Madison Mourns the Loss of Douglas Hoekstra

Professor Douglas Jon Hoekstra passed away on May 21, 2006 at the age of 63 following routine surgery. Hoekstra was one of the first professors at James Madison College. He helped shape Madison into one of MSU’s most respected academic programs, teaching and contributing for 36 years.

Hoekstra received his associate’s degree from Grand Rapids Junior College, and his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. As a professor, he inspired generations of students with his teaching of American politics, the country’s founding, and especially the presidency. As a scholar, he contributed greatly to the study of the presidency, with particular emphasis on the role of character in decision making. His most recent research drew upon original documents and focused on U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, whose football locker Hoekstra used in high school.

“He was the kind of professor who you liked to run into in the hall because he was very interested in your life and very interested in Michigan politics,” says Adam Wright, a former student who’s now an attorney in Boston. Professor Ron Dorr remembers that during the fall of 1974, Hoekstra said, “The heart of our enterprise in the classroom is disciplined analysis—making students more careful and critical thinkers.” Says Dorr, “I never forgot that apt phrase and guiding light.”

In his personal life, Hoekstra’s great love was his family. He is survived by his spouse of 35 years, Ellen, and his children, David and Elisabeth. He valued time spent with friends over good food and wine. His idea of respite was reading the Sunday New York Times or a mystery, occasionally combined with a trip to Traverse City’s East Bay. He read voraciously, enjoyed movies, followed MSU sports, and traveled widely, but less than he wished to. His friends and colleagues will miss his acerbic wit and critical intelligence more than his cryptic e-mails and shameless puns. The gift of life was Doug’s own last contribution, and his family would be deeply grateful to his friends who submit an organ donation card.

Remembering Professor Hoekstra

By Randy Neice
(PTCD/IR/Peace and Justice Studies,’05)

As James Madison College mourns the loss of Professor Douglas Hoekstra, it is also healthy and appropriate to remember his contributions to the development of individual students and to the institution as a whole. These personal stories are merely a snapshot of what Professor Hoekstra offered to the Madison community, but I believe they are illustrative of the important role he has played in the lives of hundreds of students.

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Give Back to Madison

The James Madison College Alumni Association (JMCAA) plays an instrumental role in the life of the college. As a new academic year begins, we want to take this opportunity to update you on new JMCAA initiatives and current JMCAA projects, as well as encourage our alumni who have not yet renewed membership this year or those who have not joined the association to do so today.

Your alumni association is completely funded by member dues. Madison’s growing student body needs our support, and your JMCAA membership will help us continue to provide funding for new and expand current programs. You can sign up to join the association by visiting the Alumni section of the James Madison College website at www.jmc.msu.edu. Also, enclosed in this newsletter is an application (see page 23). Please make sure you check the box that indicates you are a Madison alumnus. Part ($11.00) of every $45.00 MSU/JMC membership comes back to the JMCAA.

2006 was a great year of growth in programming for your alumni association. JMCAA has presented a number of programs geared specifically toward students. For example, each fall JMCAA hosts a Law Night. Attorney alumni are asked to come back to the college and speak to students about applying to law school, how to succeed once in law school, and their perspectives on different paths towards and within the legal community. Each fall also brings Pizza Night for the students, hosted by JMCAA. You may recall from your days at Madison that this was held at Crunchy’s. The event is now held at the college, and we have had overwhelming attendance by students, whose focus has clearly changed from pizza to alumni networking opportunities. It is our goal to increase alumni participation in this event next fall.

The largest, most well-attended event by both students and alums is the JMCAA Annual Career Day, which welcomes 40-50 alumni to the college every spring to speak to students in discrete panels about law and the judiciary; lobbying, public and media relations, and communications; not-for-profit management; business; and state and federal government positions. Hundreds of students as well as alumni from all over the United States attend this event. We are looking for new alumni participation this coming year; many sponsorship opportunities are available. Career Day 2007 has been scheduled for February 10th, 2007. If you are interested in participating as a panelist or becoming a sponsor, please contact John Lindley at jlindley@michpa.org.

For the past several years, in an effort to maintain alumni relationships and provide networking opportunities, your association has hosted alumni receptions in Washington, D.C. and Metropolitan Detroit. This year, we added a Lansing reception that met with an overwhelming response from more than 70 Madison alumni. It was an event we hope to continue on an annual basis.

In 2007 James Madison College will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on the weekend of September 28 and 29th in East Lansing, with JMCAA as the major sponsor for the celebration weekend. We plan to have your annual JMCAA membership meeting the same weekend—a meeting open to all members—so please plan to join us. Last spring we surveyed alumni to determine what other types of events we could offer, and we will be busy responding to your input. If you are interested in helping us organize an event for alumni in your area or joining the alumni association planning committee for the 40th anniversary, please contact Regina Bell at rb8392@att.com or Jill Krolikowski at jnkjmjc@yahoo.com. You can participate by telephone conference if that is more convenient for you.

In addition to becoming a member of your alumni association, you can volunteer for one of our committees or become a member of the JMCAA Board of Directors. We have recently added five additional seats. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kendra (Howard) Averett. The board meets four times a year and participation is not limited to Lansing area residents. Members can participate in meetings via teleconferencing. Kendra can be reached at akaken52@hotmail.com.

We really look forward to having you as a member, a volunteer on behalf of the college, and an attendee at some great events.

Cheers,

Regina Bell and Jill Krolikowski

James Madison Scene
Madison Alumni Serving the Peace Corps

Michigan State University has a robust tradition of participation by alumni in the Peace Corps. MSU ranks fifth nationally in the total number of graduates (more than 2,000) who have served in the Peace Corps since its inception in 1961. In 2005-06, MSU was in the top ten nationally in the number of recruits. Here we profile some of those who are alumni of James Madison College.

James Applegate (IR ’04)

Current position: Applegate is a foreign service officer, U.S. Department of State; outbound to Guangzhou, China as vice consul in July 2007.

Peace Corps experience: Applegate served in the Republic of Armenia from June 2004 to June 2006, working as a community health education volunteer in the city of Vayk, a Soviet factory town of about 2,000 people. His primary assignment was with the nongovernmental organization Hope 98, which ran after-school activities for children. Applegate facilitated health and English clubs and organized sexual health seminars. He also taught English at a local university and helped to remodel the maternity ward in the local polyclinic through two grant projects. In addition, he spent a lot of time in his landlord’s garden learning how to take care of bees and khorovatz meat and to make vodka.

JMC influence: Applegate realized that the Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for an American—in particular, a new college graduate—to experience another culture and get high-quality overseas work experience. He points in particular to the depth of experience in a culture one gets by learning the language and living cut off from other Americans. “I think Madison helped my decision,” he says, “by fostering my influence in international affairs and encouraging me to broaden my horizons.” His participation in a summer 2003 Madison internship in London opened the door to the idea of working in the developing world. He cites Chris Foley, Madison field career consultant and former Peace Corps volunteer, as a great help when he was thinking about the Peace Corps.

Amy Meldrum (SR ’03)

Peace Corps experience: Meldrum joined the Peace Corps in September 2005 and will complete her service in November 2007. She is serving as a community and organization development volunteer in a Russian-speaking town in southern Moldova, where she helps a youth organization write grant projects, budgets, and strategic plans and assists them with local fundraising efforts and activities at the local youth center. She also coordinates Peace Corps national summer youth camps, codirects the national Odyssey of the Mind competition, and teaches weekend business and economics seminars in Russian for local teenagers.

JMC influence: Meldrum has always been intrigued by the culture and lifestyle of the former Soviet republics, the immediate attempts to transition from command to market-based economies after the fall of communism, and the subsequent psychological impact that accompanies such drastic change. She was also very interested in learning Russian. Her participation in the Economic and
Alumni Serving the Peace Corps continued

Political Transition in Central and Eastern Europe study abroad program in summer 2001 with Professor Jonas Zoninsein increased her desire to learn more about Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics. She says, “All of my Madison professors, but particularly Professor [Michael] Schechter and Professor [Gene] Burns, encouraged me to continue pursuing my interests and taught me to think critically, analytically, and globally. My education at Madison provided me with a strong base in a wide range of fields that prepared me very well for graduate school and Peace Corps in Moldova.”

Gina Reynolds (IR ’05)

Current position: Reynolds serves as an Americorps VISTA volunteer with a nonprofit organization in Albuquerque, NM.

Peace Corps experience: Reynolds served as a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) volunteer in Bangladesh teaching spoken English classes at a women’s college in Jessore, in the southwest part of the country. Her secondary work, community development, was done primarily with the NGO Service Delivery Program, a public health organization that implements vaccination initiatives, basic health/nutrition education, rural clinics, and HIV/AIDS awareness programs. Reynolds’s service, which began in August 2005, was cut short when Peace Corps Bangladesh was evacuated in March 2006.

JMC influence: Reynolds long knew that she wanted to spend time living and working abroad, step outside of her comfort zone, get her hands dirty, and experience the daily struggles of the place where she would live. She believes that Peace Corps volunteers get to know a country and its people in a way that almost no one else does and are presented with the rare opportunity to really become a part of the communities in which they serve. Reynolds says that Madison pushed her to be a stronger, more aggressive, more resilient student. “My time at Madison helped me both to find a field that I am passionate about, and to develop the skills necessary to excel in it.”

Jacob Slusser (PTCD ’04)

Peace Corps experience: Slusser is currently serving in Panama. He has served over a year and lives about two hours from Panama City in the small village of El Limon. His primary project is working in a collaborative reforestation project with the nongovernment organization PRORENA, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Yale School of Forestry. He helps poor farmers with small reforestation projects to diversify their farms and improve soil conservation.

JMC influence: Slusser decided to join the Peace Corps after reevaluating his goals in life. “I have always had a service-oriented lifestyle, but giving up two years didn’t seem practical, especially when I was planning on attending law school,” he says. “I finally realized that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” Professor Folke Lindahl had a great influence on his decision, not only during conversations at Madison but on a study abroad trip to Barbados, Trinidad, and Guyana, where they visited impoverished areas. Madison Career Coordinator Chris Foley also had a profound influence on his decision. “We had many talks about his [Foley’s] experiences in Paraguay as a Peace Corp Volunteer, and I feel through our discussions about life during and after Peace Corps I was able to make one of the best decisions of my life.”

MSU Alumni Award Goes to Two Madisonians

Two Madisonians are recipients of the Michigan State University Distinguished Alumni Award: JMC alumnus Judge Michael McConnell (JMCD ’76) and JMC Board of Visitors member Burton Gerber (MSU ’55). This award is the highest recognition awarded by the MSU Alumni Association on behalf of MSU graduates. Awardees have distinguished themselves by attaining the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating exemplary voluntary service, personal integrity, and character. The awards were presented by the MSU Alumni Association in fall 2006.

McConnell has served on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit since 2001 and was the JMC Founders Circle Luncheon speaker on October 13, 2006. Gerber is retired from a distinguished 39-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency. He and his spouse, Rosalie, established the Burton L. and Rosalie P. Gerber Scholarship to benefit worthy and capable students enrolled at James Madison College. McConnell received the JMC Alumni Association (JMCAA) Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1997. Gerber was the recipient of the JMCAA Honorary Alumnus Award in 2003.

In Memoriam

Dominic Brown (JMCD ’91) died in Lansing on May 8, 2006. Surviving are his spouse of 13 years, Amy, and two sons, Nicholas and Tyler. Previously, Brown owned The French Florist in Los Angeles.

Peter Frederick Jennings Clute (PTCD ’00) died in Glendale Arizona on July 3, 2006 as a result of complications following surgery. He was employed as a disability rights counselor of the Arizona Bridge for Independent Living in Phoenix. He recently received a governor’s appointment to the State Committee for Service and Volunteerism. His passion for competition was honored at MSU summer sports camps. He was a member of the Phoenix Coyotes Sled Hockey team.
Andrew Sweet (IR ’03)

Current position: Sweet is an international relations master’s candidate at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, with a possible dual degree in economics. Sweet comments: “The Madison degree has put me on equal level with my peers and classmates from Princeton, Harvard, and other elite institutions.”

Peace Corps experience: Sweet served in Togo from August 2003 to August 2005, working as a natural resource management volunteer in the northern part of the country. He helped the community improve their traditional systems of agriculture using compost and natural pesticides and worked on a reforestation project in which local elementary and middle schools and individual community members planted more than 2,000 trees. He was also involved in establishing a village health center, made possible by a USAID grant, that is still thriving.

JMC influence: “I will never forget the experience I had at Madison. This becomes even more evident after leaving once you realize how fortunate you are to learn from people like Professors [Mohammed] Ayoob, [Michael] Rubner, [Michael] Schechter, and [Bryan] Ritchie. It was an unforgettable education that has taken me far, helped me relate to people and to challenge the ideas of people from all over the world.”

Allison Youatt (SR ’03)

Current Position: Youatt is an M.A. candidate in the Social Science Division, University of Chicago.

Peace Corps experience: Youatt served in Senegal, West Africa from 2004 to 2005, where she worked as a health education volunteer in the Fouladou region, a small slice of the country that lies below the Gambia and just at the edge of the region where a low-grade civil war bubbled for most of the 1990s. While living in a thatched-roof hut in the compound of a village family, she learned two languages and also how to haul water on her head and eat without using Western silverware. When asked about the block “S” flag that hung on the wall of her hut, Youatt responded in terms that the Senegalese people would understand: “That’s the flag of my village back home.”

JMC influence: Professors Ronald Dorr, Katie See, and Dean Sherman Garnett encouraged Youatt to go abroad after graduating and were supportive of her Peace Corps ambitions. Professor Dick Zinman also advised her to go abroad, but suggested Paris instead. She says her French would be much better if she had followed his advice.

Neal Newman (ETHNIC ’79)

Current Position: Managing director, Philanthropia International (Dublin); lives in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Post JMC: Newman spent 25 years in nonprofit and government sectors in the USA. He worked with a Native American development organization in Chicago and cofounded the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. He then moved to Boston to start the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless during the Dukakis administration. Newman received his M.A. in community economic development from Tufts University and then led the Coalition for a Better Acre (a multiracial community-development corporation) as CEO for many years following work with Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. In 1995, he moved with his family to Dublin, Ireland and founded the country’s largest nonprofit regional development organization, Southside Partnership, cofinanced by the European Union and the Irish Government. In 2003, Newman founded a specialty management consulting firm, Newman Associates, and then merged with the Paris-based firm Philanthropia in 2006, now delivering niche consulting to international charities and government organizations on fundraising and major gifts campaigns in Europe and North America.

Madison Influences: “Professor [Ron] Dorr taught me to write, Professor [Kate O’Sullivan] See taught me to think, and Professor [Ken] Waltzer opened my eyes to the importance of ethnicity and community development as both a passion and career path.”

Reflections on Madison: “Madison still holds special memories and most definitely framed my career over the last 25 years. I was blessed by work experiences with Native Americans, Latinos, Southeast Asians, and Blacks for over 25 years, and now continue to work with cutting-edge organizations addressing European integration, refugees, and reconciliation. Madison was a superb foundation to excel equally well in the nonprofit, governmental, and private sectors.”
William A. Schambra (JMCD ’71) is the director of Hudson Institute’s Bradley Center for Philanthropy and Civic Renewal. Before joining the institute in January 2003, Schambra was director of programs at the Bradley Foundation in Milwaukee, WI. He was also appointed by the U.S. president to serve as a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2002. In addition, Schambra has written extensively on the U.S. Constitution, the theory and practice of civic revitalization, and civil society in Public Interest, Public Opinion, Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Policy Review, and Crisis.

He is also the editor of three volumes, most recently As Far as Republican Principles Will Admit: Collected Essays of Martin Diamond.

Jim Eaton (JMCD ’72) is the pastor of the First Congregational Church of Owosso, MI. Previously, Eaton spent 11 years as a pastor in Norwich, CT, and eight years in Suttons Bay, MI. He also spent four years as a lecturer in sociology at Three Rivers Community College. He is the editor of The Congregationalist, the oldest continuously published religious magazine in America, published by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Eaton has three children, two grown, one still at home, and two grandchildren.

Susan Elster (IR ’79), Ph.D. Carnegie Mellon, her spouse, Steve Zecher, and their three children made aliyah to Israel in 2003. After the JMC development office recently made contact with her, JMC professor and Jewish Studies program director Ken Waltzer and nine students visited the Elster family for Shabbat dinner in June 2006. The entire group also went to Shirah Chadasha, an egalitarian Orthodox synagogue. The college also helped Elster reconnect with friends and alumni Libby Bishop (IR ’80) and Kim Stanton (IR ’79).

Richard J. Sprunk (JMCD ’82) retired from the U.S. Army in February 2006, after serving 20 years in the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps. He is currently employed in the Office of the Army General Counsel as an associate deputy general counsel for acquisition, advising staff on law and ethics issues concerning complex weapons systems, including multibillion-dollar aviation programs. Since graduating, Sprunk earned a J.D. from the Detroit College of Law in 1985. He also holds an LL.M. in military law from the Judge Advocate General’s School, 1994, and an LL.M. in government procurement law (with highest honors) from the George Washington University Law School, 1999. Sprunk’s military training also includes Air Assault School in 1997 and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1997 as a nonresident. As an active-duty judge advocate, Sprunk was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and served in a variety of assignments, including two tours in Germany. Although he specialized in government procurement law later in his career, Sprunk also had opportunities for extensive litigation experience as both a defense counsel and prosecutor, and later as a trial attorney in the Army’s Contract Appeals Division. His deployments include Operation Joint Endeavor (Kosovo), 2000; Operation Joint Forge (Sarajevo, Bosnia), 1999; and Operation Provide Comfort, 1991. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Washington State Bar Association. He and his spouse, Bethany (MSU ’83; DCL ’85), make their home in Maryland with their five children.

Robert Dorigo-Jones (JMCD ’85) is author of Remove Child Before Folding: The 101 Stupidest, Silliest, and Wackiest Warning Labels Ever, available in bookstores on January 3, 2007. The book is based on an annual contest that Dorigo-Jones created in 1997 and that is now featured on the Internet at www.wackywarnings.com, a website that gets more than 4 million hits per year and has been featured in such diverse publications as the Washington Post, Reader’s Digest, Nickelodeon, and the National Examiner. The book was featured in the Time Warner catalogue beside books by Robert Ludlum, Billy Crystal, and Jon Stewart.

Jeff Kingzett (Urban/JMCD ’85) is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch in Auburn Hills, MI, where he uses a consultative process to address the investing needs of individuals, state and local public organizations, nonprofits, and labor unions. A true Madisonian at heart, a special area of his focus is socially responsible investing — helping people invest in a way that is consistent with their values. Kingzett received a master’s in public administration from Oakland University in 1994. In the community, he has served as an elected Oakland County Commissioner for six years and has served on the boards of such organizations as the Pontiac Housing Commission, the Women’s Survival Center of Oakland County, and the Economic Restructuring Committee of Pontiac Downtown Development Authority. Kingzett has been married for 17 years to Laurie L. Slade. They live in Pontiac, MI and have one child, Andrea, age 8, whom he describes as “smart, curious, an avid reader, and prone to question authority — just like her father.”

Gregory Conyers (JMCD ’88) was appointed program administrator for Justice Initiatives at the State Bar of Michigan. In this position, Conyers coordinates and implements justice projects and support communications on a wide range of State-Bar-led justice issues. He also assists the Pro Bono Involvement Committee by proposing policy recommendations and working with volunteers to implement committee decisions. In addition, Conyers assists both the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program and the Legal Services Advocacy Steering Committee in advocacy efforts. Conyers collaborates with local service programs and other related entities to educate the media, the public, and legal, corporate, and government leaders about the importance of access to justice in a democratic society. Previously, Conyers was director of e-Community Development, Think Detroit, where he helped develop the capacity for online participation by young people in Detroit community issues.
Angela Dillard (JMCD ’88) accepted a position at the University of Michigan’s Center for African and Afro-American Studies and the Residential College. After graduating from Madison, she pursued graduate studies in political theory at the New School for Social Research in New York City where she earned a master’s degree in 1991. While her master’s thesis (on the political implications of name changes among Negroes/Blacks/Afro-Americans/African Americans) was under review, she applied to and was admitted to the Ph.D. program in American culture at the University of Michigan (UM), where she was eventually awarded another M.A. and then a Ph.D. Dillard’s dissertation was on religion and political radicalism in Detroit from the 1930s to the 1960s and was part of her evolution into a specialist in American intellectual history. Dillard left Michigan in 1995 for a position as assistant professor of history and African-American studies, followed by another move to New York University’s (NYU) Gallatin School of Individualized Study. She was granted tenure in 2002, following the publication of her first book, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner Now?: Multicultural Conservatism in America, which was among the first critical studies of conservative political thought among African Americans, Latinos, women, and homosexuals; and served as the director of NYU’s Africana Studies program. Her second book, a revision of her dissertation, will be available in early spring 2007 under the title Faith in the City: Preaching Radical Social Change in Detroit. She and her fiancee, Alan M. Wald, a professor at UM, will be married in May 2007.

Paul Long (Urban ’88) and his spouse, Melissa Pieroni Long, welcomed daughter Catherine Virginia into their family on July 7, 2006. Long is vice president of public policy at the Michigan Catholic Conference in Lansing, MI.

Bill Beekman (JMCD ’89), senior consultant to the provost and vice president for finance and operations at Michigan State University, has been named acting director of the MSU Alumni Association. Beekman is immediate past chairperson of the MSU Alumni Association’s national alumni board.

Matthew Stollak (Urban ’89), assistant professor of business administration at St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, was recently granted tenure. He also is the recipient of the 2006 Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Foundation Faculty Advisor of the Year Award. Stollak received the award, which includes a $1,000 educational stipend to be used toward expenses at a SHRM conference or seminar, at the Society for Human Resource Management national conference and exposition in Washington, D.C. in June 2006.

Leonard Wolfe (IR ’89) was ranked by his peers as a leader in his respective field of law in the thirteenth edition of the Best Lawyers in America. Wolfe was recently named codirector of the Government Policy Department in the Lansing law offices of Dykema. His practice encompasses several areas of legal representation, including general corporate matters, education law, casino gaming, public policy litigation, state procurement matters, and general administrative law. Wolfe has been involved in the drafting of complex legislation and administrative rules on a variety of matters including economic development, state ethics and conflicts of interest, casino gaming, telecommunications, school funding, and a variety of school reform issues. Wolfe received his J.D. from Indiana University.

1990s

Lawrence Sheets (IR ’90) has returned to MSU as a visiting scholar and journalist in residence at James Madison College and the Center for European and Russian/Eurasian Studies in 2006-07. He gave a presentation on “Basayev and Terrorism in Chechnya,” part one of what his proposed two books will examine.

Lance Boldrey (IR ’92) was ranked in the thirteenth edition of the Best Lawyers in America by his peers as a leader in his respective field of law.

Boldrey is a member of the Government Policy practice group in the Lansing office of Dykema. His practice focuses on Indian law with an emphasis on gaming, economic development, and state-tribal relations. He has also been involved in drafting legislation, lobbying federal and state decision makers in the legislature and executive branch, and litigating public policy and constitutional issues.

Boldrey is a member of the Federalist Society, the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Ingham County Bar Association, and the Michigan Republican Lawyers Association. He received his J.D. from Duke University.

Terry Langston (SR ’92) is doing consulting work for Langston & Associates. His work focuses on fundraising, education, and work with nonprofit organizations. Langston is also currently working with Minority Program Services, Inc. of Albion, MI and the Calhoun County Substance Abuse Coalition around substance abuse, treatment, and prevention issues in the county. He is married to Sandra and they have four children: Carrie Hood, Andrew Hood, and Whitney and Zoie Langston.

Natalie Piccotti (Rizzo) (IR ’92) is a resource manager within the Drug Safety department of Pfizer Global Research and Development in Ann Arbor, MI. Piccotti earned an M.A. in industrial relations from Wayne State University in 1995 and is currently completing an MBA at the University of Michigan. In February 2006, she married Dr. Joseph Piccotti.

Scott Wolfson (JMCD ’92) and Marcy Wolfson (Business ’95) welcomed a baby boy, Aiden Luke, into their family. Scott is an attorney with Honigman, Miller, Schwartz, and Cohn in Detroit, MI.

Brad Deacon (IR/German ’93), emergency management coordinator and chief hearings officer for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, was quoted in a Detroit Free Press article, “Hunt for Poultry Raises Flu Concern,” regarding a controversy surrounding Chinese-grown poultry. State and federal authorities were trying to track down a cache of frozen poultry smuggled into the United States and metro Detroit from areas in China where avian flu is present. He described the situation, stating, “We are treating it seriously and looking to see where the
material might have gone.’ In the article, Deacon also said that the state obtained a list of the company’s customers and is sending inspectors to each one to collect paperwork and seize potentially tainted poultry. “Hopefully,” he said, “it will test negative and we can reassure the public that the food supply is safe and the public health is protected.” Chinese-grown poultry is banned in the United States because of fear it could spread diseases.

Scott Shrake (PTCD ’93) recently signed on as manager of marketing copy at Discovery Education (a division of Discovery Communications, Inc.) in Bethesda, MD. He was previously copy editor at Borders Group, Inc., in Ann Arbor, MI.

Georg Menz (IR ’95) joined the Department of Politics at Goldsmiths University of London in 2002 as lecturer in political economy. Menz earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dayne Walling (SR ’96) is executive director of the Flint Club (www.flintclub.org). The club’s mission is to connect people to the life of the city regardless of where they live. At the heart of its work is a twenty-first century experiment to create a network for Flint, MI that is both community and Internet based. Walling is also a research fellow at the Genesee Institute, looking at new ways for citizens and community groups to be involved in urban redevelopment. He and his spouse, Carrie, have two children, Bennett and Emery.

Jason Zaks (SR ’96) is student teaching at Roosevelt Elementary School in Keego Harbor, MI. Immediately following his field placement, he will receive his elementary teaching certificate from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. In his spare time, Zaks also travels to many schools educating students about reptiles and amphibians. He and his spouse, Stefanie, recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary. Zaks is also a first-time uncle to Cameron Klein, son of Jason Klein (PTCD ’95).

Amy Baumer (Partin) (PTCD ’97) was recently appointed state assistant administrator in the Bureau of Strategic Policy, Michigan Department of Information Technology. She is chief speechwriter for the department director, handles strategic planning projects, and manages public affairs. Baumer received her master’s in public administration from MSU. She and her spouse, Ted, reside in Fowlerville, MI.

Greg Bird (PTCD ’97) is director of communications for the Michigan Office of the State Budget. In this role, Bird serves as the governor’s lead spokesperson on all matters related to the state’s $41 billion budget. He also consults the state budget director and members of the administration on public strategy and message surrounding the state budget. Previously, Bird served as acting director of communications for former Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm; deputy press secretary for the State Senate Democratic Caucus; assistant account executive for DMB&B Public Relations; and legislative aide and communications director for former State Senator Jim Berryman. Bird has also served on various political federal, state, and local campaigns.

Brian Harvat (IR ’97) is working for Alcoa Inc.’s European Mill Products organization in Budapest, Hungary. In his role as commercial manager for Automotive Flat Rolled Products Europe, he is responsible for growing Alcoa’s automotive business in Europe.

Josh Johnson (PTCD ’97) completed an additional degree in nuclear medicine through Ferris State University and graduated with honors in May 2006. Johnson also passed the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification board exam and accepted a position with Spectrum Health’s Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids, MI. He will be publishing his thesis on “The Effectiveness of Technetium Tm Colloids used in Repetitive Rectal Insertion Imaging.”

Jeremy Peruski (IR ’97) is a principal with Mandarin Ventures Ltd. in Beijing, China. He has nine years of investment banking and institutional sales experience, involved in deal sourcing, due diligence, capital advisory, and capital raises for private and public companies. Since moving to China in January 2004, Peruski has been advising and assisting Chinese growth companies secure strategic partners and investors. In 1997, he began his career with Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co., a U.S.-based investment banking firm. As a vice president there, he was involved in more than 200 initial public offerings, private placements, secondaries, and restructurings valued at more than US$13 billion, covering a range of industries including technology, healthcare, financial services, and energy. In 2003, he joined the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) for his MBA internship analyzing company and country risks associated with investments in global emerging markets. Peruski holds an MBA from George Washington University (2003) and is conversational in Mandarin.

Amanda Sloat (PTCD ’97) recently returned from six months in Baghdad, where she was working with the Iraqi Council of Representatives through the National Democratic Institute (NDI). In October 2006, she gave a presentation to Madison students and faculty about what life is really like for expatriots and Iraqis in Baghdad, discussing the work of NDI and careers in international development and reflecting on the current political and security situation in Iraq.

Jason A. Miller (IR ’98) became the rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim in Columbus, OH. He was ordained a Conservative rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2004. He lives in Bexley, OH with his spouse, Elissa, and their three children, Joshua, Jonah, and Talya.

Kathy Pominville (IR ’98) and her spouse, Mike, celebrated the birth of twins Ted and Marie in July 2005. Pominville teaches English as a second language (ESL) for Global L-T, Ltd. In her spare time, she also tutors elementary French.

Brent Bushey (PTCD ’99) is a consultant with the SRA Touchstone Consulting Group. Touchstone works directly with federal executives providing strategy and management consulting services.

Shaun Hughey (IR ’99) graduated from George Washington University Law School in 2004. Following graduation, he moved to New Jersey and took a job at the lead firm for the defense of Joseph Nacchio, the former CEO of Qwest. This case is the second largest securities fraud case in the country after Enron.

Mark Moon (IR ’99) was selected for law review at the University of Miami Law School.


Phil Beekman (IR ’00), was an embassy representative at the Slovenian Jack Daniels BBQ cook-off event, which took place at a castle outside of Ljubljana. He is a foreign service officer in Slovenia and recently was awarded the U.S. State Department’s meritorious honor award. His next assignment is Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Tina Juntunen (IR ’00) is an associate at the litigation firm of Kasowitz, Benson Torres & Friedman LLP in New York City. Her practice includes representation of corporate clients in securities, corporate governance, antitrust, and bankruptcy-related litigation and other commercial disputes. She is admitted to practice in New York and Illinois. Immediately after graduation, Juntunen earned her J.D. at the University of Michigan. After sitting for the New York bar exam in February 2004, she moved to New York and began as a litigation associate with the firm of White & Case LLP. Early in the spring of 2006, she participated in White & Case’s three-month externship with Inmotion, Inc., a local nonprofit public interest provider of legal services to low-income women, where she represented more than 20 clients in matrimonial, custody, visitation, and civil domestic violence matters before the New York Supreme and Family Courts.

Dennis C. Rasmussen (PTCD ’00) is author of “Does Bettering Our Condition Really Make Us Better Off? Adam Smith on Progress and Happiness,” the lead article in the August 2006 issue of the American Political Science Review. Rasmussen earned his Ph.D. at Duke University and is currently a visiting assistant professor at Bowdoin College.

Ellen (VanCleave) Klem (PTCD ’01) is a coauthor of the American Bar Association Legal Guide for Americans Over 50: Everything about the law and Medicare and Medicaid, retirement rights, and long-term choices for yourself and your parents published by Random House Reference. VanCleave Klem is an attorney for the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging in Washington, D.C.

Greg Hose (PTCD ’02) will join Gardner Carton & Douglas after graduating from the George Washington University Law School (GW) in December 2006 and passing the bar exam in February 2007. After graduating from Madison, Hose worked in the underwriting department of ICI Mutual Insurance Company while attending GW. He was also invited to join the school’s moot court board based on his scores in the First Year Moot Court Competition. Last fall he participated in the Jacob Burns Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition and received the Best Oralist and Best Overall Competitor awards. During law school, Hose completed a summer internship with the New York State Attorney General’s Office in 2005 and spent summer 2006 with the Chicago-based firm of Gardner Carton & Douglas. He participated in GW Law School’s Domestic Violence Project, a clinical program involving an internship with a local non-profit organization, and started an internship in September 2006 with the Domestic Violence Unit in the D.C. U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Robert Rodemeyer (PTCD ’02) works for the assistant public guardian for Cook County, IL, acting (with others) as attorney and guardian ad litem for virtually all abused and neglected children in the county. As soon as the state files petitions of abuse and neglect against their parents, the public guardian’s office represents the children through the entirety of their wardship. Upon graduating from Madison, Rodemeyer received his J.D. with honors from Wayne State University Law School in 2005. He then relocated to Illinois, where he is now a licensed attorney.

Jennifer L. Troxell (PTCD/IR ’02) is international programs specialist, Exploration Systems and Aeronautics Research Division in the Office of External Relations for NASA. She monitors space-related activities for Italy, Canada, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark and works with the Aeronautics Research program and the Exploration Systems program. The Exploration Systems program is in charge of implementing the Vision for Space Exploration and designing the space shuttle replacement. Troxell received her M.A. in political science from American University in May 2004. She married John Meharg in June 2005. Renee Chovanec (IR/Spanish ’02) was one of her bridesmaids.

Zack Behler (IR/Chemistry ’03) is an associate attorney in the litigation department of Foster, Swift, Collins, & Smith’s Lansing office. He earned his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2006.

Matthew Clayson (IR ’03) is project manager for the Tourism Economic Development Council, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau. Clayson also used grassroots organizations and bloggers to improve the “World is Coming. Get in the Game” campaign for Super Bowl XL. He was featured in Crain’s Detroit as one of the “20 in their 20’s”—20 young persons who are working to make a positive change in the Detroit area. Clayson is currently attending Wayne State University Law School.

Tracie Fienman (Goldman) (SR ’03) is director of programming at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, MI. After graduation from JMC, Fienman attended Brandeis University’s Hornstein Program in Jewish Professional Leadership in Boston, MA and earned a master’s in Jewish communal service. In August 2006 she married Dr. Adam Fienman of Moorestown, NJ.

Amy Meldrum (SR ’03) is a community and organizational development Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova where she...
works with a youth organization called New Generation in a Russian community in the southern part of the country. After Madison, Meldrum completed her student teaching with the MSU College of Education in the Detroit area. In summer 2004, she started master’s coursework at the University of Denver and finished her classes the following summer. When she completes her Peace Corps service in November 2007, she will write her dissertation and complete her degree in international administration with a concentration in international conflict resolution.

Jim O’Leary (IR/History ’03), communications leader for Hometown Solutions, was chosen as the second youngest member of PR News Online’s “15 to Watch” award for his work in the public relations department. He accepted the award at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. His job includes human relief, program management, and communicating general information as a spokesman for the company. Hometown Solutions, a department of Honeywell, is an international technology and manufacturing company. He led a group of Honeywell employees in relief efforts in Juarez, Mexico after the homes of 175 Honeywell employees stationed there were damaged or destroyed by intense rains. O’Leary credits James Madison College, in large part, for his success.

Joe Plahutnik (IR ’03) works in Corporate Communications at the Dow Corning Corporation in Midland, MI. He graduated in summer 2005 from the University of Illinois journalism graduate program.

Jeremy Dalpiaz (PTCD ’04) with U.S. President Bush while attending the White House Congressional Picnic with his boss, Congressman Vernor J. Ehlers.

Christa Porter (Weaver) (SR ’04) received her master’s in education policy and leadership, with a specialization in higher education, from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 2006. The same weekend, she married Franklin Porter, Jr., a native of the Maryland/D.C. area. Porter is searching for the opportunity to serve students of color at the collegiate level.

Greta Stahl (IR ’04), 2004 National Debate Champion, is the new director of debate at Michigan State University. In summer 2006, she received her master’s degree from Oxford University in England. She was also the recipient of the Marshall Scholarship.

Josh Feinberg (IR ’05) was selected to work on the University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review. He is a second-year law student at University of Miami Law School.

Matt Thome (IR/PTCD ’05) was selected for the Michigan Law Review. Thome is in his second year at the University of Michigan Law School. In August 2006, he married Stephanie Hess in the MSU Alumni Chapel.

Don Amboyer (IR ’06) will be attending the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London, where he will work toward his master’s degree in Near and Middle Eastern studies.

Jordan Helfman (SR/PTCD ’06) is the Oved Chinuch (education director) of LJY-Netzer, the youth movement for the most progressive Jewish movement in the United Kingdom (Liberal Judaism). In this capacity, Helfman creates and delivers a national voluntary educational youth program and facilitates the maintenance and creation of youth clubs in the network of the 36 constituents of Liberal Judaism.

Andy Hickner (PTCD ’06) is staff assistant for U.S. Senator Carl Levin in the Lansing Regional Office. He is also member of MSU’s a cappella group Capital Green and officer in the East Lansing Student Housing Cooperative. While an undergraduate, he interned with the MSU Center for Women and International Development in 2004-05.

Phil Santer (PTCD ’06) is working at George Mason University at the Mercatus Center coordinating educational programs for state legislators.

Nick Sorenson (PTCD ’06) is special projects manager for WildAid in Washington D.C., a wildlife conservation organization that works primarily out of Thailand and Cambodia. Sorenson focuses on the oversight and facilitation of Asian-based bilateral and multilateral fundraising opportunities (i.e., USAID, Global Environment Facility, and The World Bank) as well as fostering potential partnerships in Cambodia, Thailand, and the rest of South East Asia. Sorenson also provides auxiliary management to the communications and marketing divisions.

Bradley Gordon Wilson (PTCD/English ’06) was the winner of the 2006 Jack Chapin Memorial Award, an award that is given annually to the outstanding senior in political theory. Wilson was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated with an almost perfect grade point average. Throughout his undergraduate career, he was an active participant in Model United Nations (both as a competitor and mentor to high school students) and deeply involved in his church. He was chosen by his peers to deliver the student address at this year’s Madison commencement. After graduation, he began law school at Boston College and is interested in both criminal and constitutional law.

Keeley Reed (PTCD ’06) and Andy Hickner (PTCD ’06) participated in the George Mason Summer Institute for the Preservation of the History of Economic Thought and the Summer Institute, which involved 20 presenters and as many as 30 other participants over six days, including Madison Professor Ross Emmett who presented a paper on Malthus. Phil Santer (PTCD ’06) also attended the institute.
New Appointments

Yael Aronoff Appointed Serling Chair of Israel Studies

Yael S. Aronoff is the Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Chair of Israel Studies at James Madison College. Aronoff holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University (2001), an M.I.A. in international affairs from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (1992), and a B.A. in international relations from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs and Public Policy (1990). She has taught in the Government Department at Hamilton College and has served as assistant for regional humanitarian programs in the Pentagon’s Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs and in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as a Jacob K. Javits Fellow. She most recently was senior associate at Columbia University’s Institute of War and Peace Studies.

Aronoff is finishing her book manuscript, When Hard-Liners Opt for Peace: The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime Ministers, a political psychology of war and peace. It focuses on the conditions under which hard-line political leaders become peacemakers. In her most recent article, Aronoff analyzes a soft-liner becoming hard-line towards the Soviets: “In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion: The Political Conversion of Jimmy Carter,” Political Science Quarterly 121:3, Fall 2006.

Aronoff’s teaching interests include Israeli politics and foreign policy, U.S. foreign policy, international relations, Israeli society and culture, conflict and cooperation among Israelis and Palestinians, and conditions for war termination. In the 2006-07 academic year, she is teaching “International Relations I: World Politics and International Security,” “State and Society in Comparative Perspective,” “Special Topics: Israeli Politics and Society,” and “American Foreign Policy: Theory, Pattern and Process.”

First Michigan Prosperity Center Report Released

A new Madison undergraduate think tank to create innovative proposals for policy prescriptions has released its first report. The Michigan Prosperity Center emerged from a spring 2006 Michigan Futures senior undergraduate research seminar developed by JMC Professor Bryan Ritchie and assisted by Professors Louise Jezierski and Ross Emmett. The center is dedicated to exploring the networks and policies that will sustain Michigan’s place in the global economy and focuses on the connections and policies that enable high-tech entrepreneurship to flourish.

The center’s core activity continues to be the Michigan Futures seminar, in which faculty and students collaborate to develop a policy framework for enhancing the foundations for innovation and economic prosperity. Other activities build upon the strengths evident in the seminar: collaborative faculty-undergraduate student research; a comparative political economy perspective; a public affairs and applied public policy orientation; a focus on the impact of technological and economic change; and university-led collaborations among private and public entities for high-tech entrepreneurship.

Michigan’s Department of Labor and Economic Growth and the Office for Research and Graduate Studies at MSU collaborated with JMC to create Michigan Futures.

For more information and to read the final research report of the spring 2006 seminar visit the Michigan Prosperity Center website:
http://jmc.msu.edu/mciep/index.html
Eric Aronoff received his B.A. in comparative literature from Princeton University, and after graduating spent three years teaching middle school in the South Bronx and Baltimore through Teach For America. He returned to graduate school to earn his Ph.D in English at Rutgers University. His research interests include nineteenth and early twentieth century American literature; anthropology; theories of culture and cultural, national, and racial identity; literature and the environment, and science fiction. His current book project, Mapping the Inland Empire: American Literature, Criticism, and the Problem of Culture, 1903-1941, which traces the debates over the idea of “culture” circulating among artists, literary critics, and anthropologists in the early twentieth century, has been accepted for publication by Routledge. His work on Willa Cather has appeared in Willa Cather Society Newsletter and Review. He teaches MC 111 and ENG 476 in the fall and MC 112 and MC 395 in the spring.

Mohammed Ayoob participated in IslamExpo in Alexandra Palace, London in July 2006. IslamExpo, a major event aimed at promoting dialogue and understanding between Islam and the West, is cosponsored, by among others, the mayor of London and the London Development Agency. During the conference, Ayoob made two presentations: “Democratic Change in the Muslim World: Prospects and Obstacles” and “Jihad: Holy War?” Several leading scholars of the Muslim world and of Islam also participated in IslamExpo events.


Ilana Blumberg attended the North American Victorian Studies Association conference at Purdue University in September 2006 at which she delivered the paper “‘Love Yourself as Your Neighbor’: The Ethics of Mid-Victorian Novels.” In summer 2006, she also attended a conference at the University of Exeter on the work of Victorian novelist Anthony Trollope, at which she delivered the paper “Trollope’s Heroes, His Heroines, and the Sacrifice of Sacrifice.”


Other Faculty News

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Constance Hunt and Eric Petrie attended the 2006 American Political Science Association Conference in Philadelphia. Hunt delivered the paper “Situating Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter.” Petrie delivered the paper “Power of Pilgrimage after the Death of God: Melville’s Clarel.” Hunt is now a full-time JMC faculty member, no longer working as the assistant dean for student affairs, a position she held since 2003.


Nicholas Mercuro and Steven G. Medema published *Economics and the Law, Second Edition: From Posner to Postmodernism and Beyond* in August 2006. This book is an expanded second edition of their influential book *Economics and the Law*, the publication of which in 1998 marked the most comprehensive overview of the various schools of thought in the burgeoning field of law and economics. Mercuro is also professor of law in residence at the MSU College of Law.


Simei Qing presented a paper to Oxford Round Table in Oxford Union Chamber, Oxford University, England, in August 2006 titled “The United States, Europe, and China in the 21st Century: From Liberal Internationalism to Cultural Internationalism.”

Linda Racioppi and Kate O’Sullivan See organized a workshop on “Gender and Politics in Post-Communist Eurasia” at Koç University, Istanbul, in June 2006, bringing together leading scholars from Russia, Central Asia, Turkey, Europe, and the United States to explore significant aspects of gender politics in the postcommunist period. Participants included Ayse Ayata (Middle East Technical University), Mary Buckley (Cambridge University), Eleonora Faizullaeva (Uzbek State World Languages University), Timur Koçagoğlu (Koç University), Eniko Magyari Vincze (Babes-Bolyai University), Nadezhda Shvedova (USA-Canada Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences), Zulaikho Usmanova (Khujand State University), and Madison graduate Amanda Sloat (National Democratic Institute, Washington, D.C.). Papers took up such issues as human trafficking, the impact of EU accession on women in Eastern Europe, the interplay of ethnicity and gender in public policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the gender effects of labor migration in Central Asia, and the interaction between state-based women’s organizing and international feminist activism. See and Racioppi will be editing the papers and writing an introductory essay for a volume that will be published by the MSU Press.

Michael Schechter presented the paper “Global Governance of Fisheries Ecosystems” at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Lake Placid, NY in September 2006. The
paper, written jointly with Nancy Leonard, will also be the lead chapter in the book *International Governance of Fisheries Ecosystems: Learning from the Past, Finding Solutions for the Future* that Leonard and Schechter are editing with Bill Taylor. Leonard is a fisheries and wildlife Ph.D. student at MSU and also works for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. Schechter is a member of her committee. The American Fisheries Society will publish the book in 2007.

**Colleen Tremonte** presented the paper “Towards a Theory of Historical Filmic Literacy” at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference in Washington, D.C. in November 2006. Also, in collaboration with **Steven Purchase** (IR/PTCD ’06), and **Karissa Chabot** (senior IR/PTCD), Tremonte presented on the panel “Local Knowledge Redux” at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in Ann Arbor, MI in November 2006.

**Ken Waltzer** led the MSU Jewish Studies program at Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School during summer 2006 until forced by the conflict involving Israel and Hezbollah to return home. While in Israel, he also interviewed many former Buchenwald boys for a book on *The Rescue of Children and Youth at Buchenwald*. Waltzer also presented his research on rescue at Buchenwald at the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust in Dearborn, MI in August 2006 and was a featured speaker at the 9th Annual Holocaust Education Series in Montreal in late October 2006. He recently submitted a paper for publication on “The Three Youngest Children at Buchenwald” and is submitting another on “Kovno Boys at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald.” His review, “Spielberg’s Munich, Ethics, and Israel” appeared in *Israel Studies* 11:2 (2006).

**Matt Zierler** has joined the JMC faculty in a tenure-stream position in international relations. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Zierler’s research and teaching interests are in foreign policy, international security, international relations theory, international law, and international cooperation. In his dissertation titled “Failing to Commit: The Politics of Treaty Nonratification,” he studied the numerous cases throughout American history when the United States has signed a treaty only never to ratify it. He is coauthor, with Mohammed Ayoob, of “The Unipolar Concert: North-South Divide Trumps Transatlantic Differences” in the spring 2005 issue of the *World Policy Journal*. With Michael Schechter, he has also written “Multilateralism: Does it Still Matter?” that appeared in the fall 2005 *Information Memorandum* published by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS). He is also working on a collaborative project examining the lifecycles of preferential trade agreements and continuing work on the nature of transatlantic relations.

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**STUDENT SCENE**

### Madison Welcomes New Class…Total Enrollment Grows

The total enrollment of James Madison College reached 1,222 students in fall 2006, including 342 freshmen. The entering class comprises 46 students from outside Michigan and 7 international or exchange students (representing Brazil, Japan, Hong Kong, France, Azerbaijan, and Turkey).

JMC continues to be a prime destination for students interested in academic excellence, public policy, and a liberal arts education. Madison received a total of 773 applications and still has a waiting list of 75 first-year students along with 78 second-year and 48 third-year students hoping to enter.

During this growth, the college has also added faculty to maintain small class size and high standards. We owe a big thank you to the many alumni who play a role in the admissions process by contacting admitted students to discuss their Madison experience. We also appreciate everyone who spreads the news about a Madison education and encourages students to consider JMC and MSU for their college education.

### Six Madison Students are 2006 MCNAIR Scholars

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a scholarship program funded by the government that encourages minority, low-income, and first-generation college students to expand their educational opportunities and pursue graduate studies. The program was founded in memory of Ronald Erwin McNair, an African American mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger. McNair earned a number of academic achievements, as well as honorary doctorate degrees, fellowships, and commendations.

After his death in the USS Challenger Space Shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress decided to fund the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

This past year, the following Madison students were honored with this scholarship:

- **Arupa Barua** (senior, IR)
- **Margot Bokanga** (junior, IR)
- **Justin Dolfus** (senior, IR)
- **Melissa Grant** (senior, IR)
- **Angela Nurse** (senior, SR/psychology)
- **Oscar Vega** (senior, SR)
Lauren Beach (senior, SR/microbiology and molecular genetics) is a 2006 Point Scholar, a scholarship program supported by the Point Foundation (PF). Beach aspires to be a science-educated attorney involved in crafting socially conscious public policy decisions for global pharmaceutical approval standards. The Point Foundation provides financial support, mentoring, and hope to meritorious students who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In 2006, PF awarded 30 scholarships to outstanding gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students. The average scholarship award is $12,500. The foundation also supports scholars in other programmatic capacities. The average amount of financial support devoted to each scholar exceeds $33,000, which includes scholarship funding, mentoring, and leadership training.

Luke Capizzo (senior, PTC/professional writing) received a Gillette Fellowship through the MSU Honors College. This program provides support for students pursuing senior projects such as advanced research or a thesis. Under the supervision of Professor Richard Zinman, Capizzo’s senior honors thesis will examine the effect of technology on political communication. The project will focus on three key figures in twentieth century American politics and how they changed the way Americans talk about politics through the use of an emerging technology: Roosevelt and radio, Kennedy and TV, and Howard Dean and the Internet. Outside of Madison, Capizzo is figure skating coach at the Lansing Skating Club and president of the MSU Accafellas—a men’s a cappella singing group.

While fulfilling her field experience requirement in Washington, D.C. in summer 2006, Ashley Dalman (senior, IR) was quoted in a June 8, 2006 article on the BBC’s Spanish Language World News Service, BBCmundo.com. The article, “Chile como modelo” (translated as “Chile as a model”) discussed the United States’ relationship with Chile. Dalman stated that “Washington wants to use Chile as an alliance in order to win the ideological war that the United States has against Venezuela” (quote translated from Spanish to English). For more information, see the article in Spanish at http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/spanish/latin_america/newssid_5057000/5057872.stm

Amber Finkbeiner (senior, IR) and Katherine Hughes (junior, IR) were named in Lansing State Journal and State News articles about the aftermath of the MSU/Notre Dame football game on Saturday, September 23, 2006.
They participated in the Community Relations Coalition, a nonprofit group aiming to improve relations between East Lansing residents and MSU students. The day after the game, the coalition organized a cleanup for the neighborhoods north of campus.

**Eric Gregory (senior, PTCD)**, of Troy MI, is running as a Democrat for the House 41st District seat, which covers the cities of Troy and Clawson in Michigan. Gregory, who was a founding member and co-chair of the Troy Youth Council, and who has been active in student government at MSU, is making his first run for elected office. His campaign received regional and national publicity due to his age and active campaigning.

**Robert A. Huber (IR ’06)** presented “Healthcare for Migrants: The Case of Myanmar” at the Asian Migrations Conference at Binghamton State University of New York. Huber, the only undergraduate at the conference, represented James Madison College and MSU’s Asian Studies specialization. The conference also included representations by the University of Chicago, University of California-Berkeley, Georgetown University, Germany, Malaysia, India, and Singapore.

**Anthony Martinico (senior, IR)** received a travel grant from the National Italian American Foundation Gift of Discovery Program to visit Tuscany, Italy during summer 2006. Of the more than 600 Italian American college students between the ages of 18 and 23 who applied to this all-expenses-paid program to increase their understanding of Italy, 45 were chosen to participate.

**Chinell McCarthy (senior, SR)** was one of 15 interns (from a nationwide applicant pool of 150) accepted for the spring semester to work with Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, D.C. CDF, founded in 1973, is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to giving every child “a Healthy Start, a Head Start, A Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.” McCarthy was assigned to CDF’s Freedom Schools programs, “literacy-rich” summer programs for 5-18 year olds. McCarthy worked at the first 2006 Freedom School training session, where she was one of only three college students out of the 200 people gathered. In her final year at JMC, McCarthy is making plans to attend law school, possibly in the D.C. area.

**Nick Micinski (junior, IR)** is studying abroad in fall 2006 at American University in Cairo (AUC). He is shown here at the Great Pyramids of Giza. Micinski is enrolled in the intensive Arabic program at the Arabic Language Institute within AUC and is taking modern standard Arabic, colloquial Egyptian Arabic, and media Arabic classes.

**James Schneidewind (senior, IR)** was among the 60 MSU faculty, staff, and students who participated in the MSU New Orleans Summer Project, traveling to the hurricane-devastated area for four weeks to help K-12 students catch up on their studies after missing almost a year of school. “The trip for me was full of wonderful highs and extreme lows, as you can imagine,” says Schneidewind. “Working with the kids was especially rewarding as we were all able to see the progress they made during our three weeks of teaching there….I think the greatest service that I and the rest of the members of our group provided was letting these kids know that someone cares about them, someone wants to hear what they have to say, that someone wants to be their friend.”

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**Get Madison News by E-Mail!**

If you would like news about James Madison College and advance information about college events, send us your e-mail address. Our JMC News e-bulletin is sent to alumni and friends once or twice a month and will keep you informed of pertinent Madison news and events. We send invitations through e-mail rather than postal mail if we have your e-mail address.

Send your address by e-mail to Kim Allan at allank@msu.edu or call her at (517)353-3381.

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**DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

**Leaving a Legacy**

Great universities like Michigan State University thrive on challenge and imagination and grow on initiative and success. Each year, thousands of alumni and friends support MSU and James Madison College by contributing their time, talents, and money in support of our students, faculty, and programs. Indeed, private philanthropy represents an enormous resource that has enabled the college’s outstanding faculty and student body to excel at teaching and learning.

Many donors have chosen to continue their support beyond their lifetime by including the college in their estate planning. Legacy gifts from an estate by way of a will, trust, or life income agreement often allow donors the opportunity to make a significant gift to the college. Planned gifts can provide discretionary funds to be used as determined by the dean, or can be designated to a specific use as directed by a donor’s estate or through an agreement with the college.

Often, MSU alumni and friends choose to document their intention to make a future gift to the college. Documenting a future gift from an estate is not a binding legal obligation on the donor or his/her estate and information remains strictly confidential. Documented planned gifts are important, as they allow the college the opportunity to recognize potential future donors today. This is also an important process for donors as they can establish guidelines, with the college development office, detailing wishes for the use of their potential future gift.

Another way to link your legacy to the future of James Madison College is to establish an endowed fund. An endowed fund is typically named for the donor or a loved one. Working with the development office, guidelines for the use of funds – an endowment agreement – is established with the college. Once the gift is received, the principle is invested and is never expended. Each year a percentage of interest income from
the investment is spent as directed by the endowment agreement, with any unused interest added back to principle.

Endowed funds, whether established with outright gifts or with a planned gift, provide annual funding to the college in perpetuity. If you are interested in learning more about leaving a gift to JMC through your estate or about establishing a named endowed fund, please contact the development office at (517) 432-2117.

Rocky Beckett
JMC Director of Development

Your Legacy—
A Named Endowed Fund

It’s easy to direct your future gift through your will or personal trust. Here is sample charitable bequest language to share with your attorney that will create an endowed fund for James Madison College:

I give and devise to Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, the sum of $_________ (minimum charitable bequest must exceed $30,000) to be held, administered, and used by the Board of Trustees for the establishment of an endowed fund in support of James Madison College at Michigan State University. The earnings from the fund are to be disbursed by the College per the terms of the completed endowed fund agreement on record at Michigan State University. The endowed fund shall be named the ____________.

I instruct that all my charitable gifts shall be made, to the extent possible, from property that constitutes “income in respect of a decedent” as that term is defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

It’s just that easy! For additional information about creating an endowed fund in your name or in memory of a loved one, contact Development Director Rocky Beckett at (517) 432-2117.

James Madison College
Honors Roll of Donors

The many alumni and friends whose names appear on the following pages have helped lay the financial foundation for James Madison College. Your support of the Madison mission makes it possible to provide scholarships to promising students, assist faculty research and scholarly pursuits, and enhance the residential atmosphere for Madison students through special activities and projects.

These pages contain two lists. The first is an honor roll recognizing all James Madison College supporters holding a distinction as donor society members at Michigan State for cumulative gifts throughout the university. The second honor roll recognizes all cash contributions from individuals to the college received from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Multiple gifts by individuals and couples have been combined to reflect the total amount given.

We apologize for any errors or omissions in the lists and encourage you to contact the Development Office at (517) 432-2117 or beckettr@msu.edu to make corrections. If you would like information on contributing to James Madison College, please contact Rocky Beckett at 328 South Case Hall, East Lansing, MI 48825-1205 for confidential assistance.

Donor Society Members

ROBERT S. SHAW SOCIETY
Robert S. Shaw served as acting president of MSU three times before becoming president in 1928. His son-in-law, John Hannah, succeeded him in 1941. This society recognizes lifetime gifts of more than $500,000 or planned gifts of at least $1,000,000.

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STAFF NEWS

Jeffrey Judge, previously director of admissions for JMC, is now director of academic affairs and admissions for the college. His position combines responsibilities formerly held by Constance Hunt. Judge also teaches at Madison. His research interests include international finance, economic development, political economy, international security, peacekeeping, weapons proliferation, U.S. foreign and defense policy, and Russian foreign and defense policy.

Congratulations to Jackie Stewart, secretary to the dean, who is celebrating her 35th anniversary with James Madison College. Stewart has worked for nearly every Madison dean, with the exception of Dean Garfinkel. She is an invaluable resource for Madison facts and history, but is careful to use discretion. Thank you, Jackie!!
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07JMC

James Madison College
I vividly remember the first day I met Professor Hoekstra. It was our first MC201 lecture after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. He gave an appropriate lecture regarding executive authority and The Federalist Papers, one of his favorite topics and one that had relevance to the situation at hand.

Two years later, I was fortunate enough to take “The Presidency and Congress,” Professor Hoekstra’s trademark class. As we circled the room introducing ourselves, I mentioned my involvement in the MSU Democrats and Students for Howard Dean. Hoekstra quickly acknowledged that he too hoped to see Dean do well, because if Dean won the nomination the general election would surely go to Bush. Little did I know that an all too short, but formative relationship had begun.

As class progressed, I became a mainstay in Professor Hoekstra’s schedule. Once or twice a week I would stop by his office and we would chat for hours. We would discuss class topics, the current political news, and numerous personal issues. It was here where Professor Hoekstra left his greatest impression. Although we often disagreed on issues, we always discussed them in the most collegial fashion.

When I applied for the Truman Scholarship, I shared my thoughts on the process with him and he, more than anyone, mentored me through the application proceedings. He also wrote the most touching letter of support for my nomination, the ultimate compliment from the man who was always cautious with his praise.

As my senior year approached, I was determined to write an honors thesis on the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. Professor Hoekstra was the only person I considered to select as my primary reader. Despite taking great pride in being called “the last Federalist” by his friends and colleagues, Professor Hoekstra agreed to study Thomas Jefferson with me for over a year. I am forever grateful to him for gritting his teeth and dealing with my incessant Jeffersonian admiration for such a long period of time.

When I graduated from JMC last year, I had a lot to look forward to. I was preparing to go to William and Mary to study public policy, which was an appropriate placement for me considering the school was named after Thomas Jefferson. Although I was eager to move to Virginia and continue my education, I also realized I was leaving a lot behind. See, in this way my relationship with Professor Hoekstra epitomizes the college that he played such a formative role in developing. I was leaving behind not only great professors, but close, lifelong friends and mentors who taught me how to think critically, learn, and live. Thank you, Professor Hoekstra, not only for your impact on my life, but for helping create the special place we all know as Madison.