

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fifteen MSU students nominated for Goldwater, Truman, Udall and Carnegie Awards

East Lansing, February 29, 2008 – Based on academic excellence and other accomplishments, fifteen MSU Honors College students have been nominated by faculty for Goldwater, Truman, Udall and Carnegie scholarships and fellowships.

“It is indeed an honor to be nominated for any one of these awards,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “In the process of preparing for these intensely competitive national fellowships, talented individuals learn how to bring together components of their MSU education including undergraduate research, community service, study abroad and outreach. Whether they are successful on the national level or not, they attend graduate school and go on to illustrious careers. The nomination process offers a look at what they and their fellow students will achieve in the future.”

Andrew Keller, Kaveri Korgavkar, Catherine Nezich, and Donald Vanderlaan are competing for the Goldwater Scholarship; **Stephanie Dawes, Yvette Efevbera, Jennifer Flood, and Theodore Madsen** are competing for the Truman Scholarship; **Marci Baranski, Martha McCoy, Autumn Mitchell, Corrine Thomas, and Aimee Wilson** are competing for the Udall Scholarship; and **Matthew Hasho and Lindsay Robillard** are competing for a Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowship.

Goldwater Scholarship Nominees:

- **Andrew Keller** is a junior Honors College member and has dual majors in Physics in the College of Natural Science and East Asian Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts and Letters. A National Merit Finalist, recipient of the Shell Oil Technical Scholarship, and an Intel Science Talent Search semifinalist, Keller serves as a Professorial Assistant for Dr. Georg Bollen, in the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, researching time-of-flight radio-frequency mass separation. Keller was published as first author on a publication of his work in the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and has presented research at Illinois Math and Science Academy and MSU Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum. He is secretary of the MSU Apple Computer User Group, a member of MSU Scuba Club, and inductee of Phi Beta Kappa. Keller studied abroad at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities, Hikone-shi, Japan and spent a summer in Madagascar.

Keller plans to pursue a PhD in physics.

- **Kaveri Korgavkar** is a junior Honors College member with dual majors of Chemistry in the College of Natural Science and Comparative Cultures and Politics in James Madison College. An Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Semi-Finalist, Honors College Cole Excellence Scholar, and College of Natural Science Faculty/Staff Fund Scholar, Korgavkar also received a study abroad scholarship for her studies in India this past summer. She is a Lyman Briggs College calculus teaching assistant and a Professorial Assistant with Dr. Chris Womack in Kinesiology and Dr. Babak Borhan in Chemistry.

Korgavkar plans a PhD in Biochemistry or Medicinal Chemistry, studying drug function in humans.

- **Catherine Nezich** is a sophomore Honors College member and Biochemistry major in Lyman Briggs College. Chosen as a participant in the National Science Foundation Youth Science Leadership Institute as a high school student, Nezich was more recently selected as a summer intern with National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Nezich's interests range from lecturing and serving as a Eucharistic minister for St. John Student Parish to co-leading an alternative spring break program to Puebla, Mexico. She is also a member of the Tower Guard and Honors Students Actively Recruiting (H-STAR) on campus. As a Professorial Assistant, Nezich works with Dr. Robert Maleczka performing research on iridium-catalyzed substitutions of arene C-H bonds.

Nezich intends to pursue a PhD in Chemistry and is interested in drug development for chronic diseases.

- **Donald VanderLaan** is a junior Honors College member majoring in Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering. A Butler Scholar, Yates Scholar, General Motors Scholar, and Walker Memorial Scholar, VanderLaan is a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society and the Eta Kappa Nu Honors Society. VanderLaan is a project consultant for the Electronics Circuits and Systems Laboratory and serves as a researcher with Dr. Robert McGough in the electromagnetics laboratory. He was the first author in a journal article submitted for peer review and invited presenter to the International Symposium on Applied Electromagnetics and Mechanics. He also volunteered at an orphanage in Kenya where he built and wired a barn and chicken coop.

VanderLaan plans to pursue a PhD in Electrical Engineering so that he can conduct research on and teach electromagnetic theory at the university level.

Truman Scholarship Nominees:

- **Stephanie Dawes** is a junior Honors College member and Biology major at Lyman Briggs College. Dawes' accomplishments while at MSU span founding the MSU chapter of Friends United in Service (FUSE) and the student chapter of the Kenyan Student Sponsorship to serving as an executive board member for the Cart Horse Aid Initiative. Dawes' work in Dr. Kay Holekamp's zoology laboratory has resulted in numerous peer-edited publications about spotted hyena behavior. A Bailey Scholar at MSU, she is also active as captain and vice-president of the women's Ultimate Frisbee club team.

Dawes plans to pursue an MD and specialize in providing medical care to underserved and impoverished communities in the United States and abroad.

- **Yvette Efevbera** is a junior Honors College member and a James Madison College student majoring in International Relations. Efevbera's accomplishments and interests range from serving as an intern for the Senegalese National AIDS Council to organizing fundraising efforts for the AIDS walk and Ronald McDonald House. She has served as a resident mentor in her hall; president of MOSAIC, the Honors College multicultural group; and as an executive board member in the WEB DuBois Society, a student group focused on racial justice. Recipient of an MSU Distinguished Freshman Scholarship, Efevbera is McNair/SROP researcher with Dr. Rita Kiki Edozie studying HIV/AIDS policy in Uganda and Senegal.

Efevbera plans to pursue a master's degree in Global Health Studies at the University of Oxford.

- **Jennifer Flood** is a junior Honors College member and College of Social Science student dual majoring in Economics and Interdisciplinary Social Science-International Studies. A College of Social Science Alumni Undergraduate Research Grant recipient, Flood also received the Adams and Cole International Scholar awards. Founding member of the Family of Strength Organization, an AIDS orphan awareness organization, Flood volunteered to build and orphan care center in South Africa, and serves as the fundraising chair to support the center. She also works as a customer service representative at National City Bank.

Flood intends to pursue a master's degree in public health and public policy and work to reform access to health insurance for the uninsured.

- **Theodore (Ted) Madsen** is a junior Honors College student with dual majors in International Relations and Social Relations in James Madison College. An Alumni Distinguished Scholar and Boy Scout Eagle Scout, Madsen is also vice president of the State News Board of Directors, director-at-large of the MSU College Democrats, Model United Nations Conference staff, and a student senator at James Madison College. Madsen's political ambitions led him to serve as a campaign manager for Alaska's Representative Max Gruenberg and as an intern for Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski.

Madsen will pursue a law degree specializing in civil and personal rights protection and hopes to have a career as an elected official in the state of Alaska.

Udall Scholarship Nominees:

- **Marci Baranski** is a junior Honors College member majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Natural Science. A Distinguished Freshman scholar at MSU, Baranski served as a Professorial Assistant with Dr. Robert Britton working on the purification and biological characterization of certain proteins. She has received many honors for her academic work including Cole and Akers Study Abroad scholarships for her studies in New Zealand, and a William Sells Scholarship from the College of Natural Science. She is involved in a variety of campus environmental and sustainability organizations, serving as co-founder of Friends United in Service (FUSE), and secretary of the MSU Student Sustainability Organization (ECO). A student recruiter for the Honors College, Baranski also plays an active role with the MSU Women's Council.

Baranski plans to pursue a PhD in sociology and a career studying environmental policy and its effects on local communities.

- **Martha McCoy** is a junior Honors College member and a dual major in Environmental Biology in the College of Natural Science and English in the College of Arts and Letters. A 2007 Udall nominee and University Distinguished Scholar, McCoy serves as a Professorial Assistant with Dr. Steven Triezenberg in Molecular Genetics and Dr. Suzanne Theim in Entomology and Virology. She is the secretary of MSU's Student Sustainability Organization (ECO) and leader with Focus the Nation 2008, a series of environmental leadership discussions. She is also a member of the BioEthics Society and the Honors College Programming Board. Clarke-Bradbury Publishers recognized McCoy's abilities as an author with inclusion of her science fiction short story in their International Science Fiction Anthology, and she currently is writing a children's book focused on the environment.

McCoy plans to pursue a law degree and work as a professor of environmental law.

- **Autumn Mitchell** is a sophomore Honors College member and Linguistics major in the College of Arts and Letters. Recipient of the Eagle Feathers honor from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, Mitchell formally studies the Ojibwe language and is a Jingle Dress Dancer in the traditional Ojibwe dance. A member of AISES, a group of Native American science and engineering students, Mitchell was an intern with the Ojibwe Language and Anishinaabe Culture Team, served as narrator and contributor to a language revitalization video for her home reservation, and is a cultural programmer for the North American Indigenous Student Organization. She developed elementary Ojibwe language work for an elementary school in her home community. Mitchell studied abroad in London in 2007 and Quebec in 2006.

Mitchell plans to acquire a master's degree in linguistics and aims to help indigenous tribes reinstitute native language instruction in their tribal communities.

- **Corrinne Thomas** is a junior Honors College member and Physiology major in the College of Natural Science. A National Merit Scholar and Schmidtke-Wagner Scholar, Thomas is co-president of MSU's Student Sustainability Organization (ECO) and co-founder of the Michigan Students for Sustainability Coalition. Along with serving as public relations chair for the Holmes Hall Association and multimedia Chair for Circle K, Thomas also participates in the student Sierra Club, the MSU Recycling Pilot, the MSU Kill-A-Watt Competition, and the Campus Climate Challenge Week of Action. Thomas is a student researcher on the MSU Environmental Stewardship Program through the MSU Office of the Vice President.

Thomas plans to pursue a PharmD with a focus on green pharmacology.

- **Aimee Wilson** is a junior Honors College member with dual majors in International Relations in James Madison College and the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science in Lyman Briggs College. A National Merit Scholar, IBM Thomas Watson Scholar, and MSU STATE Scholar, Wilson serves as an undergraduate research assistant in the Skunkworks Laboratory. She is a resident mentor in Case Hall, English tutor to international graduate students, and teacher of German in an outreach program to local youth. Author in an environmental journal, Wilson is also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Wilson plans to obtain a master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution.

Carnegie Junior Fellowship Nominees:

- **Matthew Hasho** is a 2007 graduate of the Honors College. He double majored in Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy and Social Relations in James Madison College. A Distinguished Freshman Scholar, Board of Trustees Award recipient, Schechter All-University Award winner and Phi Beta Kappa member, Hasho also served as a professorial assistant to Dr. Louis Hunt where he compiled political theory research. Hasho has been employed by the Michigan Public Service Commission for 3 years and is responsible for recommendations to the State of Michigan on public privacy issues.
- **Lindsay Robillard** is a senior Honors College member and dual major in Social Relations and International Relations in James Madison College. A Distinguished Freshman Scholar and member of Phi Beta Kappa, Robillard received a Klinger Scholarship to conduct field research on the social impact for a proposed cultural center in Ghana, Africa. Robillard also works as a barista at Biggby Coffee, serves as a diversity mentor, and is an English tutor for international graduate students.

The **Goldwater** Foundation seeks scholars committed to a career in science, mathematics, or engineering who display intellectual intensity and who have the potential for significant future contribution in their chosen field. The Goldwater Scholarship provides a grant toward the last year or last two years of undergraduate tuition and living expenses for students in science, mathematics, and engineering who are planning careers in research.

The **Truman** Scholarship, established as the nation's memorial to President Harry S. Truman in 1974, recognizes approximately 60 college juniors nationally. Truman Scholars demonstrate exceptional leadership potential and are committed to careers in government, nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or other public service arenas. The award provides them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

The **Udall** Scholarship honors Arizona US Congressman Morris K. Udall's legacy of public service by supporting students planning careers focused on the environment and Native American students planning careers in tribal health and public policy. The Udall Foundation annually awards \$5,000 scholarships to 80 students throughout the United States.

The **Carnegie** Endowment for International Peace selects approximately 8 graduating seniors to serve as Junior Fellows. Recipients are matched with senior associates to work on a variety of international affairs issues. Junior Fellows have the opportunity to conduct research for books, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by scholars, activists, journalists and government officials. Junior Fellows spend one year at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington, DC.

The Honors College at Michigan State University serves academically talented, committed students who wish to pursue and achieve academic excellence. We strive to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for our members and create an environment that fosters active, innovative learning.

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