Public Universities & Alumni Relations

Dr. Jerry Urquhart, President, Lyman Briggs Association

The “public” university has undergone tremendous changes in the last two decades, with great impact on how the university relates to its alumni. Most of us Lyman Briggs grads attended MSU when it was called a “state funded” public university. Under today’s terminology, MSU often refers to itself as “state assisted” to reflect the declining portion of its budget that comes from state funding. The State of Michigan is in a fiscal crisis right now forcing cuts to all budgets, including higher education.

As Lyman Briggs moves forward and tries to grow in these times of financial instability, we are encouraged to approach our alumni for donations. Each of you probably has noticed that the number of requests you are getting from MSU and Lyman Briggs for contributions is going up. Unfortunately it is hard for MSU to only send its development letters to those alumni with so-called disposable income. Perhaps the most painful is when the parent with two children attending MSU is asked by their alma mater to contribute while struggling to keep up with MSU’s increasing tuition costs. If you can contribute, please do, but if you cannot, please don’t become upset with the University because it is doing what it must to survive. Just tell the university that you are unable to make a donation at this time.

There are many other important ways to remain a part of the Briggs community. Consider donating some time to Lyman Briggs, either by participating in the Lyman Briggs Alumni Association, mentoring current students, or by hosting an alumni gathering.

Jerry Urquhart, President, LBAA

Letter from the Director

Elizabeth H. Simmons, Director of the Lyman Briggs School Of Science

Dear Briggs Alumni

I’m happy to report that there’s plenty of exciting news from Briggs this Spring:

Our record-sized graduating class, won an incredibly large share of the College and University awards. They have an impressive array of academic and career plans for the fall.

Construction has begun! On May 9th Granger Construction began work on the labs, offices, and hallways of Lyman Briggs, as part of the Lab Renovation project associated with the LBS expansion. Photos and updates will be on the website, along with an artist’s drawings of what the finished labs will look like. Please plan on attending the LBS Open House during Homecoming 2005 to see outcome of this first phase of construction.

Briggs faculty are working to braid the strands of the LBS curriculum together into a more integrated academic experience where overlapping topics and projects are used as special learning opportunities. Dr. Doug Luckie (biology) is spearheading this BRAID project, joined by Drs. Smith (biology), Sweeder (chemistry), Ajoodanian (math), Keller (math), Pennock, (STS) and Simmons (physics).

The Briggs Multiracial Alliance has been very active this year. Student leaders Shaun Wahab and Rome Meeks made a stimulating presentation to the faculty about progress and challenges in creating a diverse and connected community. BMA has been working with LBS Student Affairs and with Residence Life to help recruit and retain an ever more diverse student cohort. Activities have included sponsoring the spring LBS Extravaganza talent show, writing letters to admitted students from under-represented groups, and organizing talks on relevant topics.

The LBS study-abroad program on Tropical Biodiversity in Panama continues to flourish under the direction Dr. Gerald Urquhart. This summer, the fully-subscribed program will be taught by veteran Panama faculty Drs. Urquhart, Elzinga and Borrello, assisted by Panama newcomers Drs. Smith (biology) and McCright (STS). This collaboration between Science and STS faculty is something we are very proud of.

Please visit the LBS website for more details and feel free to write me with questions or comments.

Elizabeth H. Simmons, Director & Professor, LBS
LBS Alumni Give To Lab Renovation Campaign

**BEAUMONT TOWER** ($25,000 + Over)
Brian Andress & Linda Aulicino, Walter & Antje Benenson, Gary & Terese Grondin, Mark & Toula Guilloyte, Elizabeth Simmons & R. Sekhar Chivukula

**PRESIDENTS CLUB** ($10,000 + Over)
William & Margaret Hagberg

**FRIENDS OF BRIGGS** ($1,000 + Over)

**SPIRIT OF BRIGGS** ($10.00 + Over)

LBS gratefully acknowledges these gifts to the lab renovation project from alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. MSU is providing a 2:1 match of each gift received.

LBS Students Show Their Leadership & Award Winning Skills

Andy McCoy, a senior in LBS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is a representative on ASMSU’s Academic Assembly and on the Executive Committee of Academic Council. He has shown his leadership skills in the political arena helping managing his fathers campaign for city council in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Vinay Prasad has been named as the president of The Association of Big Ten Schools. ASMSU officials said Prasad is the first delegate elected from MSU to lead the association and this position will help bring MSU issues to the boards attention.

Katie Barott, an LBS Zoology junior, was one of 4 MSU students who won the Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious national scholarship for mathematics, science and engineering students. 

Bhooma Aravamuthan has been awarded a prestigious Marshall Scholarship for study in Great Britain.

LBS graduating senior Sze-Ling (Sue) Ng has won two very prestigious honors. She is the recipient of one of the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships for graduate study and has also won the Featherstone Award. Sue is graduating with degrees in both LBS Biochemistry and Physiology.

Congratulations from the Faculty, Staff and Students of Lyman Briggs.

LBS Faculty Member Director of LON-CAPA

In 1999 the LON-CAPA program was formed with courses mainly in the areas of math and science. LON-CAPA now has course selections that span campus and just reached another milestone — the millionth student to login.

Gerd Kortemeyer, director of the LON-CAPA and assistant professor in Lyman Briggs School, said use is “growing strongly and steadily.”

“It used to be that faculty believed it was a tool for geeks,” Kortemeyer said. “It had the reputation that you had to be a computer wizard to use it. Faculty were a little scared of it at first. The growth is coming because the systems became more general and user friendly”

LON-CAPA is a program where instructors can tailor homework or course materials specific to their needs online. For course(s) with a large enrollment it is most beneficial.

Brian Thomas, a computer engineering sophomore, was the millionth person to login and got an iPod mini as a prize. “I didn’t even believe, it at first,” Thomas said. “I thought it was a hoax or virus — I was afraid of it. I was amazed that it happened.”
Congratulations to the 2005 Award Winners

**LBS Awards**

**LBCAA Outstanding Student Award**
Jaime Alexandria Murphy
Timothy Donald Wentzloff

**Academic Excellence Award**
Bhooma Raja Aravamuthan
Sze-Ling Ng

**F. B. Dutton Award**
Vinayak Kashyap Prasad
Shaun Abdul Wahab

**The Sean Healey Memorial Award**
Kunil Raval (for Spring 2004)
Lisa A. Peterson (for Fall 2004)

**Pamela Ann Merry Endowed Scholarship-2005**
Walker Foland

**Dr. Howard and Joan Hagerman Endowed Scholarship-2005**
Nikki McGahan

**Brian Falzon Book Scholarship**
Jamie Marie Joswick Spring 2005 Winner
Teresa Nardon 2005 Winner

**Natural Science Awards**

**William A. Sells, Jr. Endowed Scholarship**
Mary Green
Deanne Hufnagel
Nikki McGahan
Brandon McNew
Shaun Wahab

**Dan Bolin Award-2005**
Joshua Mastenbrook
Allison Stone

**The Kenneth B. and Carole A. Yerrick Endowed Scholarship**
Jonathan Gittins

**Dr. Leroy Augenstein Memorial Scholarship**
Katie Barott
Jamie Joswick
Lisa LiGreci
Sze-Ling Ng

**Dallas J. Chapin Endowed Scholarship**
Bhooma Aravamuthan

**Lumsden-Valrance Scholarship**
Keri Predige

**G.R.A.M. Scholarship**
Maria Elena Littles

**MSU Awards**

**Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize**
Sze-Ling Ng

**MSU Trustee GPA Award Recipients (4.0 gpa)**
Bhooma Raja Aravamuthan
Sze-Ling Ng

**National Awards:**

**Marshall Scholarship:**
Bhooma Raja Aravamuthan

**Goldwater Scholarship:**
Katie Barott

**US Department of Homeland Security Scholarship**
Katie Imhoff

**Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship**
Sze-Ling Ng

**Dr. & Mrs. Spees Establish Endowment for LBS Lecture Series**

Lyman Briggs School is very fortunate to be the recipient of a new endowment to support the annual LBS Lecture Series. The *Steven T. and Esther M. Spees Lecture Series Fund*” will be used to bring in prominent leaders and scholars from all over the world to speak at Michigan State University. Through this generous donation from the Spees, we will be insured the continuance of a very popular and prestigious program.

Although retired from his teaching responsibilities, Lyman Briggs is fortunate to retain Dr. Spees as Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs for the next three years.
Homecoming will be Saturday, October 22, 2005. Look in the September issue of the Briggantine for more details about homecoming happenings.

Due to MSU’s Sesquicentennial there will not be a homecoming parade this year but instead a parade to celebrate the Sesquicentennial which will start at Frandor and head towards East Lansing. There will be more detail in the September issue of the Briggantine regarding the parade.

Ticket orders are being taken now. To order, get on the LBS website to download the order form. The deadline to get your ticket orders in is Thursday, May 26, 2005 by 5:00. MSUAA holds us to a strict deadline and we must put our order in for tickets on Friday, May 27, 2005.

Thanks to LBS staff and faculty for the warm welcome, information and support offered in my 1st year as Complex Director of Holmes Hall.

Special thanks to Kent Workman, who was so generous with sharing resources and wisdom.

Kate Burdick, Complex Director-Holmes Hall

Mark Kay (1980) is a Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics at Stanford University. He resides with his wife and two children and girl and boy ages 13 and 11. If you are interested in what your former classmate is doing check out his two websites http://kaylab.stanford.edu or http://med.stanford.edu/genetherapy/

Jennifer Simich (1983) was named Vice President of Corporate Communications for Info Tronics, Inc. Jennifer’s overall responsibility is for marketing, advertising, documentation, training and product management.

Stephanie Jones (2000) is a second year associate at Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. in Troy, MI. In her practice with Harness, Dickey & Pierce she is involved in various aspects of intellectual property law, she prepares and prosecutes patent applications among many other responsibilities she holds within the firm.