Letters from the Co-Presidents of LBAA
Diane Barker & Nick White, Co-Presidents, Lyman Briggs Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Spartans & Briggs Alumni

The new year is a time to reflect and appreciate the past while looking forward to future changes and opportunities. The final phase of the Lyman Briggs Lab Renovation will be accomplished during the Summer of 2006. Once we have finalized the plans we will let you know about the formal dedication ceremony in Fall 2006. Lyman Briggs is also excited about the potential of regaining college status in the not so distant future. Proposals have been submitted to the University to gain the support for this return to college status. Briggs continues to grow in popularity and will fill Holmes Hall completely in Fall 2006. Students, the Provost, and the President of MSU have grown to value Briggs as an outstanding living learning option at MSU and we are grateful for their generous support. As the new co-presidents of LBAA it is our mission to keep Alumni involved and up to date on what is happening with LBS. At the December LBAA meeting we started refining our goals for the new year. There are a variety of opportunities for Alumni to become involved with: board positions, committee work, possible classroom instruction as a guest lecturer, mentoring opportunities, tours of the renovated labs, graduation banquets, and other fun events. Our next meeting will be Feb. 4th at 10 am in C103 Holmes Hall. If you would like to join us or let us know of your ideals, please do not hesitate to contact either of us; Diane Barker (barker@msu.edu) or Nick White (whiten@umich.edu). Keep an eye on our web page as we make changes throughout 2006, www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu/alumni.

On behalf of the Briggs Alumni family, best wishes for the new year.

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

Dear Briggs Alumni and Friends:

As the spring semester begins, we have much to be proud of. Our larger freshman class (565 students) proved to be exceptionally well-prepared and the faculty have enjoyed interacting with them. The new faculty and staff who joined us this year have settled in and are making strong contributions to all areas of life in Briggs

Briggs also has a lot to look forward to:

Construction Update: This summer, many more parts of Lyman Briggs will undergo renovation. Due to generous support from many of you. Four existing lab classrooms (three in biology, one in chemistry) will be rebuilt. We’ll build a new biology lab (from what is now C-1, C-1A and adjacent space) and a new lab prep room for large equipment (in C-12). The lower-level corridors will be modernized and brightened up with new tile, paint, and light fixtures. In addition, six new teaching spaces to serve as seminar or recitation rooms by day and study or help rooms in early evening will be created in the residence towers. We’re very much looking forward to this further linking of the residential and academic missions of Briggs and Holmes Hall.

BRAID: Lyman Briggs received generous support from the Provost’s Quality Fund to underwrite a two-year pilot project “Bridging the Disciplines with Authentic Inquiry and Discourse.” As described by project leader Dr. Douglas Luckie, a multi-disciplinary team of faculty and staff will develop, implement, and assess a robust innovative curriculum that “braids” the freshmen lecture and lab courses in the sciences, mathematics, and history, philosophy, and sociology of science. This semester, faculty are auditing one another’s courses (across disciplines), testing new methods of assessment, and working with students on cross-disciplinary research projects related to teaching methods and course content.

Searches: Briggs is conducting tenure-stream searches this year in Biology, History of Medicine, Mathematics/Computer Science and Environmental Philosophy to prepare for the larger student numbers the expansion will bring us. A terrific crop of candidates have been identified and are now being interviewed. We’ll also be adding fixed-term faculty in HPS (history, philosophy, and sociology of science) and chemistry, and recruiting a new advising specialist.

As you can see, Briggs is continuing to receive wonderful opportunities for growth and improvement from the University and through the support of alumni and friends.

I look forward to seeing you at future alumni gatherings and
**New Science Program at KBS**

Starting in Fall 2006, the Residential Opportunities at Kellogg Station (ROKS) program, will offer undergraduates a blend of natural, social, environmental and ecological science classes while spending the Fall semester at the facility on Gull Lake. Lyman Briggs is one of several MSU partners in this new “study away” offering.

Students in the ROKS program will have their fall semester divided into two mini-terms of 7.5 weeks so they will be able to select a variety of classes to fulfill their degree requirements. In addition, students will participate in a mentored professional experience in each mini-term that will allow them to explore careers in research, education, and community outreach. The small class size and intimate setting will provide an engaging experience for students.

Students will live in modern dormitories that have a view of Gull Lake and an on-site cafeteria with a professional chef. Classes will be located next to the dorms. Students will also have access to the many recreational activities at KBS including canoeing, hiking, biking and lakeside barbecues.

KBS is MSU’s largest off-site research facility and has 11 full-time faculty. It has modern research laboratories, classrooms, a branch of the MSU library and wireless Internet access throughout the campus. There are over 4,000 acres of managed and unmanaged lands at KBS, which provide a diversity of habitats and environments for field trips, research and educational experiences.

For more information, go to:
http://www.kbs/msu.edu/ROKS
or email:
roks@kbs.msu.edu

**Dr. Robert Pennock Testifies Against Intelligent Design**

In September, 2005, Dr. Robert Pennock, Briggs Professor of Philosophy of Science, testified as an expert witness at Dover intelligent design (ID) creationism trial in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The trial involved a suit by parents against the school district, after the school board had required high school biology teachers to include alternatives to theory of evolution, including intelligent design. Intelligent design claims that because of the complexity of living organisms, a supernatural being must be responsible for their creation.

In December, the judge in the case ruled against the school district, finding that ID is not science, but disguised sectarian religion, and that teaching ID is unconstitutional.

Pennock is author of *Tower of Babel: The Evidence Against the New Creationism* and edited *Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics*.

**Congratulations to the Fall 2005 Graduates**

LBS faculty, staff and students would like to congratulate our 23 Fall 2005 graduates. 12 families of our 23 graduates joined us for graduation breakfast brunch at the University Club on Saturday, December 10, 2005. We were also joined by special guests Dean Leroi, Doug Estry, Emeriti Faculty and Alumni.

Jillian Rae Allen, Kimberly Marie Carpenter, Beth Maryse Colaluca, Elizabeth Lauren Dean, Lindsey Kay Giles, Marium Haghshenas, Jason Andrew Heckendorf, Brent Lee Holsclaw, Matthew Aaron Horn, Deanne M. Hufnagel, John Kirkland Lambrix, Marilyn Margaret McDowall, Katharine Michelle Mongoven, Jamie Erin Mooney, Joseph Patrick O’Connor, Douglas LBS faculty, staff and students would like to congratulate our 23 Fall 2005 graduates. 12 families of our 23 graduates joined us for graduation breakfast brunch at the University Club on Saturday, December 10, 2005. We were also joined by special guests Dean Leroi, Doug Estry, Emeriti Faculty and Alumni.

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Welcome to New Faculty

Dr. Daniel Dougherty - Mathematics/Statistics
Dr. Cori Fata-Hartley — Biology
Dr. Robert Root-Bernstein — HPS (STS)
Dr. Piers Stephens - HPS (STS)
Dr. Naoko Wake - HPS (STS)
Jamie Engelhart - Academic Recruiter

Faculty, Staff and Students of Lyman Briggs would like to welcome all of the new faculty and wish them well.

Lyman Briggs said good-bye to Dr. Alice Dreger, Rebecca Heuer and Dr. Stephanie Grey this Fall. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

LBS Students Shine

Lyman Briggs had 550 students placed on the College of Natural Science Dean’s List for fall 2005. (This represents 36% of our total student enrollment) Congratulations to these high achievers!

New Name for STS

Lyman Briggs has asked the university to change the old name Science and Technology Studies (STS) to the more accurate and descriptive “History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science” (HPS).

History of Sciences: New LBS Study Abroad Course

The renowned historian Simon Schama once said that one must use the “archive of the feet” to acquire a deep understanding of history—books are not enough. This summer, Lyman Briggs inaugurates a new study abroad program which will take Schama’s advice and explore the history of science in Britain. The focus will be on the nineteenth century, when Britain became the world’s first industrialized country and its greatest imperial power. In this exciting era of change and conflict, some of science’s most consequential ideas emerged. Charles Darwin elaborated a theory of evolution, Charles Babbage invented the world’s first computer, Lord Kelvin spearheaded the discovery of the laws of thermodynamics. And that’s to name just a few of the Victorian’s remarkable scientific achievements.

Students will experience many of the settings where scientists revolutionized our understanding of the natural world. The program will visit Kew Gardens, Charles Darwin’s house, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, the Hunterian Museum and the Wellcome Museum of Anatomy and Pathology at the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, the Victoria & Albert Museum and St. Paul’s Cathedral, among many other fascinating London sites.

Students will also have ample opportunity to explore British culture on their own. The program begins on the same day that England kicks off the 2006 soccer World Cup with a match against Paraguay in Frankfurt.

For more information on the program, contact Richard Bellon (bellonr@msu.edu) or Sarah Goodfellow (goodfel5@msu.edu). You can also learn more about the program online:

http://www.msu.edu/course/lbs/492/bellon3/

Alumni Board Meeting

Lyman Briggs Alumni Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held:

Saturday, February 4, 2006
10:00-1:00
in
Room C103
Holmes Hall

Please plan on joining us. We are looking for new and former alumni to help us out with some new and challenging partnerships.

Alumni Happenings

Dr. Angela Cherniawski a 2000 STS graduate from Lyman Briggs is now a practicing chiropractic physician in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jeffrey Washing a 1997 graduate is currently in his second of three years training to be a pulmonary, critical care and sleep specialists. He completed medical school at Wayne State University in June 2001, and his internal medicine residency at Detroit Medical Center in June 2004.
LBS Alumni Give To Lab Renovation Campaign

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

PRESIDENTS CLUB ($10,000 + Over)
Robert & Barbara Davis, Steven & Esther Spees, William & Margaret Hagberg

FRIENDS OF BRIGGS ($1,000 + Over)

SPIRIT OF BRIGGS ($10.00 + Over)