



# APUE News

Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

July 2016

## Keeping Students off Academic Probation

This past year, the percentage of Michigan State University first-time freshmen placed on academic probation at the end of the fall semester dropped from 10 percent to 8 percent – which accounts for roughly 200 first-time freshmen. However, these percentages change significantly with seemingly minor improvements in student performance. For example, 30 percent of the students with first semester GPA's between 2.0 and 2.5 graduated in four years and 64 percent graduated in six years. [READ MORE.](#)



## Winners Selected for University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum

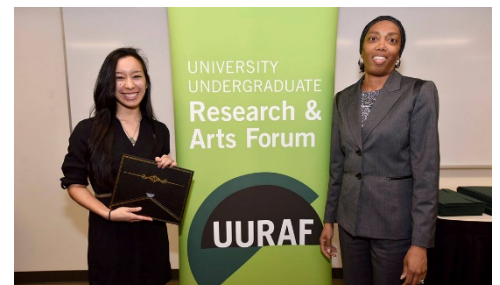
A documentary series capturing the life of Flint residents dealing with water contamination and research on the accessibility and nutrition of dry beans for human consumption have earned three Michigan State University students the Grand Prize for the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum. Winners were chosen by faculty in two categories: Social Science, Humanities and Arts and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. [READ MORE.](#)

## Alumnus Gives Back to RCPD

The [Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) at Michigan State University has a big mission: find solutions to the challenges that face people with disabilities in higher education. Making campus universally accessible is a long-term, dream-big goal that the RCPD is able to work toward thanks to donor support. Alumnus Greg Fowler is one of those donors. [READ MORE.](#)

## Honors College Grants Support Student Service Projects Abroad

Three grants have been awarded by the [Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas](#) to projects conducted by Michigan State University Honors College members that serve dire human needs in foreign countries. The projects include free vision screenings for 1,500 children in Ghana, addressing food sustainability in Malawi and installing a clean drinking water system for a school in Ghana. [READ MORE.](#)



## Upward Bound Alumni Profile: Eduardo Cedillo

Upward Bound was important for me because it gave me the opportunity to be around other first-generation minority students who were socially and economically disadvantaged. I felt I had a place to share similar experiences. It prepared and exposed me to university campus life and, most of all, provided several mentors that inspired me to obtain my high school diploma and a college degree. [READ MORE.](#)

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## Twenty-three High School Seniors Receive Full Scholarships

Twenty-three incoming Michigan State University students will receive either a University Distinguished Scholarship or an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship – considered among the most competitive awards in the country. The scholarships are valued at about \$120,000 for in-state students and approximately \$200,000 for out-of-state students. They cover full tuition, room and board and a stipend for up to eight semesters of study. [READ MORE.](#)

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## The Power of Helping Others through Service Learning



Spartans are leaving their mark all around the world this summer, including those participating in the Language, Culture, and Service in Puerto Rico study away program. The three-week program includes classes, excursions, but most importantly – service learning activities. [READ MORE.](#)

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## Undergrad Program Makeover in Department of Agriculture, Food & Resource Economics

The curriculum for undergraduate majors in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE) has a fresh face after receiving a makeover that kicked off in July 2015. Students in the new program can expect to graduate better prepared to solve problems and meet the high expectations of their prospective employers. [READ MORE.](#)

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## Graduate and Undergraduate Students Team Up to Promote Undergraduate Success

Before master's student Allison Longton started working with the College of Social Science to train undergraduate tutors, she had, in her words, “put myself in a box. I was trained to teach students in grade school. I knew the importance of using creative strategies to help students learn in a variety of disciplines. Now I realize that these strategies are applicable to those who are 18, 19, 20 years old and beyond as well.” [READ MORE.](#)

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## Undergraduates Awarded Study Abroad Scholarships

Four College of Education students participating in study abroad programs this summer will have a portion of their costs covered thanks to scholarships. Dean [Robert Floden](#) recently presented the awards to the students, all of whom are traveling abroad for education and kinesiology-related studies. The college is working to increase the rate of study abroad participation for its students, many of whom are deterred by the high costs of tuition and travel to other countries. [READ MORE.](#)



## Student-Produced Guidebook for College Professors to be Released this Summer

*To My Professor: Student Voices for Great College Teaching* is the latest book to be produced by students in the journalism class responsible for the “Bias Busters: Guides to Cultural Competence” series. The book attempts to reach college professors by giving them advice and techniques to use in the classroom. It includes narratives from students about a variety of situations that they’ve encountered with instructors. Using information and suggestions from exemplary educators and other professionals, the book offers strategies that professors can use to address or avoid these issues altogether. [READ MORE.](#)

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## Field Experience Class Offers Opportunity to Build Connections in Big Cities

A special Field Experience course at the College of Communication Arts and Sciences offers an opportunity for students to travel to New York City, Chicago or Los Angeles to learn the “ins and outs” of various media organizations, network with professionals – including Spartan alumni – and get a taste of life in the city. [READ MORE.](#)

## Walker Wins First Kahan Memorial Scholarship

In a cooperative effort between the College of Social Science and James Madison College, and through gifts from the family and friends in memory of Rachel Kahan, the inaugural Rachel P. Kahan Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Gerena Walker. The award of \$1,000 will go towards Walker's participation in the Study Away Program in Washington D.C. in the fall of 2016. Archer is one of 80 students selected across the United States and the twelfth Udall Scholar from MSU. [READ MORE.](#)



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## The Pursuit of Purpose

Sophomore Kevin Kern nearly failed middle school math. As high school approached, Kern tested into an advanced math course. The only freshman in a junior class, he was encouraged by a teacher that helped make things click. Now, Kern is studying mathematics and computer science — a passion discovered at Michigan State — at the College of Natural Science. [READ MORE.](#)



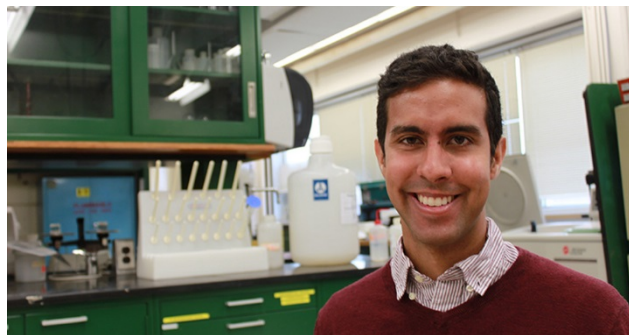
## Traverse City Native and MSU Grad Lands Page Position at NBCUniversal

Eva Nienhouse fell in love with Southern California the way she fell in love with the media and entertainment industries: whole-heartedly. She'll get to explore those passions as a page with NBCUniversal in Los Angeles. The 12-month training program for careers in television broadcasting and entertainment is billed as "the premier early career experience in media." [READ MORE.](#)

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## Anand Saripalli Will Use a Year of NIH Funding to Inspire his Passion in Biomedical Research at MSU

When Anand Saripalli was a little boy, he watched his grandfather struggle with the limitations of his prosthetic arm. It inspired the Ann Arbor native to explore his interests in medicine and mechanics as a student at Michigan State University. He was recently named a 2016 Scholar in the MSU Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health Researchers (REPID). He will use a fellowship from the National Institutes of Health to fund a year of study and continue his work in biomedical research — all with the goal of being accepted into a medical school. [READ MORE.](#)



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## MSU & Detroit: Side by Side for a Better Tomorrow

For decades, Michigan State University has been working with partners in Detroit to support economic development, advance the arts, transform schools, improve health, and sustain the environment. Like Detroit, MSU values resilience, hard work, and a commitment to solving problems and empowering people for better lives. These stories reflect some of the many ways Spartans are working with the people of Detroit to ensure a stronger tomorrow. [READ MORE.](#)

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## MSU Returns to Rwanda for TechKobwa 2016

A team from Michigan State University will return to Rwanda this summer for TechKobwa 2016, a project to inspire Rwandan women to pursue careers in the information and communications technology (ICT) sectors. Donations are being solicited to expand the impact of this successful program in Rwanda and other developing countries. [READ MORE.](#)