



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*99 Years at Michigan State University*  
**1927 - 2026**

Michigan State University Chapter 041

***Annual Initiation and Awards Ceremony***

**April 11, 2026**

Wharton Center for Performing Arts  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# PROGRAM

## Reception

### Welcome

Burton A. Bargerstock  
President, MSU Chapter 041

### Invited Presentation

Marcio A. Oliveira  
Vice Provost for Academic Innovation  
Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology  
Office of the Provost  
Michigan State University

### Initiation Ceremony and Induction

All Honored Candidates

### Awards Recognition

Excellence Award for Interdisciplinary Scholarship  
Careers in Real Life: Bridging the Gap Between Students' Disciplinary Learning and  
Career Pursuits Through Integrated Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Graduate Fellowship Nominee  
Jenus Shrestha

2025 Love of Learning  
Ming Ming Cheung

### Conclusion

Burton A. Bargerstock

Founded in 1897, the primary objective of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the recognition and encouragement of superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. The society believes that by recognizing and honoring those persons of good character, who have excelled in scholarship, others will be stimulated to similar goals of excellence.

## Michigan State University 2026 New Phi Kappa Phi Members

### Initiates

Johanna Avila-Trujillo  
Ellen Boyer  
Jessica Cheuvront  
Alexis Eaton  
Maxwell Falk  
Hannah Gaines  
Nolan Hall  
Hoda Hassan Ahmad  
Liza Holubtsova  
Mary Hopkins  
Kyo Jeon  
Hyun Jin Lee  
Julia Kelliher  
Jordan Kenyon  
Pyeongeon Kim  
Kevin Koch  
Sonja Krohn  
Zoe Larsen  
Trestan Larson  
Chengboey Lau  
Benjamin Lowen  
Twylla McDonald  
Paul Monday

Fumiko Morioka  
Judy Namm-Ramos  
Ava Ng  
Jade O'Brien  
Katherine Pagano  
Jack Poirier  
Jonathan Prog  
Tiffany Richards  
Haley Rose  
Fizza Rubab  
Neill Schultz  
Mahnoor Sheikh  
Jenus Shrestha  
Emily Sklenicka  
Victoria Sluis  
Jessica Stella  
Abby Steuck  
Nigel Tate  
Marissa Taylor  
Maria Trujillo  
Joseph Whetzel  
Yuhi York  
Bauyrzhan Zhaxylykov

### Faculty, Administration, Professional Staff, Alumni Initiates

Kevin L. Brooks  
Brian G. Johnson  
Jon Keune  
Tamura Lomax  
Marcio A. Oliveira

**Congratulations,  
2026 Initiates!**

Phi Kappa Phi is proud to  
have you as members.

## — FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION, PROFESSIONAL STAFF, ALUMNI INITIATES —

The outstanding achievements of these individuals represent the high standard of scholarship, professionalism, and public service that Phi Kappa Phi symbolizes and supports. The Michigan State University Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is proud to grant membership to them.

### **Kevin L. Brooks**

Kevin L. Brooks is a community engagement specialist in the Center for Community and Economic Development at Michigan State University. Brooks has nearly 25 years of experience in higher education as a scholar, civic engagement practitioner, and administrator. He is a committed bridge builder, change agent, and champion for equitable and inclusive communities, and he has a penchant for mentoring, leadership development, and student engagement through innovative research, teaching, and creative activity. His research focuses on Black/Africana Studies disciplinary theories and methodologies and promotes academic excellence and social responsibility with cultural grounding. He is co-editor of the three-volume *African American Culture: An Encyclopedia of People, Traditions, and Customs* and has authored articles, book chapters, commentaries, and reviews. He is on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Africana Studies* and *Journal of African American Studies*. Brooks earned his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees at Purdue University and his M.Ed. and B.S. at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University.

### **Brian G. Johnson**

Brian Johnson is assistant dean for student success and community engagement in James Madison College at Michigan State University. Most recently, he served as associate director of MSU Extension's Children and Youth Institute and as an assistant professor in MSU's Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Johnson's scholarly interests focus on examining the constitutionality of laws and policies within K-12 settings and higher education. Johnson has extensive experience directing pathway and recruitment and retention programs. He has taught at the K-12, undergraduate, and graduate levels. A certified elementary teacher, his pathway programs focus on preparing students for college during the K-12 years and ensuring they receive resources for success throughout their college experience. Johnson's advising, recruitment and retention initiatives, and pre-college and college programs have been recognized at the university and state levels. Johnson holds a B.S. and Master of Teaching degree from Hampton University, a J.D. with an emphasis in constitutional law and civil rights from Cooley Law School, and a Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Michigan State University.

## Jon Keune

Jon Keune (pronounced koi-nee) is a scholar of religion, social history, and transregionalism working especially in Western India, Taiwan, and Japan. He holds a Ph.D. from Columbia, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and B.A. from St. Olaf College. His current research traces the legacies of B.R. Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism as a protest against caste in 1956 and what it has meant to his followers within India and beyond. This community-engaged scholarship documents what Buddhism means and does for Ambedkarite professionals as they migrate and settle internationally, offering windows into the changing nature of religion, spirituality, and cultural identification today. Keune's earlier scholarship focused on popular, devotional (bhakti) Hindu movements and their relationships to caste, especially the Varkari tradition and its hagiographical literature in Marathi between 1600 and the present. His book *Shared Devotion, Shared Food: Equality and the Bhakti-Caste Question in Western India* (Oxford, 2021) explored how the idea of social equality became normative for analyzing bhakti traditions' social effects, displacing earlier nondualist and theological terms that Marathi authors used to speak about caste and bhakti. He co-edited *Regional Communities of Devotion in South Asia: Insiders, Outsiders, and Interlopers* (Routledge, 2019) and has published in journals, edited books, and encyclopedias on bhakti, Marathi literature, and comparative and transregional studies.

## Tamura Lomax

Tamura Lomax is an associate professor of religious studies at Michigan State University, where she teaches courses on the history of Black religion and Black social movements. She earned her Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University in 2011, specializing in Black religious history and Black diaspora studies, with additional expertise in women's, gender, and sexuality studies, as well as Black British and U.S. Black cultural studies. Lomax is the author of *Freeing Black Girls: A Black Feminist Bible on Racism and Revolutionary Mothering* (Duke University Press, 2025) and recently completed its companion, *Loving Black Boys: A Black Feminist Bible on Racism and Revolutionary Mothering* (Duke University Press, forthcoming May 2026). Her earlier book, *Jezebel Unhinged: Loosing the Black Female Body in Religion and Culture* (Duke University Press, 2018), examines the religious and cultural construction of Black female sexuality. She also organized and guest-edited "Black Bodies in Ecstasy: Black Women, the Black Church, and the Politics of Pleasure," a special issue of *Black Theology: An International Journal* in 2018. In 2014, she published *Womanist and Black Feminist Responses to Tyler Perry's Cultural Productions* (Palgrave Macmillan), a co-edited volume, with Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant and Carol B. Duncan. In 2011, Dr. Lomax co-founded The Feminist Wire, an online platform dedicated to feminist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist socio-political critique.

## Marcio A. Oliveira

*See invited presentation.*

## — INVITED PRESENTATION —

### **Marcio A. Oliveira**

Marcio Oliveira (he/him) is the vice provost for academic innovation at Michigan State University, where he leads transformative initiatives that advance academic innovation and student success. With over 25 years of experience in higher education, his distinguished career spans roles focused on integrating technology with innovative educational practices and shaping collaborative learning environments.

A dedicated advocate for inclusive excellence in education, Oliveira is renowned for forging strategic partnerships with internal stakeholders and external leaders to create scalable programs that meet the evolving needs of modern learners. His work in academic innovation, learning analytics, and educational technology has garnered international recognition and has significantly influenced transformative practices within the higher education landscape.

Prior to joining MSU, Oliveira served as the assistant vice president of the Teaching and Learning Transformation Center & Academic Technology and Innovation at the University of Maryland, where he championed comprehensive strategies bridging academic affairs and information technology.

## — AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS —

### **Excellence Award for Interdisciplinary Scholarship Careers in Real Life: Bridging the Gap Between Students’ Disciplinary Learning and Care**

Created in 2022 through collaboration between science faculty and career services staff at Lyman Briggs College (LBC), the “In Real Life” Curriculum (IRL) helps students chart their career journeys by embedding purpose-driven career exploration and skill development into the disciplinary curriculum of our undergraduate science-based residential college. Over the past four years, IRL has reached nearly 2,000 students through strategic partnerships with LBC faculty and others across MSU’s campus.

Bringing together experts in disciplinary education, student development, and career services, the IRL team takes an evidence-based approach to creating robust and deeply meaningful career exploration experiences. By embedding graduate students as instructors and learning from the experiences of undergraduate students who have engaged in the curriculum, we have created a rich, individualized experience that helps students to build career identity, resilience, and a sense of belonging early in their collegiate experience.

Anchored in an interdisciplinary approach, IRL empowers students to take control of their career journeys while preparing the next generation of educators—graduate students—to imagine de-siloed, collaborative spaces. This commitment to interdisciplinarity is core to IRL’s mission; our success relies on meaningful collaboration

not just between faculty and career staff, but with alumni and development partners, local employers, and members of the LBC community. Engaging across disciplines and workspaces, we imagine a future where career education is accessible and readily available to all students.

While some students enter the maze of higher education with a map in hand, passed down by family and friends, many more arrive empty-handed, unsure of how to navigate the twists and turns along the way. As we continue to embed IRL into more classrooms spanning disciplines and learning levels, we aim to make the maze more easily navigable, creating opportunities for all students to pursue their purpose and achieve their career goals through integrated interdisciplinary collaboration.

## **Graduate Fellowship Nominee**

### **Jenus Shrestha**

Jenus Shrestha is a senior at Michigan State University in the Lyman Briggs College and Honors College, majoring in human biology with a minor in bioethics. At Michigan State, Jenus has been involved in interdisciplinary research spanning neuropsychiatry, public health, and biomedical sciences, including work with researchers from Johns Hopkins University and McGill University addressing health disparities and community well-being in low-resource settings. He also serves as an undergraduate research ambassador, helping students explore research and discover their academic interests. Shrestha founded The Unseen Hours, an initiative dedicated to raising awareness of mental health and other unseen struggles. In addition, he is currently leading sports medicine research at MSU and collaborating with surgeons at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York on orthopedic research initiatives. Following graduation, Jenus will attend the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, and he plans to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery with a focus on spine and sports-related injuries.

## **Love of Learning**

### **Ming Ming Cheung**

Ming Ming Cheung is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education program. Her research focuses on transnational immigrant youth, bilingualism and biliteracy, and digital literacies.

Ming Ming explores how digital storytelling can be used as an educational tool to support the identity development and literacy practices of culturally and linguistically diverse youth. Her work is grounded in the belief that youth voices are powerful agents for promoting literacy pluralism and justice both within schools and in the broader community.

She plans to use the Love of Learning Award funds to support a milestone research project in her program, which she is preparing to conduct with five transnational Asian immigrant middle schoolers.

— Michigan State University Chapter of  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi —

## Chapter Executive Committee

Burton A. Bargerstock, President  
Brendan Guenther, Secretary  
Julie L. Crowgey, Treasurer  
Garth Cooper, Member-at-Large  
Carolina Restini, Member-at-Large

## 2024-2025 Committee Chairpersons

Burton A. Bargerstock   Garth Cooper   Francisco A. Villarruel

## Committee Members and Other Contributors

The Executive Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions of time, energy, and creativity over the past several months:

Ghada Georgis	Patricia Mish
Brendan Guenther	Paul Phipps
Kelly Hansen	Carolina Restini
Camila Hufnagel	

## MSU Chapter Office

The Chapter is administratively located in the offices of  
MSU University Outreach and Engagement:

MSU Chapter 041  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi  
Michigan State University  
Kellogg Center  
219 S. Harrison Road, Room 93  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
E-mail: [pkp041@msu.edu](mailto:pkp041@msu.edu)  
Web: [pkp.msu.edu](http://pkp.msu.edu)



MOTTO

*Philosophía Krateitō Phōtôn*

*Let the love of learning rule humanity*