



Shaun Ramsey Address to the Class of 2008

“We will forever be
Briggsies, and we
will always be
Spartans! I wish
you all the best of
luck in your future
endeavors, and
GO GREEN!”



I find it fitting that we “Briggsies” reunite one last time before we turn the tassel and head our separate ways. As wide-eyed freshmen we all moved in to Holmes hall, unsure as to what the next four years held in store for us. As classes started, we began to see many of the same faces roaming the halls, and I still see many of those faces looking at me right now. However, currently none of you have that special facial feature that is unique to us Briggsies: I’m talking about Goggle Face – those distinct red lines on the person’s face as you see them stumble up the stairs from the basement labs in Holmes Hall. While it may be a nice Lyman Briggs fashion statement, I think lab goggles may have more meaning to them than we think. One of the first things we were told here at Briggs was to wear your goggles at all times in the chemistry lab. If not, you faced points off your grade, and that would have just DOOMED your entire semester. But, these fine looking specs do serve a purpose: to protect us from any dangers that might splash up and get us. Just like it is important to be careful in the lab, it is important to be careful in the real world. As we graduate, keep in mind that some things are there for our own good, but at the same time, don’t let that hold you back. It is time now to take off these uncomfortable goggles, remove the barriers, and tackle the real world head-on. For once, we can leave the goggles at home! Find that motivation to go out and do what you love, and don’t let anything or anyone hold you back.

Now that we’re out of the lab, we can eat and drink freely again. Water is critical to life. About 70% of the Earth is covered in water, and the human body is composed of about that same percentage. A glass of water on a hot day is quite refreshing, and so is a glass in the middle of a graduation speech. Now, take a look at the glass of water again – is it half full, or is it half empty. It looks half full to me. Once we go out and move on to our jobs, graduate, or professional school, we need to remember to keep the glass half full by staying positive, no matter what the situation. There will be many times when you may feel down, but go to the fridge, pull out that Brita filter – which we are all very accustomed to from the dorms – and get a revitalizing drink of water. Let it recharge you so that you can go out and tackle the challenges put forth for you. Having a positive mindset will allow you to enjoy the journey of life as you accomplish many great things.

While being hydrated is very important in life, so is having fun. Some of the best things that I’ve experienced here at Michigan State have been Spartan sports. Going to games has served as stress relief for me over the past four years. It is important to always set aside some time just to relax. Whether that is spending time with friends or family, watching or playing sports, or just sitting and doing absolutely nothing; never forget to save some time in which you can stop thinking about whatever may be bothering you. By staying positive and motivated, the relaxation can be that much more enjoyable.

As members of the Lyman Briggs College, we have been here to support each other through our undergraduate careers at Michigan State. In life, the people you meet are what truly make it worthwhile. Lyman Briggs has given us the opportunity to make some great friends. Let us never forget the people that we so frequently saw wandering the halls of Holmes with the outline of goggles on their face.

Briggantine

Summer 2008



35 East Holmes Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48825-1107
517.353-6482
517-353-4848 fax
www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu

Summer
2008

NEWSLETTER OF
LYMAN BRIGGS COLLEGE at
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Briggantine

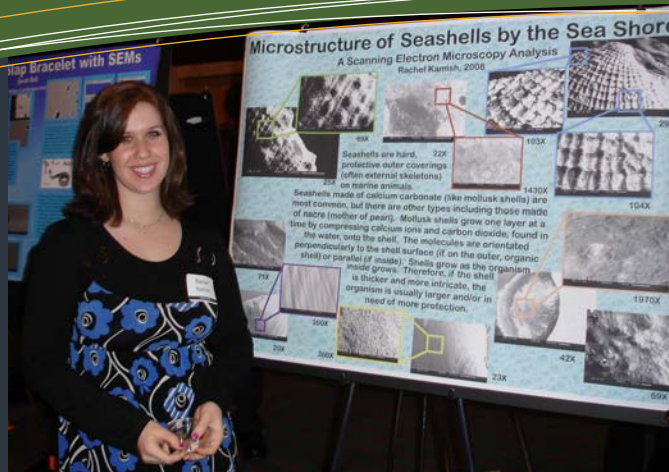
Still Making a Difference in Undergraduate Education

Lyman Briggs College is recognized as a national model for undergraduate learning that interconnects science, mathematics and the history, philosophy and sociology of science (HPS). Briggs supports pre-professional study for students interested in pursuing advanced degrees in health related fields, as well as scientific research careers.

Educational Philosophy

Briggs connects students to success through:

- Integrating learning and living in dynamic ways
- Studying science in the context of society
- Residential learning environment
- Study Abroad/Away learning opportunities
- Service-learning projects that bring learning to life



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40 Years of Connecting Students to Success

On the evening of September 20, 1967, Dean Frederic Dutton convened the first Convocation of Michigan State University's newly created second residential college named after Lyman J. Briggs. This experimental and innovative model of education was created to address the need for a conversation between science and society. New curriculums were developed along with extra-curricular learning experiences and undergraduate research opportunities that would bring learning to life.

From the very beginning Briggs has connected students to success through a model of education that emphasizes excellence in academics and communication skills. Briggs continues to attract highly talented and motivated students who want to enjoy the best of the worlds that both an international research university and residential learning-community can offer.

Today the same guiding principles that were central at its creation, continue to provide a superior environment for the pursuit of an undergraduate education. These include: smaller class sizes, greater faculty attention, involvement of students in faculty research, living/learning community, inquiry-based

curriculum and a learning environment where undergraduate education is the focus. The return of college status came with the expectation that Briggs would expand both enrollment and curriculum. In each of the last 3 years freshman enrollment has grown to 625. These larger classes have also brought more academically qualified students. Additional improvements include:

- 10 new/renovated classroom labs and lab prep spaces, 2 new high-teaching rooms and 10 new learning lounges in the residence towers supporting curricular integration and inquiry-based learning.
- Faculty and /advisor hires that have increased the diversity, international experience and field of expertise. These support integration of curriculum, study-abroad and lab-based opportunities for students and promote research collaborations.

Built on a strong foundation, Lyman Briggs College has become a vital part of MSU and a national model for undergraduate programs that prepare scholars and leaders.



Studies Supporting the Importance of Residential Learning Communities:

Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research. Known as the 'Boyer Report', this Carnegie Foundation funded report on the state of undergraduate education at research universities.

The study encouraged research universities to provide undergraduates with the opportunities and resources that they cannot get in any other setting. This includes:

- Make research-based learning the standard
- Construct an inquiry-based freshman year that is intellectually integrated and joins students into small learning communities
- Build on the freshman foundation
- Remove the barriers to interdisciplinary education
- Educate graduate students as apprentice teachers
- Link communications skills and coursework
- Creative use of technology
- Innovative teaching/faculty reward system
- Culminate with capstone course/project
- Foster a community of learners



"The research university's ability to create such an integrated education will produce a particular kind of individual, one equipped with a spirit of inquiry and a zest for problem solving; one possessed of the skill in communication that is the hallmark of clear thinking as well as mastery of language; one informed by a rich and diverse experience. It is that kind of individual that will provide the scientific, technological, academic, political, and creative leadership for the next century."

- Boyer Commission

It could be said that Dr. Frederic Dutton and those involved in the creation of Lyman Briggs College were slightly ahead of their time—31 years ahead. The time was right for change. There was a concern that, although excellent instruction in the sciences was being provided, little attention was being given to the impact of science on society; and, there was a desire to respond to the challenges that were then facing undergraduate education at a large research university. A residential college with a science based curriculum provided a unique opportunity for experimentation with innovations that were difficult to achieve in the complex university structure. Thus a new model of undergraduate education was created. The close parallels between Lyman Briggs College, and the recommendations of the Boyer Commission and other recent studies, affirm the founding principles and have provided additional direction for new opportunities.

In its most recent strategic plan Briggs is strengthening several elements of its program. Several of the key ingredients are already in

The Briggs Residential Learning Community Story

A Truly Integrated Inter-disciplinary Curriculum that Prepares Students to Become 21st Century Leaders in Science and the Health Care Professions.

place: a multi-disciplinary faculty in a single building, a common core of science and History, Philosophy and Sociology (HPS) courses, and a tradition of taking a scholarly approach to teaching. Other important elements are:

- The Braid Project—LBC faculty are braiding the separate disciplinary strands of the Briggs Curriculum into a more coherent whole through cross-disciplinary projects, dual-course lab exercises, and linked courses.
- STEPPS (science, technology, environment and public policy) Major—James Madison College and Lyman Briggs are designing new parallel majors in science policy that draw on the cross-disciplinary strengths of the two units.
- Integrating Research with education—LBC now has one of the largest HPS faculties in the country—with every member active in research.
- 20th Century Chautauqua— Created by the three MSU residential colleges to support individual, social and institutional responsibility, including service-learning and civic engagement.
- Linking Undergraduates with faculty and international Scholars through a partnership with the Honors College and International Scholars Program.

Graduating Seniors Honor Faculty Who Enriched Their Undergraduate Experience With The 2008 Honorary Faculty Awards



Cori Fata-Hartley, Ph.D.

Dr. Fata-Hartley received her Ph.D. in the Medical Science, Molecular and Cellular Biology Program at the Medical Center of Ohio. Dr. Fata-Hartley's research focuses on the replication and strategy of Mengovirus, a plus-strand RNA picornavirus, related to several well-known viruses such as poliovirus and foot and mouth disease virus. Her work is very exciting, employing state-of-the-art molecular biology and cloning techniques to study critically important viral processes.



Aaron McCright, Ph.D.

Dr. McCright received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University. His areas of specialty included environmental sociology and political sociology. Dr. McCright has a passion for teaching that derives from his strong belief that formal education is integral in promoting vital participation in a democracy. He was recently named as a Kavli Frontiers Fellow in the National Academy of Sciences for his social analysis of the political dynamics of climate change in the United States.



Ryan Sweeder, Ph.D.

Dr. Sweeder received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. Ryan was a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University. He has 7 publications in press or in print, in the area of metal interactions with organic compounds. He joined Lyman Briggs as a Visiting Professor of Chemistry in fall 2004, and became Assistant Professor of Chemistry in fall 2005. His current research interests in chemical education and the BRAID project.

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assortment of unique Briggs designs.

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purchases support the programs and activities of Lyman Briggs College and the Student Advisory Committee. The latest logo features the septuple helix pattern discovered by Dr. Rob LaDuca and his chemistry students.

Check Out BriggsWear at:

www.cafepress.com/lymanbriggs2

Giving to Briggs
Do Something BIG for Briggs!

Briggs relies on the generous support of its alumni and friends. The renewal of college status has provided the challenge of creating scholarships for Briggs students that offer financial aid and help to recruit the 'best and the brightest'.

Please stand with us by making a generous gift to Briggs. Affordable gift opportunities are available.

For more information go to: www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu, and follow the link to 'Giving to Briggs'.

Or call Dan McKean, Director of Development & Alumni Relations at (517) 353-4869.

Join the Briggs Online Alumni Community

There is a new home for Briggs alumni, faculty, staff and friends to visit. This secure site provides the latest news, calendar of events, and the opportunity to network with other Briggsies.



Here's What You Are Missing:

- *New Periodic Element Named for Dr. Steven Speiser?*
- *Monthly Briggs Quiz—Can You Handle a Briggs Exam Question*
- *Spring 2008 Brunch Photos*
- *Holmes Hall Creating a Cyber-Café*
- *Check-out the Newest Registered Alumni Members*
- *Portal to the New BriggsWear Store*
- *Briggs Alumni Association News*

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www.alumni.lymanbriggs.msu.edu