



BRIGGANTINE

Volume 22 Issue 2

Spring 2006

Letter from the Co-Presidents of LBAA

Dear LBAA Alumni:

It is amazing that another school year has come and gone. On May 6, 2006, we had the pleasure of meeting Briggs's newest alumni. It was fascinating to think that our graduating class size has grown from 67 in 1971 to more than 200 in 2006. This fall, the entering class at Briggs will be our largest ever with 625 freshman.

This growth is a wonderful reflection on Briggs students, faculty, staff and alumni. MSU's leaders have recognized the high quality of our school and are helping us grow in a sustainable manner. MSU is generously supporting alumni donations for lab renovations by contributing \$2 for every \$1 given by alumni. Additionally, Briggs has received significant faculty support from MSU, allowing 12 new faculty hires as a part of the expansion. This infrastructure & faculty support allows us to continue to have the best of both

worlds, a wonderful university as our home and a small liberal arts living/learning community.

Many of you may remember Mary Sheridan. Even though she officially retired, she has come to our aid again. She is helping the Lyman Briggs Alumni Association by working on our 40th anniversary celebration in 2007. If you want to re-connect with old friends and help the Briggs community, contact Mary at sherida3@msu.edu.

This new year will be a very busy time for Briggs with the completion of the lab renovations, welcoming new faculty, the possible re-instatement as a college, the increase in enrollment, and our 40th anniversary. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming activities.

Diane Barker & Nick White
Co-Presidents, Lyman Briggs Alumni Association

Letter from the Director

Dear Lyman Briggs Alumni:

This spring and summer you will be joined by another terrific crop of new alumni. Our graduates for 2005-06 total over 200 — a new record for Briggs. These students have won an impressive suite of awards within MSU and nationally, and we are very proud of all of their accomplishments. As our graduates move on to fresh challenges, so is Briggs with several long-term projects.

Planning has started for a big 40th anniversary celebration for Lyman Briggs in Fall 2007. We will be showing off all the newly renovated teaching spaces, showcasing the interdisciplinary work of our faculty and students, and hopefully celebrating our first term back as a College! Please contact Debie Lecato (lecatom@msu.edu) if you would like to volunteer.

Glassware and microscopes have been packed away so our final summer of lab renovations can begin. By September, Briggs will have four new biology labs, a second new chemistry lab, a large-equipment prep lab and two high-tech teaching rooms for Briggs students. The faculty are looking forward to using the new spaces to offer more biology and chemistry courses, increasing the use of inquiry in the chemistry labs, and introducing a statistics course into the LBS curriculum. We're also having holders installed on the lab corridor walls so that students can display their research posters. Stay tuned for notice about a fall Open House to unveil the new teaching spaces.

Briggs Professors are meeting regularly and auditing each other's courses as part of the Bridging the Disciplines with Authentic Inquiry and Discourse (BRAID) project supported by a grant from the MSU Quality Fund. The goal is to provide the 2006-07 freshman class with a truly interdisciplinary academic experience in which the connections between the topics in different Briggs courses are emphasized through guest lectures, in-class exercise, cross-course assignments, and research projects.

Lyman Briggs held a faculty/staff retreat on May 10 to begin planning for the possible transition to college status (currently being considered by the President). We discussed what the Briggs experience should be like for a student in the Lyman Briggs College, the nature of the continuing collaboration between Briggs and College of Natural Science, and general questions about the organization and operation of a college.

That is the major Briggs news...be sure to write and share your news with us! We hope to see you at Homecoming on September 30.

Elizabeth H. Simmons
Director, Lyman Briggs School of Science

Kent Workman Leads Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans

Kent Workman, Briggs Coordinator of Student Affairs, spent his Spring Break with 22 MSU students in New Orleans helping families recovering from Hurricane Katrina. Four Briggs students were among the group, including Sonia Rahangdale, Mark Smeltzer, Lisa Marsack & Megan Yee. The group drove to New Orleans where they “guttled” three houses before heading back to Michigan.

The group removed all the belongings of the families who lived in the houses. They were looking for anything that might be worth keeping as items are moved to the street. At each house, members of the family joined the students.

Because of the amount of mold and toxins, the group wore body suits and masks while doing this work.

Students removed all the dry-wall from the walls and the ceilings along with kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Everything was piled by the street; one pile for furniture, one pile for building materials, and one pile for appliances.

“The work was challenging, and difficult at times, but very rewarding,” said Kent Workman. “Each family had a story to tell, and listening to their stories was an important part of what we did. We heard stories of the evacuation, waiting three weeks or more to learn whether others in your family made it out, the months of separation, and worse. In the areas we were working, it seemed everyone had lost someone in their family, along with neighbors and friends.”

Workman added the this was

a very emotional and rewarding trip for all 23 people. The destruction was truly over whelming at times especially since it was more than six months after the hurricane.

Workman will be returning to New Orleans in June to work with a team of students from the College of Education. The team will be working with children in the local school, helping them get ready to return to school in the fall. Information on the summer project can be found at: <http://www.msu.edu/~grantj/>.

There is still a great deal of help needed in New Orleans and the Gulf region, with many agencies offering opportunities for volunteers. We would encourage all who are able to assist in some way to do so; it will be a life changing experience

Lyman Briggs Student Wins Truman Scholarship

Jacob Phelps, a senior in Environmental Science, won the Truman Scholarship from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Jacob eventually plans to pursue a Masters Degree in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy at Oxford University. Jacob spent spring semester doing an internship at the Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Belize. He has lectured widely to orchid and botanical societies throughout North America, including at the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Truman Scholarship is the U.S. governments’ living memorial to President Truman. The award is presented annually to 75 college juniors nationwide, each of whom has exceptional leadership potential and is committed to a career in public service.

Truman Scholars received a \$30,000 scholarship toward graduate study and participate in several policy and leadership activities organized by the Foundation.

Michigan State students have had a remarkable history of winning Truman awards. Jacob Phelps is

MSU’s fourteenth Truman Scholar.

Jacob came to MSU as the recipient of the Distinguished Freshmen Achievement Scholarship and also participates in the Mowbray Scholarship Program at MSU. He was awarded a Udall Scholarship from the Morris K. Udall Foundation in 2005, as well.

Congratulations Jacob!

Co-President Diane Barker Wins Professional Woman’s Award

Diane Barker, Co-President of the Lyman Briggs Alumni Association, was the recipient of the Professional Woman Award from the Faculty-Professional Woman’s Association.

Diane is the manager of the Brody Complex where she oversees the complex and services students receive while living at Brody. Diane is a 1979 Microbiology graduate of Briggs.

Diane started in Housing & Food Services as an undergraduate student and has been there every since.

“Housing and Food Services and MSU have been my family since I started here,” says Diane.

Diane has been in various buildings around campus, and had the opportunity to meet many different

people. She describes her job as “helping people matter and improve themselves” and she appreciates being recognized with this award.

“I care about what I do. I don’t do it for a reward, I do it because I’m dedicated to what I do,” says Diane.

Congratulations Diane! - From all of the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Lyman Briggs.

Welcome and Goodbyes

Lyman Briggs welcomes Tammy Endsley as new support staff in the Student Affairs Office. Tammy comes to Briggs from the radiology department. Tammy can be found in 35 East Holmes Hall from August-May.

Lyman Briggs said good-bye to Rosie Tovar who was support staff in the Student Affairs Office. We all wish Rosie the very best of luck in her new job at the Michigan Department of Education.

HPS faculty members Sarah Goodfellow and Charlie Yood are moving to Atlanta this summer to focus on writing and to pursue further academic positions in the future. Math faculty member Mehrzad Ajoodanian is moving to New York to teach. Briggs will miss the three of them and appreciate their many contributions to the Briggs community.

Alumni Happenings

Ed Stielstra, 1993 LBS Biology, finished 46th in the 1,150-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Ed's wife Tasha also won this year's U.P. 200 sled dog race. You can follow all of the action on Ed's Idita-Diary:

<http://www.natureskennel.com/iditaroddiary.htm>.

Carolyn "Keri" Chenoweth, 1987 LBS Biochemistry, has taken a position as managing attorney for a for the law firm of Baron and Budd in Los Angeles. This office is known nationally as a toxic tort specialist. She is using her scientific background to represent people with cancer caused by environmental factors including asbestos, benzene and other contaminants.

Excerpts From Dr. Shelton's Keynote Graduation Speech

The following excerpts are from the keynote given by Dr. Robert Shelton to the Lyman Briggs seniors during a special graduation brunch on May 6, 2006

Most speeches, like most telephone conversations, begin with "hello" or some other, perhaps more formal greeting. The occasion of this keynote speech, however, calls for something else. It calls for a "goodbye," for a farewell.

In an earlier, less-hurried age—before "hi" and "bye" framed our public exchanges—"farewell" was actually a three-word phrase, "fare thee well." Our language has lost "thee and thou"—and 'tis a pity, for we have also lost more than a little of the kin- and kindness suggested by that form of address.

Anyway, this is not a lecture on linguistics but a fare thee well to the seniors—now the newest graduates—of the Lyman Briggs School of Science. When a few of them were student entering my first, Tier 1 HPS course, LBS 133, they were presented with two deceptively simple questions:

How do you know what you know and why do you feel what you feel?

As students leaving my fourth (OK: fifth) year senior seminar, LBS 492, this month, they took with them the same core questions, which for you today, I would like to explore—*explorare*, to shout out loud...Stop that!—to explore the full force of those questions—to revisit and revere the challenges and the rewards in asking **how** and **why**. [And "So what?"]

...Asking how and why are sacred acts. Our first clue to this should be that small children *never* tire of asking them. Particularly in their chains of why...why...why... they are showing us a way back to our true, awakened selves.

...So, yes, it matters that we ask, again and again, the **hows** and the **whys**. But it matters even more in the end that we have the courage to answer our questions for ourselves. No, for our [new word] SELVES. The self is not a monad, not a thing entirely unto itself.

Still no social fabric should be woven with the threads of passivity and consumerism. ...Go for a walk. Do it not just for your well-toned body, but also for your well-tuned mind and heart and spirit.

Be aware of your self, your

world, your present, and (especially for those graduating today) your tomorrows. And on that note, I'll finish my elaborate "fare thee well," by bidding you all "hello," and closing with this witticism from Sir Winston Churchill: "I began my education very early in life—just after I *finished college*."

You can read the entire speech on LBS website at:

There will be a
**Lyman Briggs
Alumni Association
Board Meeting**
later this summer
or
early fall

Please check the Lyman
Briggs website
for the date and time
www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu

Congratulations to Our 2006 Spring Graduates & Award Winners

LYMAN BRIGGS AWARDS

LBCAA Outstanding Student Award (Class of 2006)

Farhan M. Bhatti

Academic Excellence Award (Class of 2006)

Kathryn C. Ambrose

F.B. Dutton Award (Class of 2006)

Joshua D. Mastenbrook

The Sean Healey Memorial Award

Anna Wasson (for Spring 2005)

Adelaide-Ulricke Haine (for Spring 2005)

Anthony Heidt (for Fall 2005)

Pamela Ann Merry Endowed Scholarship

Elissa Pastuzyn

Dr. Howard and Joan Hagerman Endowed Scholarship

Kristen Engle

Brian Falzon Book Scholarship

Lane Frasier

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE AWARDS

Capital Campaign – College of Natural Science Faculty/Staff Distinguished Endowed Scholarship

Jacob Wesley Phelps

Ramy Said Goueli

Kaveri Korgavkar

William A. Sells, Jr. Endowed Scholarship

Patrick Darga

Kyle Walsh

Cody Weston

Stephanie Zafiroff

Dan Bolin Award

Sarah Schrauben

Waleed Brnjikji

Matthew Nelson

Ramon F. and Dorothy F. Rolf Scholarship Fund

Ritesh Kotecha

James Redwine

Arnold D. and Helen E. Suomi Endowed Scholarship

Theresa Lynn Klee

Dr. Leroy Augenstein Memorial Scholarship

Steven Brooks

Nancy Boyd

Christina Lynn Cooper

Elizabeth Dugan

Dallas J. Chapin Endowed Scholarship

Waleed Brnjikji

Elizabeth Dugan

Lumsden-Valrance Scholarship

Adelaide-Ulricke Hain

MSU AWARDS

Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize

Monica Markovski

MSU Trustee GPA Award Recipient

Joshua Mastenbrook

MSUFCU Study Abroad Scholarship

Matthew Malkowski

Nicole Martinez

Ngoc-Xinh Pham

NATIONAL AWARDS

Goldwater Scholarships

Katherine J. Leitch

Anjali Rohatgi

Kevin Ogden (Honorable mention)

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Jacob Phelps

Morris K. Udall Scholarship

Jacob Phelps

Phi Kappa

Joshua Mastenbrook (MSU Chapter Graduate Fellowship)

Rachel Mullins

Steven Plato

James Reinhart (National Graduate Fellowship)

Michael Stone

Nicole Vasilnek

Phi Beta Kappa

Eli Eisman

Melissa Elafros

Jacob Phelps

Catherine Pokropek

Harini Reddy

Allison Stone

Chad Sussott

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LYMAN BRIGGS ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
LYMAN BRIGGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

35 East Holmes Hall
East Lansing, MI 48825-1107

Phone: 517-353-6480

Fax: 517-432-2758

Web: www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu

Debie Lecato, Editor of Briggantine
lecato@msu.edu



Visit us on the web:
www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY