in their academic work.

Specifically, Graduate Student Life & Wellness improves graduate student success by:

- Facilitating connections to the Michigan State University community and strengthening student sense of belonging
- Helping students understand and value health and wellness in all of its dimensions and developing attitudes and behaviors that support health and wellness
- Providing resources and support for health issues and concerns
- Preparing graduate students for future leadership roles within academic, public, private, community and other professional settings
- Enabling students to be productive and satisfied in pursuit of their academic and life goals
- Supporting the development of graduate students in their personal and professional lives by promoting versatility, excellence, and a true value in their future endeavors
- Consulting with faculty, staff, and administrators about career and professional development, wellness, and student health concerns in order to identify opportunities for growth

Student Life & Wellness Programs

Health & Wellness

- Leadership Institute
- Holistic Stress Management
- Finals Week Support

Events & Workshops

- Recreation and Fitness Classes/Memberships
- Dissertation Writing Support
- Financial Well-Being
- Academic Women's Forum
- Fatherhood Forum



Graduate students will significantly influence the lives of thousands of undergraduate students during their training and in their future careers.

The value of graduate students...

How do graduate students impact communities, even as students are receiving their training?

MSU's professional and master's programs have strong ties and connections to the communities around us—with our health colleges being community-based, our law college engaged directly with community needs, and our many master's programs often working directly with community stakeholders across the state, be it in social work, music, journalism, entrepreneurship, engineering, and many more. Add to this the many students from all over the world who realize their most exciting dreams by coming to MSU to get a world-class education that allows them to help transform the world, and it is clear that graduate training is one of our most effective instruments of outreach.

Doctoral students are impacting communities as well. For example, the Adolescent Diversion Program of the Ecological-Community Psychology Program has engaged doctoral students in community efforts to generate alternatives to incarceration for young offenders.

Many graduate and professional students complete MSU's Graduate Certification in Community Engagement. The certification is designed to help students tailor their program of study to strengthen their scholarly and practical skills in community-engaged work. To successfully complete the certification, students must complete a 60-hour mentored community engagement experience as well as show mastery of core engagement competencies.

The Council of Graduate Students established an endowment in 2010 to recognize graduate and graduate-professional students with the COGS Disciplinary Leadership Award. It is a testament to the importance graduate students place on community involvement that winners are recognized for showing significant community leadership.





How do graduate fellowships help ensure excellence in graduate programs?

Graduate fellows form a cornerstone to strong programs. With stable funding, these students have more flexibility to explore research interests and collaborations. Fellows work in partnership with faculty and other graduate students to advance research and mentor undergraduates, as they hone skills for leadership in their own careers.

Endowed fellowships ensure that Michigan State University can attract the finest leaders to its doctoral programs, strengthen our teaching and research mission, and provide significant incentives to encourage the best students to make MSU their home.

across the university and beyond.



At a time when the growth of U.S. research activities is critical, federal and state resources that help provide funding for graduate students have diminished. At the same time, Michigan-based businesses struggle to find skilled workers to fill high-tech jobs due to the shortage of domestic students earning advanced degrees in science, engineering and technology fields. And we know there is a shortage of qualified faculty to meet the growing demand in higher education.

Fellowships are one of the best ways to attract top applicants, helping us recruit the most capable graduate students who often are comparing multiple offers from other universities. Right now, with approximately 200 exceptional students nominated each year by deans and department chairpersons as the "best of the best," MSU only has resources to offer 40 university-wide fellowships. Our competitors with a strong history of raising funds for fellowship endowments offer closer to 200. So we must continue to invest in fellowship endowments. It is the bedrock for maintaining our competitive edge, and for maintaining the quality of what we bring to the state and the nation.

MSU is committed to continuing to create a space for a cadre of outstanding graduate students who make a difference as they work alongside faculty in teaching and research. Private support for graduate fellowships is an important part of ensuring progress.



Dominik Neumann

Leadership
Leadership Fellow for the College of
Communication Arts & Sciences

Program of Study Department of Advertising and Public Relations, Media and Information Doctoral Program

Faculty Advisor Dr. Nancy Rhodes

Imagine the impact on the world

To Dominik, his identity as a Spartan is one focused on growth in the face of challenges. "Being a Spartan stands for the success I have had by learning from my failures and setbacks. Being a Spartan means not giving up," he says. Dominik's goals connect to both academic and practice-oriented spaces related to marketing, advertising, and communications. His research questions stem from realities of our fast-paced digital society, and centers on "threats to mental health and overall well-being due to increased perceived connectedness and social media use."

Highly regarded university

Dominik first came to Michigan State as a part of a semester abroad during his Master's program. He says he "enjoyed the American way of learning on the graduate level because it emphasizes research and exploring your own interests." When it comes to graduate student contributions, Dominik notes that everyone contributes in their own unique way through their research and fields of interest. "Michigan State University is a melting pot of cultures, mindsets, ideas, and stories. I think everyone has a good story to tell, especially graduate students who color the school's personality," he says. Because of the training and development that he has received from MSU, he has been able to collaborate with scholars across the United States. For example, Dominik talks about the personal benefits of being a leadership development fellowship through Graduate Student Life and Wellness at the Graduate School. "For me it helps me a lot with self-reflection and self-evaluation. I like helping shape programs or workplaces to make them better."

Support for an incredible experience

"Being a leadership fellow allowed me to actively engage in my department's offerings and allows me to make the Information and Media program an even better program in the academic community," says Dominik regarding his Leadership Fellow experience. The relationships he has built with people across fields and backgrounds has contributed to widening Dominik's view on the topics and issues he is working to address. This cross-disciplinary exposure and interdisciplinary scholarship is a priority of Dominik's. He says, "Graduate students and the academic community at Michigan State University would really benefit from more opportunities to work with other students across shared fields of interest."

GRADUATE SCHOOL TEACHING and LEARNING COMMUNITY

MSU's committment to Teaching & Learning

At Michigan State University, we are committed to the professional development of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at postsecondary instructors. Specifically, we provide resources and training for graduate students and postdocs who are:

- Teaching while they are studying and working at Michigan State (e.g., as TAs or instructors);
- Seeking to teach after leaving Michigan State (e.g., as a tenure-system, fixed-term or adjunct faculty member) and/or;
- Choosing not to pursue a job in the academy but want to translate their teaching skills into corporate, non-profit, or policy sectors.

The University Graduate Certification in College Teaching (CCT), an initiative of the Michigan State University Graduate School in partnership with MSU colleges, helps graduate students and postdocs organize, develop, and document their teaching experiences. Through professional development activities - workshops or seminars, coursework in disciplinary teaching methods, a mentored teaching project - participants build and consolidate their preparation for college and university teaching. The program culminates in an eportfolio that will help participants prepare for academic job interviews and plan for their professional development as early career faculty.

Most new faculty will have had advanced training in their discipline and some teaching experience, but few will have participated in programs that prepare them to teach in a career in higher education. As competition for faculty positions increases, graduate students who are well prepared as researchers will also need to demonstrate careful preparation as teachers and colleagues. The Certification in College Teaching is the only formal program in the state of Michigan, and one of only a handful in the United States, that provides graduate students a comprehensive preparation for teaching at the college level.

Teaching Assistant Professional Development

Michigan State University is committed to partnering with graduate programs, faculty and the Graduate Employees Union to provide a wide variety of professional development experiences in support of all MSU teaching assistants (TAs). This effort is particularly crucial because it is the teaching assistants at Michigan State that often provide undergraduate students with their first exposure to core courses in a wide variety of disciplines. As such, teaching assistants play a crucial role in Michigan State University's efforts to ensure academic success among the institution's undergraduate population.





Courtney Bryant

Leadership

Graduate School Strategic Plan Student Representative MSU SROP Alum

Program of Study

Department of Psychology, Organizational Psychology Doctoral Program

Faculty Advisor Dr. Ann Marie Ryan

Creating real-world change

Courtney envisions a workforce where people are appreciated for their differences and can be themselves in their place of employment. Courtney hopes to "unearth important underlying psychological mechanisms that will help to better the experience of minorities in the workplace." She sees the workplace as a platform for changing society and the way that we think about and respect each other. "For a long time minorities have had to be infiltrators and assimilate to the dominant culture in the workplace to get in and be accepted. Sometimes that means giving up the things that make you uniquely you, like your culture or pieces of your identity. I think the time is over for assimilation. It's time to open the doors and allow people in the way that they are," says Courtney who aims to be a part of that change.

Graduate school community

"I was in the MSU SROP program, the Summer Research Opportunities Program, over the summer in 2014. I did research then and there was so much that I loved," said Courtney about why she chose MSU. While her program's top national rankings didn't hurt, Courtney says, "Really it was the community that was provided by AGEP and the SROP program" that encouraged her to become a graduate student at MSU. Access to people that made her feel supported-like Associate Deans at the graduate school - stood out to her as exceptional, making MSU her number one choice for pursuing her doctoral degree.

The pivotal role of support for graduate students

"Graduate students are important nurturers to the undergrad population- teaching their classes and becoming their research mentors. There is a lot that we do to support faculty members- we're essential for their labs, their classes, their programs- whatever legacy they're building. In the community, we are oftentimes advocates for the broader social justice community within MSU, moving our culture and diversity and inclusion efforts forward," says Courtney. She advocates for reduced barriers to authenticity and suggests that a faculty-body that is representative of the identities of the student population would help graduate students across groups find mentors that they identify with personally and academically.

DIVERSE and INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)

The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) at Michigan State University (MSU) is a program that supports recruitment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented U. S. minorities in doctoral programs of the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering. Graduate students, post-docs and faculty who participate in building the AGEP Community at MSU provide a key to changing the culture of U. S. colleges and universities to embrace building world-class STEM and SBE faculties who fully reflect the diversity in race, gender, culture and intellectual talent of the U. S. population. The AGEP learning community is an informal environment where students from varying disciplines can gather, share their research in a 10-minute presentation, or discover that their graduate challenges are not unusual. Those in attendance are privy to information regarding fellowships, career opportunities, even summer internships.

AGEP Through the Years

250 members annually 5 Learning Communities established by Michigan Universities 8 students per year visit Washington DC to advocate on behalf of higher education

Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)

The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) is a gateway to graduate education at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. The goal of the program is to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue graduate study and research careers. SROP helps prepare undergraduates for graduate study through intensive research experiences with faculty mentors and enrichment activities.

Benefits of the program include:

- An opportunity to conduct research at one of the country's largest and most scenic academic research universities
- A generous stipend for the summer
- Free room and board on MSU campus
- Paid travel to/from East Lansing
- Opportunities to present research locally and regionally
- An opportunity to interact with successful role models who have earned advanced degrees

MSU SROP is a prime recruitment tool for MSU faculty, as it provides them with an opportunity to consider visiting undergraduate students as prospective graduate students and invite them to apply for graduate admission. MSU faculty and graduate students also plays a very important role in assuring the overall success of MSU SROP.

SROP Through the Years

95 College Graduating Seniors Attended SROP between 2015-2018

66 Students Applied for Admissions to Graduate School at MSU

32 Students Accepted offers to become Spartans

Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

Michigan State University was inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society in the Spring of 2019. The purpose of the Honor Society is to recognize outstanding scholarly achievement and promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. In the spirit of Edward A. Bouchet and the scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy he exhibited, both inside and outside academic realms, inductees into the honor society bearing his name must also exhibit these same outstanding qualities.



David Ferland

Leadership
Council of Graduate Students'
Child Support Endowment
donation volunteer

Program of Study Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, Doctoral Program

Faculty Advisor Dr. Stephanie Watts

Depth of Focus

David's work is related to hypertension or high blood pressure- why it exists in patients and how patients diagnosed with hypertension can be helped with a new drug or investigating how an existing drug could work for that individual. David admits that the work he does with colleagues is so focused that it can seem really small, sometimes making its impact hard to imagine. That said, David's work is contributing to the development of two drugs that could make a big difference for people when they hit the market. He shared, "There's a very real possibility that we could be helping people who were otherwise ignored. It would be really great to know that those people are being thought of and that we are able to help those people."

Lifelong Connections

David graduated with his undergraduate degree from MSU in 2014, and loved the collaborative community that MSU supported so much that he decided to come back for his graduate education. "There really isn't any other place that I'd rather work in. The graduate programs seem to have a formula that works in terms of being able to find good graduates students who can do some really quality work, and really support their peers," he says. David had a music background prior to beginning his doctoral work at Michigan State. He says that his cross-disciplinary training helps him see the big picture when it comes to research. "I tend to be globally minded. Being able to develop those big-picture ideas, really helps frame projects and get grants because I can convince someone else that the issue matters; that this is an issue that's actually going to help people."

Support for an Incredible Experience

"I knew that I wanted to work here and specifically with Dr. Watts because she is a great mentor both of undergrads and of Ph.D. students." David also worked with Julie Rojewski who manages the Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) program on a project that exposed him to career paths outside of academia. BEST "has been phenomenal for my career development," says David, noting that the program's professional development programming and internships expanded his perceptions of what was possible while helping him build a community with other students across the university.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST)

MSU BEST is a professional development program for post docs and Ph.D. students in biomedical science and engineering fields. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), MSU BEST helps students better understand the possible career landscape for biomedical Ph.D.s, and to develop the competencies and experiences needed to be competitive in seeking jobs in areas such as law, regulatory affairs, government agencies, private industry, entrepreneurship, and many others. The program includes one year of professional development workshops, seminars, panel discussions around careers, networking sessions, and other experiences to support career exploration. This competitive program also requires two "externships," or short-term "internship" experiences to provide work experiences and exposure for BEST trainees to experience expanded career opportunities.

Planning, Resilience, Engagement, Professionalism (PREP)

PREP (Planning, Resilience, Engagement, Professionalism) is MSU's career and professional development model framed around four professional skills. It is designed to help students plan for a successful doctoral and postdoc experience and a smooth transition into their future in or beyond the academy. The PREP model is organized around our career matrix, which allows you to plan according to where you are in your program or job search.

Center for Academic and Future Faculty Excellence (CAFFE)

The goal of CAFFE is to provide the necessary tools to generate individual development plans for graduate students and postdocs preparing for academic careers. These plans emerge as faculty advisors engage in "parallel mentoring", which refers to the concurrent attention to discipline-specific research training and professional preparation for academic careers.

PhD Career Services

Part of the MSU Graduate School and the Career Services Network, PhD Career Services provides a variety of online resources, as well as workshops and one-on-one advising, to support the many paths graduate students and postdocs choose to pursue, including careers in universities, government, industry, and non-profits. Our website contains sections on career exploration, preparing for a variety of career paths, and the job search – including résumé, cover letter, and interviewing tips – as well as career resources for international students and LGBTQ students, and information for employers and MSU PhD alumni. Visit: grad.msu.edu/PhDCareers.



CAREER and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and SUPPORT

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)

The Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) seeks to enhance excellence in STEM undergraduate education through development of a national faculty committed to implementing and advancing evidence-based teaching practices for diverse learners. CIRTL was founded in 2003 as a National Science Foundation Center for Learning and Teaching in higher education. CIRTL uses graduate education as the leverage point to develop a national STEM faculty committed to implementing and advancing effective teaching practices for diverse student audiences as part of successful professional careers. The goal of CIRTL is to improve the STEM learning of all students at every college and university, and thereby increase the diversity in STEM fields and the STEM literacy of the nation.

To prepare the future STEM faculty, CIRTL must influence graduate-through-faculty preparation in teaching and learning at a significant number of research universities. We plan to achieve this goal through CIRTL's core ideas--that is, through a learning community of diverse research universities mutually engaged in the deliberate, systematic, and reflective use of research methods to develop and implement teaching practices that advance STEM learning.

Established in fall 2006, the initial CIRTL Network was comprised of Howard University, Michigan State University, Texas A&M University, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Vanderbilt University. After substantial expansions in 2011 and 2016, the Network now includes 41 research universities in the United States and Canada.

Future Academic Scholars in Teaching Program(FAST)

CIRTL sponsors a teaching and learning professional development opportunity for graduate students--the FAST Fellowship Program (Future Academic Scholars in Teaching). The primary goals of the FAST Fellowship Program are to provide opportunities for a diverse group of graduate students to have mentored teaching experiences and to gain familiarity with materials on teaching and assessment techniques.

The FAST program is for doctoral students with interests in teaching, learning, and assessment in higher education who are enrolled in programs associated with the Colleges of Natural Science, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine or whose college or department has an approved Certification in College Teaching Program. This program was developed in response to the national need to prepare future faculty for the changing needs and expectations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. FAST also complements the efforts of the CIRTL project (an NSF funded project involving MSU and 37 other research-intensive universites).

Center for Statistical Training and Consulting (CSTAT)

The Center for Statistical Training and Consulting (CSTAT) is a professional service and research unit at Michigan State University. Their aim is to support research and provide training and consulting in statistics for faculty, staff and graduate students through one-on-one consulting and training workshops.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

The goal of the Responsible Conduct of Research and Creative Activities program is to prepare researchers to become globally-engaged citizenleaders. Central to achieving this goal is the ability to conduct quality research/scholarship. With the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, we offer a workshop series that highlights key principles of research ethics and integrity and emphasizes that research and scholarly integrity is a fundamental characteristic of quality research/scholarship in all disciplines.

Shaping the future

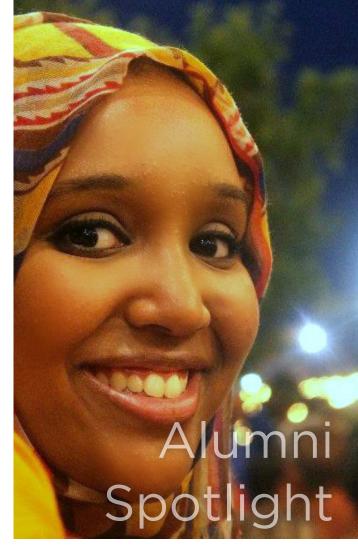
Dr. Bala is an alumna of Michigan State University, noting that there were several areas of research being pursued at MSU that were of interest to her when she was deciding on doctoral programs. As an Assistant Professor in her field, she says, "my role is largely split into teaching and research. The people at MSU showed me how to do both effectively and allowed me to practice the necessary skill sets in a safe environment." Dr. Bala says she is extremely proud to be a Spartan. "My time at MSU was incredibly rewarding and it helped shape my career. It was at MSU that I learned what I wanted to do and how to do it."

Empowering researchers and educators

"I hope that my career in teaching and research will have two major outcomes. First, I would like to continue pursuing meaningful research that improves the chemical engineering design process in industry. Second, I aim to inspire my students to identify their interests within the discipline and prepare them effectively for their own journeys as engineers," says Dr. Bala. While she wishes there were more opportunities to prepare for and interact with industry during graduate school, she also says, "There are a million ways that the graduate program at MSU prepared me for my career." Dr. Bala notes that the Graduate School at Michigan State, "provides several programs that are essential to furthering our careers. These services allow MSU graduate students to stand out in applicant pools and prepare us for the daily responsibilities of our first jobs. In addition to this, it fosters a community sentiment that is often lacking in the individual departments." She took advantage of services such as the Future Academic Scholars in Teaching (FAST) Fellowship which shaped her view of her role now.

Support for an incredible experience

Dr. Bala notes that her advisor, who also served as her teaching-as-research project mentor, along with the entire FAST committee were who helped her most and were always supportive and encouraging for her interest in teaching. She says, "The FAST fellowship program provided a community of individuals who were as committed as I was to 'learning about learning'. Many of the techniques and teaching strategies I use in my classroom now were based on discussions I had with the FAST fellows and steering committee. They taught me how to think about teaching as another arm of research rather than a completely separate area."



Dr. Aseel Bala

Leadership

Currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Lafayette College

Program of Study Chemical Engineering, Doctoral Program

> Faculty Advisor Dr. Carl Lira

GRADUATE CAREER JOURNEYS



Alex Wright

"Currently, I work with the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service to optimize management to sustain ecological integrity at a network of national parks. My graduate education at MSU has trained me to think critically about complex problems, and has offered me multiple opportunities to develop strong leadership and collaboration skills. These attributes have prepared me to work with diverse stakeholder groups to define and reach a common goal, the defining component of the work I currently do and prepare to do post-PhD. "

College of Natural Sciences

Doctoral program in the Department of Integrative Biology and USGS Patuxent Research Center

"I started my work with the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement as a graduate assistant and remained there for 16 years, eventually becoming the Associate Director. "Growing up" in the field of community engaged learning prepared me to be a skilled practitioner while the education I am receiving as a doctoral student in the HALE program is enhancing my work as a scholar. When I joined the Campus Compact team in October 2018, I was excited to work with an organization that was also an essential part of my development as community engaged scholar. MSU prepared me to be a strong candidate in that search."



Doctoral program in the Higher, Adult and Lifelong Education Department

Photo Credit: Paul Phipps, University Outreach and Engagement



Nicole Springer



Raenece Johnson

"As a social worker, I developed a campus food pantry to address food insecurity while continuously working in my community to promote social justice, equity, self-determination, and empowerment. My Graduate education at MSU has enhanced my knowledge, skills, and training which has elevated me in the profession. Through engagement, application, and reflection I am confident that the Graduate program has prepared me to work with diverse communities and organizations. In a field that is continually changing, the Graduate program is beneficial to gain the experiences and opportunities necessary for success."

College of Social Science

Manager/ Masters of Social Work Intern at Golden Grizzlies Food Pantry

illuminating the path forward



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