Alumni, faculty, and friends gathered in East Lansing March 24-26, 2006 to celebrate and honor the life of Madison Professor Jack Paynter, who passed away in Texas in April 2005 at the age of 66.

Paynter served on the Madison and MSU faculties from 1969 until 1982. He was a superb teacher, scholar, and colleague who had a profound impact on the lives of generations of Madison students. His career and legacy are an important chapter in the Madison story: he helped complete JMC's founding, established the Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy field (now Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy) with Peter Lyman and Dick Zinman, cocreated the Ethnic and Intergroup Relations field (now Social Relations), and served as acting dean in 1979-80, when the college was under serious threat.

Paynter's published works focused on John Adams and the American revolutionary and founding periods. At Madison, he taught memorable courses on classical liberalism, Adam Smith, Rousseau, Plato, and American constitutional law. In 1980-81, he was the first Madison faculty member to receive MSU's Distinguished Faculty Award. Paynter was retired from the University of Dallas, where he served as provost and professor. He was married to Madison alumna Peggy Bailey (Ethnic, '71).
Private support has become an essential part of Madison College. In fact, we couldn't do what we now do for our students and faculty without your generous gifts of time and money. You now provide essential support for recruiting the best students, helping us contact every single applicant to Madison College. Our annual Career Day, sponsored by our Alumni Association, brings dozens of you back to campus to provide career guidance. We have developed dozens of new internship opportunities because you have seen an opportunity for a Madison student in your own business or organization. You open your offices and homes to our alumni receptions and dinners. You come back to the JMC to talk about the issues of the day and your own career choices. Indeed, the greatest strength of the college is precisely your joining our faculty and students to create an extended Madison community.

As if this wasn't enough, you have given generously to our Capital Campaign. I am pleased to announce that earlier this year James Madison College surpassed its $3 million campaign goal with 18 months to go in an eight-year campaign. The $3,052,856 you have donated since July 1999 nearly triples the money Madison raised during the previous three decades. The number of donors since 1999 has doubled. Almost 13 percent of Madison alumni now give financial support to the college. We hope in the coming years to reach 20-25 percent, a level commensurate with the best public colleges and one our Director of Development Rocky Beckett and I believe is attainable for Madison College as well.

This unprecedented growth in private giving has more than doubled Madison's endowment: from $428,912 in 1999 to $1,208,942 as of January 2006. I now have more than $57,000 to spend annually on student scholarships, faculty development, technology, and speakers, and this money will be there for me and my successors forever. Your gifts have also doubled general fund donations, giving me an additional $80,000 to spend at current giving levels. Finally, we have documented $1,708,008 worth of planned gifts, money that will expand both our endowment and general fund accounts in the future.

The numbers tell only part of the story. As donors, you have made an investment in academic excellence. Among the highlights are the following:

- The Burton and Rosalie Gerber Scholarship was established and awards $3,000 annually.
- The Madison Fund endowment was created and helped to fund Salman Rushdie and Niall Ferguson's visits to JMC and MSU last year, with more speakers to come.
- A generous challenge gift from David and Joan Porteous and hundreds of gifts from alumni and friends in response funded the renovation of the JMC Library.
- Gifts from alumni bought a state of the art technology array allowing us to equip a new senior seminar room with state-of-the-art video conferencing and presentation technology.
- The Herb Garfinkel Memorial Fund supported its inaugural lecture in October 2005.
- The Ron and Barbara Dorr Endowment is up and running, supporting special extracurricular activities involving fine arts, rhetoric, and the humanities at JMC.
- The Michael and Audrey Rubner Scholarship in International Studies is now providing a scholarship to an outstanding student each year.
- The Raymond and Claire Vlasin Faculty Development Endowment is also growing, providing funds to support faculty research and new ideas for curriculum.

- Your contributions also provide the match needed to purchase new computers and other technology for faculty and staff.
- Your donations support, on a competitive basis, student research, student organizations like the Model United Nations, and special travel for students to undergraduate research conferences. We hope to expand the money available in the years ahead to students to fund special research and internship opportunities.

Your gifts have allowed us to expand such programs at a time when state support has contracted. We remain part of a proud public university. We are as dedicated as ever to our mission of public engagement, but we simply cannot carry out that mission without your help. Like other states, Michigan continues to reduce its support of public universities, even as it relies more than ever on them to address its economic challenges. Rocky Beckett and I are building a development program that helps insulate the college from the worst effects of the unpredictability of state funding, but also one that never forgets who we are, our mission, and the need for Madison's extended community to grow in service and engagement of the society around us.

Once again, thank you for your gifts of time, energy, and financial support. We are putting them to good use.

NOTE: After nearly seven years on the job, I am taking a sabbatical over the next six months to research and write a book on Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish poet and Nobel laureate. I will be back in December, and, in the meantime, the college will be in the capable hands of Norm Graham.

Sherman W. Garnett
Dean, James Madison College
garnetts@msu.edu
From Your Alumni President

*A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.*

— Greek Proverb

The accomplishments of James Madison alumni, students, and professors are truly inspiring. Considering the impact that JMC has had on society, it is one of the finest programs in the country, and the legacy of its contributions continues to be immeasurable. We have some of the finest alumni, busy changing the world and fulfilling their missions in life. Back here in East Lansing, we have a passionate student body searching to find ways to make their own contributions to the global community.

Can you imagine what would happen if we harnessed the experiences of our alumni and used them to help our students become better leaders? Our goal, as an alumni association, is to find more ways to help bridge that gap—to create an active network of alumni and students who will foster an even richer environment in which students can learn and develop into future leaders.

The JMC Alumni Association would like to take this opportunity to invite you to give back to the college. Whether it is providing financial support, giving a student the internship of a lifetime, reviewing scholarship essays, organizing a regional club, assisting with the recruitment efforts of the college, helping us organize rewarding alumni networking opportunities, or serving as a mentor, we want to provide you with the forum to give back in some way to help shape the next generation of leadership.

The alumni association has restructured our committees to allow for more participation in the following categories: Student Activities, Mentoring and Internships, Scholarship, Nominations and Alumni Awards, and Alumni Outreach and Events. Please contact me at ann_marie_lindley@hotmail.com if you would like to become involved in one (or more) of these areas.

The accomplishments and contributions of the college, students, and alumni over the last 36 years have been unparalleled, and we are excited about the future. With you as our partner, we know that the opportunities for our students to make significant contributions to society will have a major impact on all of us.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Ann Marie (Raduazo) Lindley (PTCD ’98)
President
James Madison College Alumni Association
University of Michigan Appoints JMC Alumna Teresa Sullivan as Provost

Teresa Sullivan (SOCEC ’70) has been appointed to a five-year term as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan (UM) beginning June 1, 2006. She is currently executive vice chancellor for academic affairs for The University of Texas System. She is also professor of sociology, professor of law, and Cox & Smith, Inc., Faculty Fellow in Law at the University of Texas.

At UM, Sullivan will be appointed professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. The provost is the budgetary officer for the university and is responsible for guiding and encouraging the university in the fulfillment of its academic mission. Sullivan brings to this position extensive experience in academic leadership and distinction as a scholar in the demographics of labor and economic status. She has carried out groundbreaking research on consumer debt and bankruptcy, and she is the author or coauthor of six books. She has received three major teaching awards at Texas, and has regularly taught the first-year undergraduate course “Credit Cards, Debt, and American Society.”

Sullivan received her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1975. In 2004, James Madison College awarded her its Distinguished Alumna Award. She will be accompanied in her move to Ann Arbor by her spouse, Douglas Laycock (MSU ’70), Alice McKean Young Regents Chair at the University of Texas Law School in Austin and a nationally prominent scholar of legal remedies and of the religion clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Laycock will be appointed to the faculty of UM Law School, pending approval by the Board of Regents.

1970s

Pat Mock (SOCEC ’75) is managing attorney for the Clarksville (TN) Office of the Legal Aid Society. She earned a JD from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1979, and joined the Legal Aid Society in 1984. Formerly a student attorney with the University of Tennessee Legal Clinic and assistant professor of business law at Austin Peay State University, Mock is also active in state bar affairs and recently served on the Tennessee Supreme Court Commission. In this role, she revised the rule governing when low-income parties may file civil cases or appeals on an affidavit of indigence. In 2002, she was the recipient of the Tennessee Alliance of Legal Services’ B. Riney Green Award, given annually to an advocate who promotes state-wide cooperation on significant issues affecting low-income people.

Steve Treat (JMC 77) is a Superior Court judge in Contra Costa County, CA and took office in October 2005 after being appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Treat attended the University of Chicago Law School, where he was Topics and Comments editor of the Law Review. He graduated in 1980 with honors and Order of the Coif. He served as a law clerk for Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court and for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Treat began his law practice with a small litigation firm in Chicago, now the Chicago office of Latham & Watkins. He also practiced in Latham’s Chicago office for several years, transferring to Los Angeles in 1987 and to San Francisco in 1992. His litigation practice covered a wide range of substantive subject matters and recently has concentrated on appellate cases. Among the highlights of his practice were, on one end of the spectrum, a 12-year contract arbitration battle culminating in an en banc Ninth Circuit decision and a nine-figure recovery for his client; and on the other, the successful settlement of a civil rights suit against a Central Valley municipality, securing permits for building an apartment complex for low-income farm workers. Treat lives in Lafayette, CA with his spouse, Nancy, and their two sons.

Carol A. Siemon (JMC 78) is the deputy director of Child Welfare Services for the Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office. She has worked in child welfare for more than 20 years, as an assistant prosecuting attorney, child abuse training attorney, and investigator with the Office of Children’s Ombudsman. Siemon has also worked for the Legislative Service Bureau drafting legislation for Michigan’s House and Senate and with the Chance at Childhood Program in MSU’s School of Social Work/Detroit College of Law. Siemon shares her passion for child welfare law with her spouse, Tom Fruechtenicht, the chief referee for the Ingham County Family Court/Juvenile Division. The Siemons live in East Lansing, MI with their two cats.

Amy Timmer (IR 78) is associate dean of students and professionalism for Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI. Timmer oversees the implementation of the far-reaching Professionalism Plan that has gained national acclaim as one of the broadest and most innovative professionalism programs among U.S. law schools. Previously, she worked for the Michigan Department of Commerce in economic development and environmental regulation for ten years, as a business ombudsman for then Governor James J. Blanchard, as an associate attorney in the Lansing office of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn, and as an adjunct professor at Cooley Law School, where she earned her law degree in the late 1980s.

Kimberly Stanton (IR 79) is country representative for Project Counseling Service in Bogotá, Colombia. Previously, she was program director of Latin America and Africa at the Washington Office on Latin America, a nonprofit organization in D.C.
Libby Bishop (IR ’80) is manager of Qualidata at the University of Essex, the division of the United Kingdom data archive that archives qualitative data and disseminates it using the Internet. After completing her PhD in labor economics at the University of California at Berkeley, she took a research post in a nonprofit research institute in Palo Alto. In 2003, she and her spouse, Allen Radtke, moved to England where she was offered her current position. At present, Bishop is also doing research on convenience food, choice, and neoliberalism. After a career in computer network management, her spouse (who was a teaching assistant for Peter Lyman, JMCD) returned to graduate work in philosophy at San Francisco State University. He is continuing at the University of Essex, where he finished a master’s in philosophy in 2004 and is reading in the philosophy-ethics, politics, and public policy PhD program. He is currently working on a project about democracy, corporate personhood, and moral agency. Bishop and Radtke live in Wivenhoe, a village about an hour by train east of London. They appreciate having a European perspective on events in the U.S. as well as travelling within the UK and throughout Europe.

Linda Kragie (JMCD ’80) is the Democratic candidate for the Bernardsville, NJ fall 2006 mayoral race. The 2006 election marks the first time Bernardsville has had a Democratic mayoral candidate since 1994.

Richard McCarthy (IR ’82) has joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) headquarters Office of General Counsel as a senior attorney. Practicing in his familiar field of government contract law, McCarthy will be working on NASA acquisitions of new heavy-lift technology that will support the U.S. return to the moon and the onward journey to Mars. Previously, he served for 15 years in counsel’s office at the Federal Aviation Agency in Washington, D.C. McCarthy is enjoying life in the Virginia hunt country with his spouse and son.

Dave Schrumpf (IR ’82), an attorney with General Motors, presented “Environmental Policy Making at General Motors” to JMC’s class “Introduction to Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy,” a course focusing on science and technology in relation to ethics, public policy, and environmental law. The course’s case studies include managing fish, water, and wildlife resources at state, national, and international levels; science and technology in developing countries; and diffusion of military technology.

Thomas Van Hare (IR ’83) was recently appointed president of SkyLink Air & Logistic (USA), Inc., where he will guide the company’s business, which encompasses a range of defense and security programs with the U.S. government, the United Nations (UN), and others. He will also run overseas air and logistics operations, including those in Iraq, where SkyLink provides an extensive range of services including heavy lift operations, commercial support services, charter aircraft operations, helicopter operations, facilities management, airfield management, and project support programs for the Department of Defense, other U.S. government agencies and organizations, and the UN. Van Hare most recently served with the White House Liaison Office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Before that, he served with both the U.S. Department of State’s Near East Bureau and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he provided policy development and support for other issues related to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad.

Jeff Lopez-Stuit (SOCEC ’84) is director of information services for Raising More Money, Inc., a company that trains and coaches nonprofit organizations on raising sustainable funding from individual donors.

Ronald Tenpas (IR ’85) was appointed in October 2005 as associate deputy attorney general by Acting Deputy Attorney General Robert McCallum, Jr. He most recently served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. Tenpas previously served as an assistant U.S. Attorney and branch chief in the District of Maryland, Southern Division, and before that as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Middle District of Florida in Tampa.

Margarete Chalker (JMCD ’86) has been named director of corporate tax at Capitol Bancorp (CBC) in Lansing, MI, where she oversees tax accounting, tax planning, and tax compliance functions and provides training in tax accounting and compliance to accounting department staff. Additionally, she is responsible for the development and maintenance of the company’s tax-related policies and procedures. Previously CBC’s tax manager, Chalker, a certified public accountant, has been with CBC since 2001. In December 2005, she earned a master’s in the science of taxation from Grand Valley State University. Her prior work experience includes seven years in public accounting. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Michigan Association of CPAs (MACPA). As a member of the AICPA Tax Division, Chalker currently serves on the Corporations and Shareholders Technical Resource Panel. She is also a member of the Financial Institutions Task Force for the MACPA.

J. Douglas Toma (SOCEC ’86) is associate professor at the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia (UG) and has an appointment on the School of Law faculty there. He also serves as dean of Franklin Residential College at the UG at Athens. Toma is author of Football U.: Spectator Sports in the Life of the American University (Michigan, 2003). Most recently, he is author, with Greg Dubrow and Matthew Hartley, of The Uses of Institutional Culture: Strengthening Identification and Building Brand Equity in Higher Education (Jossey-Bass, 2005). He has been a frequent contributor to the leading scholarly journals in higher education, including the Journal of Higher Education, the Review of Higher Education, Research in Higher Education, the Journal of College Student Development, and the Journal of College and University Law.

Amy DeShon (JMCD ’88) is the Personal Assistance Options executive director at a nonprofit agency that serves people with disabilities. She has a master’s in public administration and lives in Bay City, MI. continued page 6
Amy Rynzt (IR ’88) and David Koelsch (IR ’88) were married on July 30, 2005. They dated as freshmen at JMC and then met again 18 years later. Rynzt is an attorney and is currently a government and law teacher at Sterling Heights (MI) High School. Koelsch is a professor and director of the Immigration Law Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

Andrew Thorson (JMCD ’89) is partner at the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP in Seattle, WA. His practice focuses on cross-border private equity transactions, M&A, distressed assets, commercial real estate, and international transactions (joint ventures, licensing, distribution, and other trade agreements). He also has had a wealth of experience relating to Japanese and foreign venture companies and investors, including funds and operating companies. Thorson earned his JD from the Boston University School of Law in 1993, and an LLM in Japanese civil law from the Kyoto University School of Law.

Robert Trezise, Jr. (JMCD ’89) was recently appointed director of Lansing’s Economic Development Corporation. Previously, Trezise was managing director of the Community Assistance Team at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, vice president of the Capital Choice program at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and economic development director of Delta Township.

Mercedes Alonzo (IR ’90) was recently appointed to the Connecticut Judicial Review Council. She serves as assistant attorney general with the Consumer Protection Department of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in Connecticut. In that capacity, she mediates consumer complaints against companies throughout the country and conducts related civil investigations. Previously, she worked in the OAG’s Environment Department as a litigation attorney and as assistant commission counsel with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities (CHRO). Alonzo currently serves on the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Pamela Aronson (JMCD ’90) is currently assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan at Dearborn. Her research examines the transition to adulthood, especially the meanings of becoming an adult; young women’s work, family experiences, and lack of role models; and gender differences in career development. She also studies women’s attitudes toward feminism, including women of the so-called postfeminist generation. She teaches courses on social problems, the family, marriage and family problems, the transition to adulthood, and qualitative research methods. Aronson lives with her spouse, Todd, and two children (ages 7 and 3) in the Detroit area.

Jim McManus (JMCD/Economics ’91) was promoted to vice president of mortgage for Fifth Third Bank of Northern Michigan. In this capacity, he will oversee the sales and administration of the mortgage department.

Jacob Osojnak (IR ’91) and his spouse, Leslie, announced the birth of their second daughter, Sophia Anastasia Osojnak, in September 2005.

Jeff Payne (JMCD ’91) was named editor of the County Press, a three-day-a-week broadsheet newspaper published in Lapeer, the county seat of Lapeer County, MI. Payne has also been named editorial director for the Lapeer Newspaper Group, 20 newspapers located in Lapeer and Oakland counties, the Thumb area, and mid Michigan. Previously, he spent nine and a half years as associate editor at The Voice Newspapers, a group of weekly newspapers publishing in north Macomb and St. Clair counties. He is also the head varsity cross-country coach at Anchor Bay High School in New Baltimore, MI and resides in Fraser, MI with his spouse, Kathryn.

Todd Richards (JMCD ’91) recently accepted a new position as chief compliance officer and general counsel with the U.S. operations Aggregate Industries at Holcim. He was formerly the regional legal counsel for Holcim/Energis. His new position will be based in Greenbelt, MD. Richards earned a law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and a master’s from Georgetown University Law Center.

Lance Boldrey (IR ’92) was elected member of the Lansing office of Dykema Gossett where he will be in the Government Policy Department focusing 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. He earned his JD from Duke University and is a resident of Lansing.

David Mikosz (PE ’92) is chief of party for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, a company that administers a nationwide civic education program and implements electoral reform programs for the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Japanese, German, British, and other donor governments. Previously, he worked for the World Bank and several other international nongovernmental organizations in Central Asia. After JMC, Mikosz completed his master’s and PhD in history at Cambridge University. He currently resides in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with his spouse and two-year-old daughter, Aijan Maria.

Reginald Pacis (JMCD ’92), an attorney and shareholder at Butzel Long, was recently named to an American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) national committee that serves as a liaison with Customs and Border Protection. Pacis was also selected to chair the local liaison committee for the Michigan chapter of AILA. He concentrates his practice in immigration law and is a member of the American Bar Association and the Samahang Pilipino Ng Oakland Filipino Organization.

Scott Settle (PE ’92) is vice president of Casualty Products for PPOM, LLC,
including more than 58,000 physicians and other health care providers and 470 hospitals and occupational medicine clinics. Settle is responsible for workers’ compensation and auto injury medical network access sales, and client service and retention. He is also part of the Aetna Workers’ Comp Access (AWCA) business, acting as champion of their auto injury/personal injury protection business with the goal of establishing a national network offering for AWCA. Before joining PPOM, Settle was CEO of ManageAbility and CEO of StarTech Software Systems.

Amy Wolaver (PE ’92) has received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for her research on “The Role of Peer Effects in Problem Drinking and Tobacco Use Across American College Campuses.” In collaboration with Christina Ciecierski, Lisa Powell, and Frank Chaloupka at the University of Illinois-Chicago and Henry Wechsler at Harvard University, her study examines the role of peer pressure in problem drinking and tobacco use among college students. The project is designed to measure whether individuals’ drinking and smoking behaviors are influenced by the overall rates (or perceived) rates of substance use by the student body at the college. An empirical economist with a primary focus in health and labor economics, Wolaver joined the Bucknell University faculty in 1998 and teaches courses in introductory economics, microeconomics, health policy, health economics, and the university course on AIDS.

Karen Fultz (IR ’93) recently joined the law firm of Cozen O’Conner in Atlanta, GA. Fultz earned her law degree from Cooley Law School in 1998 and focuses her practice on subrogation and recovery matters. After law school, she worked as a judicial intern for the Honorable Denise Page Hood of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Fultz is also president of the Gate City Bar Association, as well as member of the National Bar Association, the Georgia Associations of Black Women Attorneys and Women Lawyers, and the Local Bar Activities Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. She is also a board member of the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium, the Atlanta Bar Association, and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

Jason Booms (PTCD ’94) has announced the establishment of a new polling firm, Booms Research & Consulting, of which he serves as president and CEO. Based in Alexandria, VA, the national, full-service, public opinion research firm is dedicated to helping Democratic candidates and progressive causes and provides strategic communications counsel and opinion research services for Democratic campaigns, corporations, and associations. Booms, named a Rising Star of American Politics by Campaigns & Elections magazine in 1998, broke ranks with the Republicans in 2003. In light of his background and commitment to the Democratic ticket, he was named a National Leader of the Republicans Vote Kerry/Edwards initiative in 2004. Before founding the new firm, Booms served from 1999 to 2006 as senior vice president and director of research for StrategyOne, the Washington, D.C.-based opinion research company owned by Edelman, the world’s largest independent public relations firm. Booms spent most of the 1990s as a moderate Republican pollster providing campaign counsel for GOP candidates such as former Vice President Dan Quayle. In addition, he has directed hundreds of research programs over the past 16 years, providing counsel for corporate, association, political, and academic clients.

Jeff Williams (IR ’94), chairman of Lansing’s Economic Development Corporation board of directors, traveled to Asan City, South Korea with Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and ten others in February 2006. The trip was an opportunity to make contacts with several businesses the delegation toured, including Hyundai and Samsung. Williams is also senior vice president for Technology & Public Policy at Public Sector Consultants in Lansing and recently served as the president of the JMC Alumni Association.

Suzanne Newsom (SR ’95) has joined the staff of the Wayne State University (WSU) Law School Career Services Office as a career counselor. Newsom graduated from WSU Law School in 2004 and practiced family law before joining the Career Services Office. As a law student she worked for the local firm of Sommers Schwartz, P.C. She also worked in the Michigan Department of the Attorney General and was an intern in the office of the Hon. Denise Page Hood, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She was a member of the National Moot Court Team and was cochair of the Women’s Law Caucus. Newsom is an active board member with the Oakland County Women’s Bar Association and is a committee member for the Women Lawyer’s Association of Michigan.

Grant T. Pecor (SR ’96) was elected in fall 2005 as a shareholder with the law firm of Nantz, Litowich, Smith, Girard & Hamilton in Grand Rapids, MI. His practice focuses on representing and counseling employers throughout the Midwest on labor and employment matters. He also serves on the Legal Services Committee for the Health Care Association of Michigan. Pecor is a 1999 graduate of the MSU College of Law.

Jonathan N. Stivers (IR ’96) has served as a congressional aide on Capitol Hill for the House Democratic Party since moving from Michigan to Washington, D.C. in 1997. Since Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was elected the House Democratic Leader in 2003, Stivers has served as an advisor focusing both on member relations and foreign policy issues. He currently serves as the Leader’s primary staff person on the House floor, advisor on roll call votes, and a conduit between the Leader and rank-and-file members of Congress. In 2000, Stivers joined Pelosi’s office as her foreign policy advisor handling responsibilities on the House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and human rights issues including U.S.-China relations. He also served as Pelosi’s press secretary and chief spokesperson responsible for overseeing all office communications including outreach to national press and pundits and writing/editing all speeches, statements, and press releases. Before working for Pelosi, Stivers gained his first experience on Capitol Hill by serving as an assistant to House Democratic Whip David Bonior (D-MI), 1997-99. Stivers recently returned to school on a part-time basis to earn a master’s in...
U.S.-China policy at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University. His siblings, Adam and Emily (IR ’03), are both MSU graduates.

Grace Ann Bourne (IR/PTCD ’97) is director of communications for the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), a leading trade association in the Washington, D.C. area. Previously she worked for Verizon Communications. Bourne lives in Arlington, VA with her spouse, David, a consultant with Bearingpoint’s Emerging Markets group.

Joel Fauson (IR/SR ’97) welcomed a new baby girl into his family on January 20, 2006. Alexa Chanel Fauson weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces and was 23 inches long. Fauson is an attorney with the law firm Clifford Chance US LLP in Washington, D.C.

Captain Nathan Forbes (IR ’97) is currently stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany with his spouse, Megan, and children, Carter and Madelyn. From March to October 2005, Forbes was selected to support the U.S. security coordinator envoy mission in Israel. This special mission was directed by the State Department and led by a U.S. Army general to provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority Security Forces for security sector reform and to facilitate Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and Northern West Bank. Forbes was the primary staff officer responsible for interagency and international coordination for more than 30 nations and international organizations.

Scott Harold (IR ’97) is in a PhD program at Columbia University. He received a National Security Education Program/Boren fellowship to conduct his doctoral research in Beijing in 2004-05. Upon return to the U.S., he was awarded a fellowship to complete his dissertation at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Ivana Kalafatic (IR ’97) is a clothing and jewelry designer and publishes the quarterly Clear magazine in Royal Oak, MI with romantic and business partner Emin Kadi. Clear has 12,000 subscribers and sells about 86,000 copies of a print run of 100,000.

Stephen Seitz (IR ’97) is vice president of 911 Regulatory Affairs for Vonage Holdings Corporation. He previously was the National Emergency Number Association’s government affairs director.

Karen Merrill Tjapkes (SR ’97) is an attorney for Legal Aid of Western Michigan in the Grand Rapids office. In April 2006, she began a Consumer Law Fellowship awarded by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association/National Consumer Law Center. Tjapkes and her spouse had their first child, Benjamin Jerald, in July 2005.

Jim Ananich (PE ’98) was elected to the Flint (MI) City Council in November 2005. He was formerly a congressional aide to Michigan Congressman Dale Kildee.

Kathy Pominville (Quinn) (IR ’98) and her spouse, Mike (MSU ’84), had twin girls in August 2005.

Kathryn Hoffman (PTCD ’99) will graduate in May 2006 with a dual degree in law from the University of Minnesota Law School and a master’s in public policy from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. After taking the Minnesota bar exam, she will join the law firm of Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason & Gette in Minneapolis, a litigation firm that practices in many areas of law. Recently, Hoffman was part of a three-person team at the National Moot Court, sponsored by the New York City Young Lawyers’ Bar Association. Her team went undefeated at the regional tournament in November 2005. While her team beat Drake Law School in the final round, she was awarded with the silver bowl for top speaker. At Nationals in New York City in January-February, her team advanced to the elimination rounds, where they placed among the top 16 teams in the nation. Hoffman also plays the viola in the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis and plays soccer in the Minnesota Women’s Soccer League. She lives in St. Paul, MN with her spouse, Brad, and their dog, Aloysius.

Ari Kohen (IR/PTCD ’99) will be spending the summer in Berlin, having won a three-month research fellowship as part of an essay contest on human rights.

Douglas Skrzyniarz (PTCD/IR ’99) works for the St. John Health Foundation as a major gifts officer. He recently completed his master’s thesis, “The Homogenization and Isolation of the American Citizen, Liberalism’s Effect on Civil Society and How Modern Technology Can Re-Introduce Republicanism.” As of May 2006, he will have a master’s in political science from Wayne State University. He is also on the board of directors for Orchards Children’s Services, an adoption and foster care agency in southeast Michigan, and is vice president of the Antun Art Center in Macomb County. In addition, Skrzyniarz is the founding member of the New Leaders Initiative at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He and his spouse, Joan, an attorney with Dickinson Wright, live in Sterling Heights, MI. He has stayed active in politics and plans on running for office in the near future.

Mark-Andre Timinsky (IR ’00) earned his law degree from the University of Iowa. After passing the Michigan Bar, he was sworn in by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver. Brad Deacon (IR/German ’93) was his motioning attorney.

Luke Lantta (IR/PTCD ’01) practices in the area of labor, employment, and immigration law with Powell Goldstein LLP. His practice includes defense of employment discrimination lawsuits and wage-hour claims, as well as counseling regarding all employment-related issues, including traditional labor law matters. Lantta also has experience in representing financial institutions and individuals in a wide range of fiduciary and trust litigation matters, including breach of fiduciary duty claims, will and trust construction, actions for removal of trustees and executors, and actions for trust modification and termination. Lantta is the third recipient of a fellowship sponsored by the firm to serve with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, where he successfully litigated cases concerning
unemployment compensation, landlord-tenant relations, consumer protection, education law, family law, and public benefits. He received his JD, cum laude, from Duke University School of Law in 2004.

Jason Schoenborn (IR ‘01) is a budget and policy analyst for the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. He was recently working on hurricane recovery efforts out of a command center in Memphis, TN.

Erin Street (PTCD ‘01) is a U.S. history and Eastern Hemisphere geography teacher at Woodland Park Middle School in Woodland Park, CO. Street also serves on the Instructional Leadership Team at the school and coaches eighth-grade volleyball. She is finishing her master’s in curriculum and instruction at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in spring 2006.

Christopher Thomas (IR/Econ ’01) was awarded the Bronze Star for providing critical command and control communications to combat operations as a second lieutenant at the completion of a one-year deployment with the 54th Signal Battalion, U.S. Army, in Baghdad, Iraq. Before joining the U.S. Army at the outset of the conflict, Thomas was employed for two years as an investment banker with UBS Investment Bank in San Francisco and New York. After completing basic training at Fort Knox, KY; Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA; and the Signal Officer Basic Course at Fort Gordon, GA, Thomas was deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom and put in charge of critical missions in a hostile combat zone involving the primary communication systems for Four-Star General Casey and his staff.

Thomas is currently stationed at Fort Meade, MD where he is the executive officer of the Army Signal School Detachment at the Defense Information School. He is engaged to be married in May 2007 to Lisa Konikowski of Whippany, NJ.

Renee Chovanec (IR/Spanish ’02) is a defense contractor for the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), working on site with the Headquarters, Department of the Army G-3, as a combating-weapons-of-mass-destruction (WMD) policy analyst. In her work, Chovanec focuses on chemical and biological policy and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) consequence management.

Trent Hilding (PE ’02) has joined the law firm of Smith, Martin, Powers & Knier P.C. in Bay City, MI. Hilding will practice in the areas of agricultural law, debtor/creditor representation, and business transactions. He earned his law degree from Drake University, with a food and agricultural law certificate.

David R. Janis (PTCD ‘02) has joined the law firm of Kerr, Russell and Weber, PLC. He practices in various areas of litigation and is active in the firm’s corporate practice. He received his JD from Wayne State University.

Aaron Payne (IR ’02) recently served in Qatar as a research specialist with the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forward headquarters. Payne has an MA in security policy from George Washington University.

Evelyn Zois (IR ’02) has joined the law firm of Dykema Gossett as a government relations professional in its Lansing office. Before joining Dykema, she spent five years as a legislative assistant and committee clerk to State Senator Shirley Johnson, who chairs the Appropriations Committee. Her areas of expertise include appropriations, capital outlay, community health, human services, and public safety. A resident of Lansing, Zois was a Fellow of the Michigan Political Leadership Program in 2004.

Lucy Cunningham (PE ’03) accepted a position as a human resources specialist with Louis Stokes Veterans Affairs Hospital in Brecksville, OH. She was formerly with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Rhode Island.

Elizabeth Jordan (SR ’03) joined the Ruth Mott Foundation staff in September 2005 as a program assistant. After graduation from JMC, Jordan earned a master’s in peace studies at the Joan Kroc Institute at Notre Dame University. She previously worked at the International Academy of Flint, MI where, as program director for their 21st Century Learning Community Center, she ran an after-school and summer academic and fine arts program for 200 children.

Tanya Palit (IR ’03) is currently working on an MA in international development at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

Allison Youatt (PTCD/SR ’03) has been accepted to the MPhil program in modern society and global transformation at the University of Cambridge and invited to interview for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, an international scholarship program that enables outstanding graduate students from outside of the United Kingdom to study at Cambridge. Youatt was a Peace Corps volunteer in 2003-05.

Julie Burtch (SR ’04) is executive director of the REO Town Commercial Association in Lansing, MI.

Steve Eder (PTCD ’04), reporter with the Toledo Blade, in Ohio, was honored as a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his coverage, along with other Toledo Blade reporters, of the state’s investments in rare coins, which led to convictions of Governor Bob Taft and others on ethics charges. The article was titled “Uncovering Coingate.” The reporters were also finalists for the 2006 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative reporting, awarded by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Greg Nowakowski (IR ’04), former chair of the JMC Student Senate, was elected editor-in-chief of the Wayne State University Law Review.
Jeffrey Lammers (IR ’71)

Current Position: Cofounder and executive vice president, Marketrend Mortgage Network, LLC, based in Clearwater, FL. Lammers lives in Palm Harbor, FL.

Post-JMC: Lammer’s original career plan was to pursue a law degree; however, as an Air Force ROTC cadet while at MSU, he decided to enter the military following graduation in 1971. Following his service, Lammers entered financial services and has invested the balance of his career in financial management with a wide range of business entities, both domestically and internationally. Lammers is a recipient of the GE Capital Pinnacle Award for outstanding achievement and the Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators. He was also named to Who’s Who among Executives and Professionals for 2000-2001.

Madison Influences: “Professors George Will, John Holt, Wesley Fishel—these gentlemen provided a challenging and reasoned perspective on current and historical events that continues to guide my ability to construct analysis and structured debate in business and life experiences.”

Reflections on Madison: “As a member of the first class admitted to the college, James Madison holds a special place in my memories of the university. The residential college experience provided an intimate learning environment with the resources of a major university. . .what a concept!”

Marilyn Darling (ETHNIC ’75)

Current Position: Founder and partner, Signet Research & Consulting, LLC, 1989 to present; clients include some of the largest companies in the world, as well as large not-for-profits and government agencies; recently published article in Harvard Business Review (July/August 2005); currently writing a book on company’s research. Darling lives and works in Boston, MA.

Post-JMC: MA, Lone Mountain College, University of San Francisco, 1982; MBA, Babson College, Wellesley, MA.

Madison Influences: The ability to form, articulate, and analyze the logic of an argument has been extremely important in Darling’s work in the corporate world. “I recently looked through the syllabus from a Zinman senior seminar and found myself able to track the core of my somewhat unconventional approach to learning and change in organizations back to that course. (It’s all Zinman’s fault.)”

Reflections on Madison: “Madison holds high expectations for its students, and we students rise to the challenge. That, in itself, is an invaluable education.”

The multidisciplinary programs at James Madison College were founded on a model of liberal education and are designed to prepare students for a wide variety of careers. Alumni have pursued careers and further education in many interesting fields: decision-making roles in public and private enterprise, government, law, media, politics, social services, public administration, education, business and industry, the ministry, and the foreign service. In this issue of the JMC Scene, we feature alumni pursuing careers in business and the private sector.
John Sharood (SOCEC ’83)

Current Position: Chairman and CEO, EGS Gauging Inc. Sharood lives in Kennebunk, ME and works in Billerica, ME.

Previous Positions: Chairman, Sockeye Solutions Inc; vice president, New Ventures, Invensys Software Systems; vice president, Invensys Network Systems; CFO, Invensys Appliance Controls; CFO, Barnes Distribution; manager, customer service and distribution, GE Power Controls; CFO, GE Power Controls; executive audit director, General Electric Company; various finance and audit positions, General Electric Company.

Post-JMC: MS in international business, Purdue University, 1998; MBA, Budapest Economic University, 1999. Sharood was interested in working in an international business environment so he could blend his interests in finance and international affairs. He wanted to be challenged and have interesting things to do worldwide and also get paid a “decent” wage.

Madison Influences: “I was very involved in international issues at Madison, even though I was a Soc-Ec major. I took some IR classes and helped found the Model UN club. Professor Schechter was a huge help, and I still consider him a friend. I also enjoyed the constant challenge to think all issues through carefully. You did not get very far with Professor Rubner if you were not prepared, nor was it much fun to see the red ink all over the paper you got back from Professor Dorr (if you had been sloppy). Those basic lessons will serve you well in any field.”

Reflections on Madison: “I remember very well how we had to march on the administration building and we had to lobby the Michigan legislature and we (the out-of-state students) had to threaten to leave immediately when Madison was threatened with closure in the ’80-81 timeframe. We had to fight to keep Madison alive, and it made my connection with Madison even stronger than it otherwise would have been.”

Michael Damas (IR ’86)

Current Position: Principal/owner, Maryland Capital Advisors, Inc., 1997 to present. Damas lives in Grasonville, MD and works in Chester, MD.


Post-JMC: MBA in finance, Stern School of Business, New York University, 1994. “For me, I never seriously considered an alternative to a career in the financial markets. My interest in global relations, and decision to transfer in to JMC as an International Relations major, was completely unrelated to my career aspirations. My view (then and now) was that college was a place to learn the liberal arts, not a place to learn a trade. My career goals were formed during the first two years of college while reading various business periodicals (Forbes, The Economist, Wall Street Journal, etc). My JMC IR degree was a wonderful, complementary education to my later, practical learning related to economic analysis, bond trading, and portfolio management.”

Madison Influences: “The most potent influence on me was Professor Michael Schechter. He had a genuine interest in the growth of his students. His Socratic method, coupled with the IR curriculum, fostered in me an independence of thought and an understanding of diverse perspectives. He did not influence my decision to pursue a career in business, but he influenced me in a much more important, mind-opening way.”

Walter Schmidt (IR ’93)


Post-JMC: MBA in finance and accounting, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago (UC), 2000; MA in social science/international relations, UC, 1994. Schmidt chose to go into business after his Madison experience while undertaking an internship at a local investment bank in Chicago. At that time, he was continuing his studies with the Committee on International Relations at UC. After his graduation from UC, he continued working at that bank and has been in the fixed-income business ever since.

Madison Influences: “Professor Graham taught me that the world is small and getting smaller through interdependence. Professor Schechter taught me how to think critically and practically about an issue. Professor Nutter taught me how to think ‘outside of the box’ to look for the less obvious questions and answers, and Professor Dorr taught me how to write clearly and on point.”

Reflections on Madison: “I look back with fondness on my Madison experience and realize that a top-notch liberal arts education prepares one for the law, teaching, or government service. The ability to think and communicate clearly is a by-product of such an education, and it has served me very well.”

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Gianluca Romano (IR/Econ ’92)

Current Position: Vice president of International Commercial Services, Sandler & Travis Trade Advisory Services, Inc., 2005 to present. Romano lives in Bloomfield Hills, MI and works in Farmington, MI.

Previous Positions: Director of Customs and International Trade, Ernst & Young Singapore, 2001-04; regional customs manager, General Motors Corporation, 1996-2001.

Madison Influences: Director of Academic and Student Affairs Dixie Platt and Professors Michael Schechter, Michael Rubner, and Norman Graham. “Professor Graham advised me to only pursue a law degree if I was certain I wanted to be a lawyer. I have provided many JMC students and others with this same advice.”

Reflections on Madison: “I found that Madison provided an excellent combination of a small school education with the benefits of a large university setting. I have recommended Madison to many prospective students who were torn between large and small schools.”

Michael Roberts (IR ’92)

Current Position: Director of the Professional Services Global Practice Group, Aon Corporation; currently serves as president of the board of directors for the Test Positive Awareness Network, a nonprofit organization committed to HIV/AIDS outreach and education, and serves as a founding member of the board of directors for the Michigan State University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alumni Association. Roberts lives and works in Chicago, IL.

Post-JMC: Studied for a semester in 1990 at the University of Cambridge in England and interned with General Motors in Portugal; active member of the Executives’ Club of Chicago and its Young Professionals’ Committee, Out Professionals, and the JMC-MSU Alumni Association’s Chicago Chapter. Roberts always wanted to pursue a career in business in part because of a part-time job he had in the area of business that piqued his interest.

Madison Influences: Professor Schechter

Reflections on Madison: “The general importance of understanding the broader context, rather than your particular role, is a fundamental educational and learning tool.” Through the Madison experience, Roberts learned to think critically and be articulate, and these two components have proven useful in his post-JMC life. Reflecting on the Madison experience, he states, “Just knowing that you are studying with a group of stellar individuals, and that you have an inquisitive, smart group of people that you’re interacting with on a daily basis is unique to James Madison College.”

Zack Ruderman (IR/Economics/Accounting ’94)

Current Position: Marketing manager for Betty Crocker Brownies, Cookies and Muffins, General Mills, 2004 to present. Ruderman lives in Maplegrove, MN.

Previous Positions: Associate marketing manager for Hamburger Helper, Berry Burst Cheerios, and Honey Nut Cheerios, General Mills, 2000-03; advanced financial analyst, Electronic Data Systems (EDS).

Post-JMC: MBA, Harvard Business School, 2000. “I’m energized by the strategic and competitive challenges we face in our businesses. Creating the business and marketing plans, implementing them, and seeing the results in the marketplace are very rewarding. Also, working with products that touch so many people’s lives is both fun and satisfying.”

Madison Influences: “I was always interested in pursuing a career in business, but knew that a strong liberal arts background would serve me well in the long term. The critical thinking, writing skills (from Professor Dorr) and the oral communication skills honed at Madison have been a tremendous asset. I would not be where I am today if not for the guidance, advice, and support from Professor Schechter that he provided when I was at MSU, after MSU, and when I was applying to business school.”

Janelle Wilhelm (IR/Spanish specialization ’02)

Current Position: Deputy duty minimization supervisor, JPMorgan Chase Vastera. Wilhelm lives in Southfield, MI.

Post-JMC: After graduation, Wilhelm worked at Sandler and Travis Trade Advisory Services, Inc., 2002-05.

Reflections on Madison: “My area of work is extremely stressful, however I feel that many of the courses and subsequent debates I had while in Madison prepared me to think analytically and always defend my position.”
Jessica Durham
(IR/German/WES ‘05)


Post-JMC: Durham has taken Spanish classes to further her language skills.

“I really decided to work in business because I felt like it was the only viable job option at the time of graduation. I was well suited for this position because it involves a great deal of economic analysis. My dual degree in German was also helpful as the company is German. My job provides me with many opportunities to travel to many different countries. I loved doing research during my education, and my job really allows me to do large amounts of research and work independently on projects.”

Madison Influences: “Honestly the largest influence on me in terms of this job was my German background. However, Madison contributed to this by encouraging my internship abroad, where I worked with the Saxon Parliament in Germany. Professor Ritchie also played a large role. I took his class regarding statistics and that plays a large role in the analytical nature of my job. Many of my job responsibilities include statistical analysis of the automotive market for North America, as well world wide.”

Reflections on Madison: “I really enjoyed my Madison education. It taught me to think and look critically at all kinds of issues, which is really important in the day-to-day dealing in a large corporation. Also, I learned so much about different cultures, which is necessary in dealing with any international corporation where you deal with people from many different cultures on a daily basis. I really look at my Madison education as the cornerstone at the beginning of my career path.”

Madison Debaters Take Home National Crown

For the second time in three years, a team from Michigan State University has been crowned national debate champions. Madison’s top two-person debate team of Ryan Burke (IR, senior) and Casey Harrigan (IR, senior) won the 60th annual National Debate Tournament. Both students are members of the university’s Honors College. Burke is from Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Harrigan is from Holland, MI.

“The quality of schools in the quarterfinals was really high, including Emory, Harvard, Northwestern, UC-Berkeley, Dartmouth, and Wake Forest,” said coach Will Repko. “Ryan and Casey finished the season-ending rankings third behind Berkeley, so it was really difficult to face them in the quarters.”

The topic all teams debated was whether the United States should apply economic pressure on China over political and human rights issues.

During the fall 2005 semester, the MSU Debate Team came in second place at the 49th annual Wake Forest University Shirley Classic, won first place at the Georgia State University Tournament, second place at the Wayne State University Tournament, third place at the Harvard University Tournament, and fifth place at the University of Kentucky Tournament. In the spring, Ryan Burke and Casey Harrigan defeated a field of more than 130 teams in the University of Texas-Austin debate tournament.

Madison students and MSU debaters James Durkee (PTCD, junior), Jillian Tietjen (IR, junior), Debbie Lai (IR, junior), and Caitlin Ryan (PTCD, junior) also have had successes this year.

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Torture the Teacher raised $60 for the JMC Student Senate in fall 2005. Students, faculty, and staff were encouraged to make monetary donations to one of five canisters in the Madison library, each bearing a photo of a Madison professor – Mark Largent, Dick Zinman, Eric Petrie, Grant Littke, and Doug Hoekstra. Largent, as the “winner,” had to dress as James Madison for Halloween.

Diversity in Law Program Draws W.E.B. DuBois Society Members

On March 3, 2006, nine JMC members of the W.E.B. DuBois Society participated in the first annual Diversity in the Law program in Chicago, IL coordinated by the HireBig10Plus consortium. The event provided a forum for students, especially students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, to explore legal careers.

Students began the day at the law firm of Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw for breakfast and a presentation by U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kennelly. They then broke into groups to visit one of the ten participating corporate law firms in the morning and one of the eight participating government or public interest law organizations in the afternoon. Organizations presented information on their areas of practice, the importance and role of diversity within their organization and in the field of law, answered questions about law school and law school admissions, and talked about the field of law in general.

The participating students all indicated that the event surpassed their expectations and how much they appreciated the honesty of the lawyers with whom they spoke. One commented, “Everyone we interacted with was very honest about their experiences in law school admissions, law school itself, summer internships, summer associateships, and life at law school (balancing work with family, etc). I really appreciated the fact that they didn’t sugar coat how they felt about these topics, as well as the diversity or lack thereof in the corporate culture.”

Student Consultants Present at Conference

James Madison writing consultants Karissa Chabot (PTCD, junior) and Stephen Purchase (senior IR/PTCD) presented “Local Knowledge: The ‘In-House’ Writing Consultancy” at the Conference on the English Language Arts in Michigan in March 2006. Along with Jill McKay (IR ’00), PhD student in rhetoric and writing, and Professor Colleen Tremonte (Chair, HCW), Chabot and Purchase discussed how peer consultancy assumes a different form when the writing consultancy serves the particular needs of a public affairs curriculum.

Drawing on their own experiences at Madison, Chabot, Purchase, and McKay offered a model for peer-consulting training based on the case-study approach. Now in its tenth year of operation (begun as a pilot project in 1994, and becoming an official part of the college in 1995), the Madison Consultancy was the first unit-level writing center at MSU. Its uniqueness turns on its consultants’ familiarity with both the general Madison curriculum and their specific field-knowledge and rhetorics. Professor Allison Berg (HCW) is the current director of the consultancy.

In November 2005, the JMC Student Senate organized The Madison Idol Karaoke Competition in which students, faculty, and staff sang their choice of song in front of JMC students. Participants, including 12 students, Professor Bryan Ritchie, Professor Eric Petrie, and JMC Field Career Consultant Chris Foley were judged by Professor Matthew Zierler, Professor Doug Hoekstra, Peter Murray, and JMC Student Senator Anthony Martinicco (IR, junior). The winner and the first Madison Idol(s) were Chris Foley and his daughter, Fiona, who sang a stunning rendition of Neil Diamond’s Cracklin’ Rosie. All proceeds from the event went to benefit the JMC Alumni Association.

Madison Students Serve Community Coalition

Five JMC students are serving in paid internship positions as neighborhood resource coordinators (NRCs) with the East Lansing Community Relations Coalition (CRC). The not-for-profit coalition works to build trusting relationships between the East Lansing and Michigan State University communities by fostering cooperation and communication among neighbors.

Second-year NRC Will Baker (IR/Economics, senior), who has enjoyed getting to know East Lansing residents through potlucks and pumpkin-carving contests, says, “We all live here, so we better figure out a way to get along.” This year, he participated in a new CRC neighborhood tour program aimed at encouraging on-campus students to conceptualize themselves as part of the larger East Lansing community.

Cheyney Dobson’s (SR/PTCD, junior) responsibility as an NRC is to collect knowledge within the community through discussions with residents and disseminate it to the community at large. She finds the work very challenging and sometimes loses hope in the possibility of success.

Planning community events is one of Amber Finkbeiner’s (IR, senior) contributions as an NRC. She also teaches fitness classes at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center and works at East Minister Child Development Center.

In fall 2005, Melanie Glover (SR/Peace and Justice Studies, senior) organized a luncheon at which five local religious leaders from Hillel Jewish Center, People’s Church, St. John’s Student Parish, Martin Luther Chapel, and Edgewood United Church met with CRC interns to discuss neighborhood
Other Student News

Margot Bokanga (IR, sophomore) and Arupa Barua (IR, junior) have been awarded summer 2006 McNair/SROP Scholars Program Fellowships to study “conflict resolution in Rwanda” and “gender and development in Bangladesh,” respectively. Professor Rita Edozie will act as both students’ faculty supervisor for their summer projects.

Luke Capizzo (PTCD, senior) has been awarded a Gillette Fellowship by the MSU Honors College to support work in summer 2006 on his Madison senior honors thesis. His theme is the impact of changes in communications technology on democracy and vice versa.

Anne Coburn (IR/PTCD, junior) is one of six MSU students to win a national scholarship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The awards are given to students pursuing degrees in engineering, math, and science fields. The program encourages and supports them in developing a scientific foundation upon which technological breakthroughs resulting in improved homeland security can occur.

The undergraduate scholarship includes full school tuition and fees, a $1,000 monthly stipend for nine months, and $500 weekly for a summer internship at a DHS-affiliated facility between the junior and senior year. Coburn’s extracurricular activities include serving as a JMC student senator, as a member of the MSU International Relations Organization, and as a member of the MSU Model United Nations.

Kenneth Curell (IR, junior) was one of four MSU students nominated for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship for 2006-07. Curell is specializing in Muslim studies and international business, is a member of the Honors College, was a Distinguished Freshman Scholar at MSU, and is a recipient of the Michigan Merit Scholarship, the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, and the Burton and Rosalie Gerber Scholarship. He is the president of MSU Students for Life, speaks French, and is taking Arabic. During his senior year, he will study Arabic at the American University in Cairo. The Truman Scholarship requires that good candidates have a strong record of public service, as well as a policy proposal that addresses a particular issue in society and is committed to encouraging future “change-agents” of America.

Alex Hill (freshman) is founding president of SCOUT BANANA, a new Africa-advocacy and charitable organization led by JMC students. Hill “fell in love with Africa; and cares about the Continent’s future.” He is an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 106 in Grand Blanc, MI. He founded the SCOUT BANANA project as his Boy Scout Eagle project.

Robert Huber (IR, senior) presented “Healthcare for Migrants: The Case of Myanmar” at the Asian Migrations Conference at Binghamton State University of New York in March 2006. He was representing James Madison College and MSU’s Asian Studies specialization.

David McClintick (IR, senior) and Professor Ross B. Emmett are coauthors of “Betting on the Wealth of Nature: The Simon-Ehrlich Wager” in Perc Reports: The Magazine of Free Market Environmentalism, Vol. 23, No. 3 (September 2005). Twenty-five years ago Paul Ehrlich and the late Julian Simon wagered $1,000 on whether natural resource prices would go up or down over the subsequent decade. Ten years later, in 1990, Ehrlich paid Simon $576.07, because the composite price of the five metals they bet on had decreased by that much. The Simon-Ehrlich wager represents the conflict between two views of the world: one emphasizing the limits of natural resources (Ehrlich), and the other emphasizing the opportunities that emerge from human ingenuity (Simon). Each perspective assumes winning the wager more often than not, and that the longer the timeframe of the wager, the more likely the chance of winning. McClintick and Emmett tested the wager using the 100-year (1900-1999) price history of the five metals involved in the original wager. They found that Simon would have won the wager by a large margin in five of the twentieth century’s decades. In one decade he would have lost to Ehrlich by only a few dollars. The other four decades would have been won by Ehrlich: those represented by WWI and the Great Depression, the 1950s, and the 1970s with its oil price shocks. Furthermore, Simon would have handily won the entire century. McClintick assembled a database of all nonrenewable natural resources and tested the Simon-Ehrlich wager across other combinations of goods.

Stacy Pyszora (PTCD, senior) won the 2005-06 MSU Federal Credit Union Study Abroad Scholarship and will study regional development and contemporary issues in Mexico.

Greg Stamatopoulos (IR/Russian, senior), with residents of his Case Hall floor, designed the parade-winning float in the revival of the Water Carnival for MSU’s Sesquicentennial celebration in fall 2005. Organizers estimated about 3,500 people watched the Water Carnival, held for the first time in 36 years. Eighteen student-designed floats navigated the Red Cedar River during the event.

Nathan Triplett (PTCD, senior) was awarded 2006 MSU Michigan Political Leadership Program fellowship, a ten-month program that focuses on leadership development, public policy process and analysis, effective governance, and practical politics.

David Wells (IR, senior) has applied for commission in the U.S. Navy.

JMC Marathon Book Reading

From Herman Melville’s Moby Dick to Salman Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children, the JMC Marathon Book Reading is an event that began three years ago when students and faculty got together to read a book aloud in its entirety. The third annual JMC Marathon Book Reading was held on February 25, 2006. The book was Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass.
JMC Students in the Spartan Marching Band

Erin Closser (SR/Latin American and Caribbean Studies Specialization, sophomore) is a first-year member of the Big Ten Flag Corps, president of Pi Beta Phi Sorority (Michigan Gamma Chapter), plays intramural soccer, and is a member of the MSU College Republicans. She would like to work for the U.S. Embassy or in law.

Lauren Kome (PTCD/IR, junior), a third-year member of the band, plays the tenor saxophone, plays in the Spartan Brass, and has danced ballet for 17 years. Kome wants to be a judge or work for an international company, maybe even be president of the United States.

Trina Van Schyndel (IR/German and cognate in European Studies, senior), a fourth-year member of the band, plays trombone. She would like to pursue an internship with the Student Conservation Association, volunteer with the Peace Corps, and work for the National Park Service.

Peter Spadafore (Social Relations, junior), a second-year member of the band, plays alto saxophone. He is interested in the politics of public education at all levels. “Besides James Madison College and the Spartan Marching Band, what is there?” he asks.

Bill Stoltz (PTCD, senior) plays the trumpet and enjoys music, movies, and video games. He would like to work in politics.

David Westlake (IR/History/PE Specialization, freshman) plays the tuba. His ideal job would be with the Foreign Service, but he is open to other options.

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Founders Circle Luncheon to Feature Michael McConnell

The 2006 JMC Founders Circle luncheon will feature Michael McConnell (JMCD ’76), a federal appellate court judge on the 10th Circuit Bench in Denver, CO. At the time of his appointment by U.S. President Bush, he was a professor of constitutional law at the University of Utah. He is one of the most distinguished scholars in the fields of constitutional law and theory, with a specialty in the religion clauses of the First Amendment. He has conducted nine arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court and is widely published in the fields of church-state relations and the First Amendment. McConnell is married to JMC alumnus Mary (Norton) McConnell (IR ’77), who was a Rhodes scholar. He received his JD with honors from the University of Chicago Law School (1979).

The luncheon and talk will be on Friday, October 13, 2006 at the MSU Kellogg Center from 11:45 to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $40.00 and reservations are requested by October 8, 2006. Contact Kim Allan at 517-353-3381 or at allank@msu.edu for more information or to RSVP.

Madison Launches a New Course on Michigan’s Future

If you are involved with economic development and related issues as highlighted in this article, please let us know about your career and expertise.

Twelve of Madison’s brightest students are working to improve Michigan’s future. Selected by Professor Bryan Ritchie, they will participate in the undergraduate research seminar “Michigan’s Future: Innovation, Entrepreneurialism, and High Technology Job Growth,” which focuses on understanding, evaluating, and creating economic policy for the state of Michigan.

The students are:

- Adam Birch (IR, senior)
- Adam Briggs (IR, senior)
- Ken Curell (IR, junior)
- Elizabeth Ellis (IR, senior)
- Robert Huber (IR, senior)
- Jeffrey Lakin (PTCD, junior)
- David McClintick (IR, senior)
- Erin Smith (IR, senior)
- Takeshi Tomitani (IR, senior)
- Sean Williamson (IR, senior)
- Rebecca Wilson (IR, senior)
- Lauren Yuille (PTCD, senior)

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the MSU Office for Research and Graduate Studies, and JMC collaborated to create the seminar, intended as an undergraduate research think-tank in which students evaluate current economic policy with respect to skills formation, technological development, and entrepreneurialism; compare those policies to similar policies in developing countries (particularly the fast-growing economy of Singapore); create new policy proposals specifically focused on generating demand for job and business growth, and deliver their proposals to policy makers. Assisting the students and Ritchie are Madison Professors Louise Jezierski and Ross Emmett. The syllabus is available at: http://jmc.msu.edu/archive/mc399.pdf

Ritchie believes JMC is uniquely positioned to make a difference for public policy in Michigan. Madison has established itself as a leader in public affairs, and its multidisciplinary approach allows for input from various disciplines and focuses on practical solutions to complex problems. In addition, Madison’s undergraduate students carry credibility and nonpartisanship that can speak to multiple stakeholders.

Madison boasts many alumni involved in related careers: R. Thomas Homan (Soc Ec ’81), city manager of Delaware, OH; Glenn Oliver (Urban ’84), previously a senior member of Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer’s staff; Sanford King (Urban ’83), CFO for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Jay Ross (Soc Ec ’82), director of Cuyahoga County Central Services in Cleveland, OH; Robert Trezise, Jr. (JMCD ’89), director of the Economic Development Corporation for the City of Lansing; Dayne Walling (SR ’96), executive director for Flint Club; and Jeff Williams (IR ’94), board member and chairperson of the Lansing Economic Development Corporation.
New Appointments

Columbia University Senior Associate Yael Aronoff will join the MSU Jewish Studies Program in fall 2006 as the program’s first Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Israel Studies Chair. She will serve as an assistant professor in James Madison College when she begins her appointment in August. The Israel studies chair is the third of four new positions created in the Jewish Studies Program, director Kenneth Waltzer says.

Matthew Zierler will join the JMC faculty in a tenure stream position in international relations in August 2006. His research and teaching interests are in foreign policy, international security, international relations theory, international law, and international cooperation. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His dissertation “Failing to Commit: The Politics of Treaty Nonratification” focuses on the numerous cases throughout American history in which the United States signed treaties but never ratified them.

Presentations and Publications

Mohammed Ayoob convened and chaired the roundtable “Political Islam and the North-South Divide: Resistance Ideology or Terrorist Creed?” at the International Studies Association’s annual convention in San Diego in March 2006. In April he spoke on “Clashing Civilisations? Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Belief, and Coexistence in a Multicultural World” at an International Peace Academy Policy Forum in New York. (The purpose of IPA forums, open to diplomats at United-Nations-accredited missions, the UN Secretariat and its staff, NGO representatives, and journalists covering the UN, is to help inform UN debate.

MSU Expands Muslim Studies Specialization

During the 2004-05 school year, MSU launched a Muslim studies specialization and is taking a distinct approach to expanding this area of study. Director of the Muslim studies specialization and Madison Professor of International Relations Mohammed Ayoob states that the goal is to expose students to objective analyses of Muslim societies and polities and different strands of religious and political thinking in the Muslim world. In addition, emphasis will be placed on “lived experiences” that can provide context to Muslim societies, the big questions facing Muslim societies in the contemporary era, and the cross-regional aspect of Islam throughout the world.

Madison faculty members involved in initial discussions shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 concluded that the specialty was essential to correct resulting distortions about Muslims and Islam. The specialization was strongly supported by MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon while still MSU provost and deans from International Studies and Programs and the Colleges of Social Science, Arts and Letters, and James Madison. MSU is in the process of introducing new courses dealing with Muslim societies and polities. Four new faculty positions have been created and this year three new hires were added.

—based on an article in the MSU News Bulletin by Meredith Mescher

Muslim Studies Holds Conference on Wahhabism

The Muslim Studies Program at MSU, directed by Madison Professor Mohammed Ayoob, held its first major conference in April 2006 on “Understanding Wahhabism.” Much of the popular discussion about political Islam in the media tends to equate Islam with fundamentalism, fundamentalism with Wahhabism, and Wahhabism with terrorism. The aim of the conference was to unravel the complex relationship among these various phenomena, above all by putting them in their proper historical, social, and political contexts.

The conference was supported with the assistance of JMC, the Office of the Provost, the College of Social Science, the College of Arts and Letters, the Le Frak Forum, the Center for European and Russian Studies, and the Center for International Business Education and Research, and was free and open to the public.
and set agenda.) In May, he presented “The Future of Political Islam” at the conference “Civilizations and World Orders” in Istanbul, Turkey and delivered two lectures in London, UK: “Political Islam and the Future of the Middle East” (at University College, London University, cosponsored by University College and the London Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies), and “The Many Faces of Political Islam” (at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London). A revised and expanded version of Ayoob’s MSU Sesquicentennial lecture on “The Middle East 2025” will be published in Middle East Policy (summer 2006), the quarterly journal of the Middle East Policy Council, Washington, D.C., as the centerpiece of a forum with responses from five leading scholars of the Middle East in the U.S. and Britain. See also Matthew Zierler, below.

Michael Craw’s paper “Overcoming City Limits: Vertical and Horizontal Models of Local Redistributive Policymaking” will be published in the June 2006 Social Science Quarterly.


In collaboration with the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, the Integrative Arts and Humanities (IAH) and Social Science centers, and the African Studies Center, Edozie submitted a multicountry Africa study abroad proposal to Senegal, Nigeria, and Morocco for the program “Postcolonialism and Globalization in Africa” in which students will have opportunity to take both IAH and African language courses. The specific proposal for Nigeria is “Development Corps in Nigeria, Africa: With Intermediate, Practicum Hausa Language Study.” The study abroad and internship program hopes to provide MSU and JMC students with a service-learning experience in Abuja, Nigeria around the issues of African development and contemporary African public affairs. Edozie has also been elected as African Studies Center Advisory Council assistant professor faculty representative, 2006-08.

Mark Elder, recipient of a Japan Foundation Fellowship, has been on leave during the 2005-06 academic year serving as a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo, Institute of Social Science. His research project is “Does Pollution Have a Silver Lining? Japan’s Use of Environmental Protection Policies to Promote Economic Competitiveness.”

Ross B. Emmett has completed a three-month Julian Simon Fellowship with PERC, the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Montana. His research focuses primarily on both twentieth-century American economics and classical economic thought. He is editing The Biographical Dictionary of American Economists (Thoemmes Continuum, June 2006). He published “De gustibus est disputandum: Frank H. Knight’s reply to George Stigler and Gary Becker’s ‘De gustibus non est disputandum,’ with an introductory essay,” Journal of Economic Methodology 13.1 (March 2006): 97-111. Emmett attended “HOPE 2006: Life Writing and the History of Economics” sponsored by History of Political Economy, Duke University, April 2006, at which he presented “Oral History and the Historical Reconstruction of Twentieth Century Economics.” While in North Carolina, he also gave an economics department seminar at Wake Forest University on “Biology Interrupted: T. Robert Malthus on Human Nature, Prudential Restraint, and Constitutional Political Economy” (the paper he wrote at PERC). He also received a grant from the MSU Intramural Research Grant Program, January 2006 - May 2007, for work on “Frank Knight and American Social Science,” a book that should be completed during the course of the grant. See also his work with IR Senior David McClintock under “Other Student News” elsewhere in this issue and also more at Bryan Ritchie, below.

Julia Grant, Simei Qing, and Anna Pegler-Gordon organized a roundtable and presented together at the American Historical Association conference in January 2006 on “Textbooks, Popular History, and the News: Teaching National Histories and National Identities.” The roundtable grew, in part, out of a joint MC281 honors option that Grant and Pegler-Gordon teach together and that they are expanding to include some of Qing’s students.

John Habib, diplomat-in-residence at MSU and founder of the Center for American Studies at Mohamed V University in Rabat, Morocco, gave the opening address at the twenty-second annual Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs in November 2005 at Boise State University. The conference “Global Flash Points: Clash of Cultures” focused on the questions: How does the U.S. engage a world where many mistrust and even hate America? How should the U.S. rebuild global institutions and contain extremism?

Doug Hoekstra delivered “The Nonrhetorical Presidency” at the Midwestern Political Science Association meeting in Chicago in April 2006.
Louise Jezierski. See Bryan Ritchie below.


Nicolas Mercuro and Warren J. Samuels coedited the forthcoming article “The Meaning and Role of the Market” in Journal des Economistes et des Etudes Humaines (Bilingual Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies), Volume 14, No. 4. In it they explore the meaning and role of the market in an increasingly globalized world. In the process, they invited potential contributors to submit proposals emanating from any one of the schools of thought that explore the intersection between economics and the law, including the Chicago school of law and economics, public choice theory, institutional law and economics, neoinstitutional economics, Austrian law and economics, behavioral law and economics, political science (government and the economy), and sociology and the law. He also wrote “The Market: What Lies Beneath?” in the same issue.


Rod Phillips has an article forthcoming titled “A Sandy County Almanac,” on Aldo Leopold’s book, in the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature. In spring 2006, Boise State University’s Western Writers Series is publishing Phillips’s monograph Lew Welch.

Simei Qing. See Julia Grant above.

Linda Racioppi and Katie See are coauthors of “Engendering Democratic Transition from Conflict: Women’s Inclusion in Northern Ireland’s Peace Process,” Comparative Politics (January 2006). Racioppi and See presented “Women’s Political Mobilization in Ethnic Conflicts” at the annual meeting of the Mid-West Political Science Association in Chicago in April 2006. With the support of JMC and the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Racioppi and See are also coordinating a workshop in June 2006 at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop, “Gender and Transitions in Post-communist Societies,” will bring together leading scholars from Europe, the U.S., and Eurasia to examine both case studies that address women’s political, economic, and social positions and activism in particular societies and regional/transnational analyses on such matters as EU accession, ethnic and religious conflict and mobilizations, and human trafficking. (Among the participants will be JMC alum Amanda Sloat [PTCD ’97].)

Racioppi also received a fellowship from the American Council on Sri Lanka to support her work with Katie See on women in protracted ethnic conflicts titled “Protracted Ethnic Conflict and the Politics of Women’s Mobilization.” In addition, Racioppi and Colleen Tremonte presented “International Relations Meets English Studies: Collaborative Learning in the International Relations Classroom” at the American Political Science Association Annual Teaching and Learning Conference in Washington, D.C., in February 2006.

Bryan Ritchie is conducting a special research seminar with help from Associate Professors Ross Emmett and Louise Jezierski that focuses on identifying the key public policy option that will help improve Michigan’s economic future. The seminar involves 12 hand-picked students who have an interest in studying the public policy of economic development. See “Madison Launches a New Course on Michigan’s Future” in this issue.

Michael Rubner’s essay “The 1972 Munich Olympics Massacre and Its Aftermath” will appear in a forthcoming issue of Middle East Policy. He also spoke on “Hamas, Israel, and the Peace Process” at Temple Shalom in Naples, FL.

Michael Schechter. See Matthew Zierler below.

Katie See. See Linda Racioppi above.

Colleen Tremonte. See Linda Racioppi above.


Jonas Zoninsein presented the policy proposal “Racial Equality, Nation Remaking and Development in the Americas” in Washington, D.C. in February 2006. The goal of the conference at which he made the presentation was to construct an agenda to advance racial equality in Latin America.
Hofmeister Celebrates a Quarter-Century with MSU

Donna Hofmeister, secretary for the JMC Office of Academic Affairs since 1999, began working at Michigan State University in 1981 in the Clinical Center Medical Records department shortly after graduating from high school. She also held a position in the Speech and Hearing Clinic before joining JMC in 1989 as secretary for admissions and field experience and later as faculty secretary. In July 2006, Hofmeister will take over as Madison’s first-ever event coordinator.

Students find Hofmeister one of the most helpful and resourceful MSU staffers they come in contact with at MSU. Sarah Blitz (senior, SR/Spanish) sums it up this way: “Donna wears many hats around Madison: advisor, counselor, ‘the candy lady,’ friend, and coworker. Since my freshman year, Donna has provided me with academic advice as well as insightful words of wisdom. Her presence around the college is always recognized due to her cheerful holiday decorations, and most importantly, her smile and friendly ‘hello.’ She has the skills to reach out to students and provide them with the confidence that they can make it through Madison, that they will graduate on time, and that, yes, they can have more than one piece of candy. Donna is a priceless commodity to the community we call James Madison College.”

JMC Professor Norm Graham says, “Donna has been a ‘rock’ for the college forever! As I look at my more than 20 years of work at Madison, Donna has always been a solid, cheerful, and untiring toiler for the college. She has handled stressed-out students and demanding (sometimes self-centered) faculty with equal aplomb and efficiency. It is time to thank her from the bottom of our hearts. As she takes on a new role as major events coordinator for Madison, it will be a little unsettling for all of us. But one thing is for sure—we can always rely on Donna to pitch in and help us through it all, with a smile.”

Donna values her many roles at Madison and says, “I believe I have grown the most, personally and professionally, in my current position because of my relationship with Dr. Constance Hunt and my contact with students and faculty.” She says she will be sad to see the Hunt and Hofmeister Duo come to an end, but she looks forward to new adventures in her JMC career. “Being a member of the James Madison family has been the best part of my quarter-century experience at MSU. I have made countless lifelong friends here and have had a lot of fun working with staff, faculty, and students. It’s been quite a ride, and I am grateful to everyone who has played a part in my experience and success at James Madison College.”

James Madison College Staff

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Constance Hunt, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs  
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