



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

92 Years at Michigan State University
1927 - 2019

Michigan State University Chapter 041

Annual Initiation and Awards Ceremony

April 6, 2019

Jackson Lounge, 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

Anita Skeen
Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
Founder, Center for Poetry
Michigan State University

Initiation Ceremony and Induction

All Honored Candidates

Awards Recognition

Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship
Delivering Bacterial Enzymes into Cancer Cells Using
Adenovirus for Cancer Immunotherapy

Graduate Fellowship Nominee
Derek Bowman

Graduate Research Grant
Katherine Robiadek

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 2019 New Phi Kappa Phi Members

Undergraduate Initiates

Audrey Allen
Lindsey Baczewski
Derek Bowman
Laura Browne
Lauren Burns
Sydney Carey
Alexandra Carley
Lauren Cichocki
Leandro De Araujo Pessoa
Aidan Fox
Nicholas Heelan
Holden Holsinger
Katelyn Horgan
Kate Huizinga
Stephen Kent
Gregory Marchal
Lauren Mirecki
Jakob Myers
Carly Regalado
Nicole Rose
James Schmidt
Noelle Shaheen
Caroline Szabo
Elise Turke

Jessica VanElls
Anna Williams
Jacob Williams
Zachary Wolfer
Joshua Zhao

Graduate Initiates

Cornelius Darcy
Moses Dardik
Frederik De Raedt
Christen Finley
Anjela Galimberti
Bethany Georgia
Rachel Grimsby
Jacqueline Kelly
Debra Knutson
Mark Krug
Stacey Messina
Rosalie Monfette
John Oostema
KyungMin Park
Vidhya Ramalingam
Alfonso Rodriguez-Morales
Ashley Thompson
Julia Whyte

Faculty, Administration, Professional Staff, Alumni Initiates

Matthew Harvey
Anita Skeen

**Congratulations,
2019 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.

Anita Skeen

See Invited Presentations.

Matthew Harvey

Matthew Harvey earned his B.S. in Packaging (1987) from Michigan State University and received a reserve officer's commission through the Army ROTC program thirty-five years ago. During his time in the military he served in a wide variety of positions in several US locations, Canada, South Korea, and Afghanistan. While serving in Afghanistan for over a year, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. Matthew currently works as a Level III FAC-C certified (highest level) contract specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and volunteers as the President of the Board for the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center. For his volunteer work with the Fort Des Moines Museum, he was awarded a national 2018 USDA Drum Major for Service Award. Harvey's work with the museum is another reflection of his lifelong commitment to public service, education, and learning.

— INVITED PRESENTATION —

Anita Skeen

Anita Skeen is a professor in MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) and founder of the RCAH Center for Poetry. She began her teaching career at Bowling Green State University, where she received an MA in English literature in 1970 and an MFA in creative writing in 1971. She later taught in the MFA program at Wichita State University, where she received the Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching. She joined the MSU Department of English in 1990 and became a faculty member in the Residential College in Arts and Humanities in 2007, when she also became director of the RCAH Center for Poetry. She has directed the Creative Arts Program at Ghost Ranch for 32 years and the Fall Writing Festival for 16 years. She is the author of six volumes of poetry: *Each Hand A Map* (1986); *Portraits* (1990); *Outside the Fold, Outside the Frame* (1999); *The Resurrection of the Animals* (2002); *Never the Whole Story* (2011); *When We Say Shelter* (2007), with Oklahoma poet Jane Taylor; and *The Unauthorized Audubon* (2014), a collection of poems about imaginary birds accompanied by the linocuts of anthropologist/visual artist Laura B. DeLind. With Taylor, she co-edited the literary anthology *Once Upon A Place: Writings from Ghost Ranch* (2008). She stepped down as director of the Poetry Center in 2018 but continues as editor of the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize Series, an imprint of the Poetry Center, with two new volumes of poetry published annually by MSU Press. In 2015 she received a William J. Beale Outstanding Faculty Award from MSU. Skeen's poetry, short fiction, and essays have appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. She says her favorite poem is "A Simple Poem for Virginia Woolf," by Bronwen Wallace.

— AWARDS —

Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship

Delivering Bacterial Enzymes into Cancer Cells Using Adenovirus for Cancer Immunotherapy

Cancer immunotherapy is catalyzing a renaissance in cancer treatment arising from the growing understanding that a normal function of the immune system is to recognize and eliminate cancerous cells. However, the challenge of immunotherapy is that cancers that have developed into tumors or metastasized to different tissues in the body have evolved mechanisms to evade the immune system, and thus these approaches are not effective in all patients. For example, the most promising cancer immunotherapy strategy developed thus far, termed “checkpoint inhibitors,” is only effective in about 40% of patients. Therefore, it is the goal of cancer immunotherapy to overcome these immunosuppressive mechanisms to “activate” the patient’s own immune system, increasing the percentage of patients that respond to treatment.

Our multidisciplinary research team has developed a new gene therapy approach to activate a cancer patient’s immune system to recognize and kill cancer cells. Specifically, we use a noninfectious virus that cannot replicate to deliver bacterial genes into cancer cells. These genes encode for bacterial enzymes that then synthesize microbial-specific chemical signals inside the patient’s tumors. Recognition of these signals by the cancer cells leads to production of inflammatory immune system signaling molecules, recruiting the patient’s own immune system to the tumor. These activated immune cells then kill the cancer cells and develop a specific anti-cancer response that can circulate and target other tumors located throughout the body. We have demonstrated that this technology is effective at activating the immune system and inhibiting the growth or even eliminating tumors in research models of cancer. By combining the field of microbial signaling and gene therapy, we have developed a novel technology that we hope will become a new weapon in the fight to treat cancer.

Team Leaders

Andrea Amalfitano, D.O., Ph.D.
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Endowed
Professor of Pediatrics in the Department of
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Chris Waters, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Current Team Members

Yasser A. Aldhamen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Amalfitano Laboratory

Alessandra Hunt, Ph.D., D.S.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Waters Laboratory

Cristianne Pereira-Hicks, M.S.
Lab Manager, Amalfitano Laboratory

Former Team Members

Fadel Alyaqoub, Ph.D.
Clinical Genomics Scientist and Adjunct
Professor, University of Massachusetts,
Lowell

Ben Koestler, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Associate, University of
Texas-Austin

Sergey Seregin, Ph.D.
Scientist II and Project Lead, ImmuNext Inc.

— AWARDS —

Graduate Fellowship Nominee

Derek Bowman

Derek Bowman is an Honors College student majoring in human biology. He is currently serving as vice president of the Honors College Service Club. During Bowman's college career, he was elected as treasurer of the Physiology Society, served on the Student Health Advisory Counsel, helped to reform the physiology curriculum as part of the Physiology Curriculum Task Force, worked as a Team Manager for the MSU Wrestling Team, and participated in research focused on learning about the immune system's role in cancer recognition and elimination. He also had the unique opportunity to intern at the Michigan House of Representatives. He has been an active volunteer at the Detroit Receiving Hospital and at a camp for people with special needs. He has taken a wide variety of courses at MSU, from Food and Drug Law (through the College of Law) to Economics of Health Care, and is now taking a graduate physiology course.

After graduation, Bowman is headed for Boston University to earn two master's degrees, one in medical sciences and one in public health. Afterwards, he plans to go to medical school. After several sports-related shoulder injuries and the resultant surgeries, he discovered his desire to work with individuals suffering with chronic pain. His long-term goal is to help create a more comprehensive healthcare system that enables all individuals to receive quality healthcare regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Graduate Research Grant

Katherine Robiadek

Katherine (Katie) M. Robiadek is a political theory Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is currently in residence as a dissertation fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities. Her main research looks at the role of imagination in the work of a series of influential early modern political thinkers. She is honored to have received a 2019 PKP Graduate Research Grant to present some of her related work on early modern political theorist, Thomas Hobbes, at the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Toronto, Canada. She is also a Student Vice President on the board of UW-Madison's PKP Chapter 021 as well as a founder and co-chair of the UW-Madison Graduate Early Modern Student Society (GEMSS), which works to build scholarly community and research skills among those on campus studying early modernity. Robiadek, originally from Canton, Michigan, earned a bachelor's degree from James Madison College of Public Affairs and The Honors College at Michigan State University.

— 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
Lauren J. Harris, Member-at-Large

2018-2019 Committee Chairpersons

Burton A. Bargerstock Brendan Guenther 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:

Amy Byle
Diane Doberneck
Ghada Georgis

Kelly Hansen
Linda Chapel Jackson
Paul Phipps

Natalie Rogers
Bradley Smith
Laurie Van Egeren

MSU Chapter Office

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MSU University Outreach and Engagement:

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MOTTO

Philosophía Krateitō Phōtôn

Let the love of learning rule humanity