



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

98 Years at Michigan State University
1927 - 2025

Michigan State University Chapter 041

Annual Initiation and Awards Ceremony

April 5, 2025

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

Megan Halpern
Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Collaboration,
Learning, and Engagement
Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College
Michigan State University

Initiation Ceremony and Induction

All Honored Candidates

Awards Recognition

Excellence Award for Interdisciplinary Scholarship
MSU Telehealth Research Group

Graduate Fellowship Nominee
Grant Bruninga

2024 Love of Learning
Maryam Berijanian
Leah Jansen
Hariharan Ramakrishnan

2024 Pioneer Award
Hariharan Ramakrishnan

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

2025 New Phi Kappa Phi Members

Initiates

Andrew Abissi
Kunti Adhikari
Avigail Arad
JoAnn Bastien
Gage Baumgartner
Hudson Beals
Joseph Belanger
Brianna Boyk
Ryan Brick
Brianna Brown
Ashley Brust
Angelia Buckingham
Matea Caluk
Elizabeth Carter
Alexandra Cash
Kaylin Casper
William Castanier
Albin Cherian
Ming Ming Cheung
Amy Cho
Ethan Cook
Yazmin Dasgar
Giovanni DePasquale
Neshad Deva Pathirana
Allison Diebol
Faith Dodd
Farzaneh Ebrahimzadeh Holasu
Evelyn Fairbanks
Elizabeth Farnum
Lily Gonzalez
Sarah Gonzalez Henao
Morgan Green
Victoria Grieve
Justin Hakim

Caryl Hanson-Johnson
Dominic Hateka
Connor Havig
Kaci Hitt
Ehicocho Idoko
Nataly Kaadi
Pranav Kalary
Anurag Kalkar
Armeia King
John Klee
Rebekah Knapp
Cooper Krueger
Jacob Lahn
Emma Lechniak
Sean Lemerand
Will Lennertz
Clara Lincolnhol
Gabriel Marini
Ari Markov
Syed Masrur Tehzib
Lacey Matthews
Jamie Maxwell
Derek Molner
Wenzheng Mu
Theresa Murphy
Audrey Napolitano
Huy Nguyen
Qingxuan Pan
Sofia Pate
Erin Reeves
Tara Requist
Megan Roggow
Justin Rucinski
Sophie Rutherford
Jesse Sanderson

Kaede Schenk
Moustapha Sene
Jingwen Shi
Rajan Singh
Miles Smith
Myriam Stanwood
Evan Sternberg
Syed Masrur Tehzib
Sean Tinsley
Rhonda Tracey
Paige Turmel
Jose Vazquez
Isabella VerHow
Erin Wade
Caitlyn Walsh
Viola Weber
Clay Williams
Alyssa Wohlrab
Lisa Wong
Zhamilya Yessirkepova
Linjun Zhen

Faculty, Administration, Professional Staff, Alumni Initiates

Jena Baker-Calloway
Amy DeRogatis
Megan Halpern
Mohammad Khalil
Gretel Van Wieren

**Congratulations,
2025 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.

Jena Baker-Calloway

Jena Baker-Calloway is a dedicated higher education center administrator at Michigan State University with extensive experience in public health, community partnership development, and pre-college programs. She serves as the director of the MSU Detroit Center, a department of University Outreach and Engagement located on Woodward Avenue in the heart of Detroit.

With a strong foundation in public health, Calloway has worked to enhance the well-being of campus communities through strategic initiatives that promote health education and access. She excels in building and fostering partnerships between educational institutions and local organizations, ensuring collaborative efforts to support students and their broader communities. Having led numerous pre-college programs, she is committed to creating pathways for underserved students to achieve academic success.

Calloway also oversees facility operations, ensuring that learning environments are safe, sustainable, and conducive to student success. Passionate about equity and student support, she continues to make a meaningful impact on higher education.

Amy DeRogatis

Amy DeRogatis is chair and a professor of religion and American culture in the Department of Religious Studies at Michigan State University. DeRogatis' research focuses on the multiple ways that religious groups, people, and communities in North America express religious ideas, commitments, beliefs, and knowledge through embodied practices.

In *Saving Sex: Sexuality and Salvation in American Evangelicalism* (Oxford, 2013), she delved into the history of popular evangelical sex manuals and the efforts that authors made to convince readers that embodied sexual practices and restraints constitute a form of witnessing to their faith. Her first book, *Moral Geography: Maps, Missionaries, and the American Frontier* (Columbia University Press, 2003), employed cultural geography and spatial theory to examine white Protestant missionary efforts to shape the space of 19th-century northeastern Ohio. Drawing on an archive of letters, diaries, publications, and maps from the Connecticut Missionary Society, she argued that missionaries found evidence for their success by inscribing their moral values onto the physical landscape. DeRogatis is at work on a third book, *Mormon King*, about James Jesse Strang and the 19th-century Mormon community on Beaver Island, Michigan.

DeRogatis also co-directs the American Religious Sounds Project, a collaborative 10-year digital initiative, supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, to document and interpret the diversity of American religious life by attending to its varied sonic cultures. DeRogatis has received recognition for teaching excellence and is the recipient of the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.

Megan Halpern

See invited presentation.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Mohammad Hassan Khalil is a professor of religious studies, an adjunct professor of law, and director of the Muslim Studies Program at Michigan State University. Before returning to his hometown of East Lansing, Michigan, he was an assistant professor of religion and visiting professor of law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He specializes in Islamic thought and is author of *Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and *Jihad, Radicalism, and the New Atheism* (Cambridge University Press, 2017); and editor of *Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of Others* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *Muslims and US Politics Today: A Defining Moment* (ILEX and Harvard University Press, 2019). He is also the lead investigator of the Muslims of the Midwest digital archive (muslimsofthemidwest.org); co-producer, co-director, and co-writer of the documentary film *American Jedi: The Salman Hamdani Story* (Alexander Street, 2023); and co-PI of a project funded by Templeton Religion Trust entitled “Science, Art and Faith: Architectural Heritage and Islam.”

He has presented papers at various national and international conferences and has published peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters on various topics, from early Islamic historiography to bioethics. He is the recipient of multiple awards, including, most recently, the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award, which recognizes excellence across the mission of the university.

Gretel Van Wieren

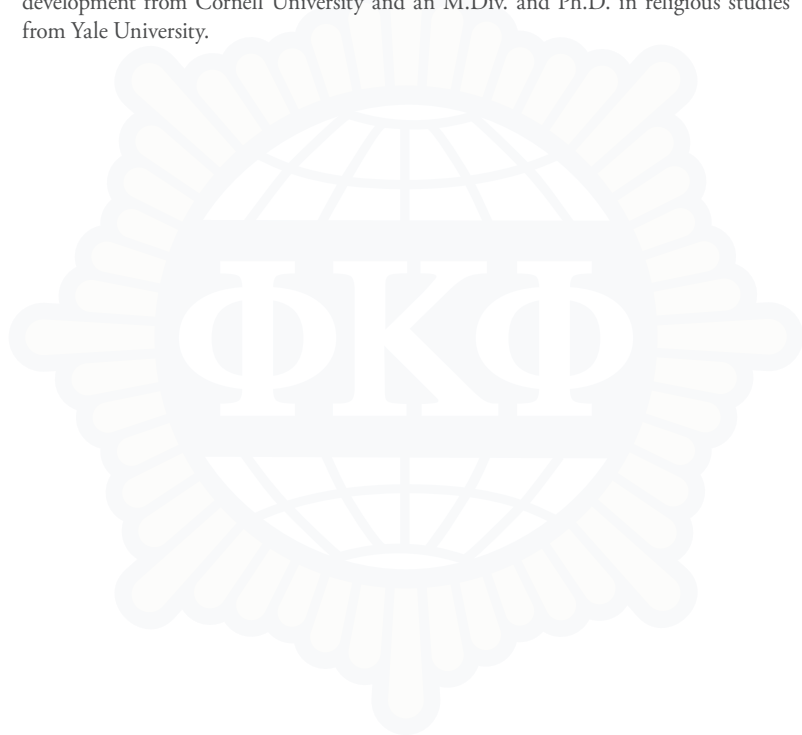
Gretel Van Wieren is a professor of religious studies and affiliated professor of philosophy at Michigan State University, where her research and teaching explore the spiritual and moral dimensions of people’s relationship to land.

She is the author of the books *Listening at Lookout Creek: Nature in Spiritual Practice* (Oregon State University Press, 2019); *Food, Farming and Religion: Emerging Ethical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2018); and *Restored to Earth: Christianity, Environmental Ethics, and Ecological Restoration* (Georgetown University Press, 2013), as well as numerous articles and popular essays that have appeared in publications such as *Environmental Ethics*; *Conservation Biology*; *the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*; *the Public Philosophy Journal*; *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*; and the Center for Humans & Nature *City Creatures* blog.

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— FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION, PROFESSIONAL STAFF, ALUMNI INITIATES —

Van Wieren founded the New Ethics of Food Network and is a founding member of the Restoration Ecology Global Education Network and the Blue River Quorum. She received a 2016 Mellon Foundation/Humanities Without Walls grant on the New Ethics of Food, a 2022-23 Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve Artist-in-Residence award, and a 2015 H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Writing-Residency award. She co-leads the artist-in-residence program at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station and MSU's Religious Studies program in Nonprofit Leadership, Global Cultures, and Social Enterprise. Van Wieren received a Master of Professional Studies in international development from Cornell University and an M.Div. and Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale University.



— INVITED PRESENTATION —

Megan Halpern

Megan K. Halpern is the founder and director of MSU's Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Collaboration, Learning, and Engagement (CIRCLE) and an associate professor of science and society in Lyman Briggs College, where she also currently serves as a Leadership Fellow in Faculty Affairs.

Halpern's research and teaching interests include art-science studies, interdisciplinary collaboration, public engagement with science, and feminist approaches to science communication. She draws heavily on arts and design methodologies in her research, teaching, and practice. She is known for the *Handbook of Art, Science, and Technology Studies*, which launched a new field of study into the intersection of art, science, and technology, and for her work on the experience model of science communication.

Halpern graduated from Smith College in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in studio art. She worked as a freelance set designer and scenic artist in New York City, where, in 1999, she co-founded Redshift Productions to create performances inspired by science and in collaboration with scientists. Her experience facilitating art-science collaborations with Redshift inspired her to attend Cornell University, where she earned a doctorate in science communication in 2014.

Upon graduating from Cornell, Halpern began a postdoctoral research fellowship at Arizona State University's Center for Nanotechnology and Society and Center for Science and the Imagination, where she began to develop Future Design Studio, a speculative design and improvisation workshop on the politics of artifacts. She joined Lyman Briggs College in 2015.

— AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS —

Excellence Award for Interdisciplinary Scholarship

MSU Telehealth Research Group

The MSU Telehealth Research Group, led by Sabrina Ford, Kelly Hirko, and Bree Holtz, exemplifies interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing telehealth research, education, and policy. Integrating expertise in health communication, epidemiology, and community-based interventions, the team focuses on expanding access to health care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Their collaboration began in 2019 through a National Science Foundation initiative on rural broadband. While that project was not funded, it catalyzed a long-term partnership that led to securing an MSU Science and Society at State (S3) Interdisciplinary Seed Grant. This funding supported a pilot study on telehealth adoption in three rural Michigan communities, laying the foundation for future research and funding. Since then, the team has launched multiple initiatives, including the development of a telehealth curriculum for medical students and rural health care providers through a Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant, utilizing a “train-the-trainer” model to enhance telehealth literacy and delivery. They also secured an AHRQ R13 Grant to host “Telehealth Post-Pandemic: A Roadmap for the Coming Decade,” a national conference that brought together experts to establish best practices and policy recommendations for telehealth sustainability.

Beyond Michigan, their research has extended globally, including studies on telehealth implementation in Uganda, highlighting barriers to equitable health care access. Their work has influenced health care education, rural medicine, and national policy, directly benefiting underserved populations. Collaborating with MSU’s partners, industry leaders, and state agencies, the team has published extensively in high-impact journals. Their sustained commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration ensures continued leadership in shaping the future of telehealth.

Sabrina Ford, Ph.D.

Director, Health Quality and Equity Unit

Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology,
College of Human Medicine

Co-Team Leader

Evaluation

Kelly Hirko, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Human
Medicine, Traverse City Campus

Co-Team Leader

Epidemiologist

Bree Holtz, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Advertising + Public Relations, College of Communication Arts and
Sciences

Co-Team Leader

Implementation and adoption of telehealth

Graduate Fellowship Nominee

Grant Bruninga

Grant Bruninga is a fourth-year student at Michigan State University majoring in zoology and integrative biology with a minor in environmental and sustainability studies. As a research assistant, he has coupled his lifelong passion for fish and wildlife conservation with his interests in genetics and environmental policy. In addition, Bruninga was a Conservation Science Fellow studying California mountain lions with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and assisted in field research as part of a wildlife conservation study abroad in South Africa.

Currently, he serves as an undergraduate research ambassador and volunteers with Honors Students Actively Recruiting (H-STAR) to help recruit the next generation of Spartans and get them involved in research. Bruninga is deciding between University of California – Davis, University of British Columbia, and Illinois State University to pursue a master's degree in ecology. In the future, he hopes to be a professor and lead a research team that uses an interdisciplinary approach, combining conservation science with community-based policy to protect global ecosystems from ongoing threats of climate change and habitat degradation.

Love of Learning

Maryam Berijanlian

Maryam Berijanlian is a doctoral student specializing in generative AI, computer vision, and natural language processing. She has achieved a 4.0 GPA and received several prestigious recognitions, including the Engineering Distinguished Scholar Fellowship from MSU. In 2024, Maryam achieved second place in the IEEE WIE Global Tech Marathon and was recognized for Best Originality/Creativity in the Advanced Category at the AI Hackathon organized by ACCESS Support (NSF).

She holds dual bachelor's degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering, as well as a master's in robotics and mechatronics. Before joining MSU, she was a researcher at RWTH Aachen University in Germany, where she focused on computer vision and deep learning.

Berijanlian will be using funds from the Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award to attend a conference in the AI or technology field, such as Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence or Grace Hopper, which can be greatly beneficial for her professional and career development.

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— AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS —

Leah Jansen

Leah Jansen is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the School Psychology Program at Michigan State University. She researches academic achievement and its predictors in student populations including gifted students and students facing intersectional inequities. She recently matched for her fifth-year pre-doctoral internship at Michigan Medicine and plans to graduate in spring 2026. She holds a bachelor's degree in French language and literature and a master's in educational studies, both from the University of Michigan. Jansen will be using funds from the Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award to continue her graduate research and participate in the Association for Psychological Sciences annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Hariharan Ramakrishnan

Hari Ramakrishnan graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in physiology and a minor in leadership of organizations. While attending MSU, Ramakrishnan participated in Alternative Spartan Breaks and the Honors College Service Club, both of which fostered his passion for leadership and community engagement. He maintained a stunning academic record, graduating in the top 6% of his class. Ramakrishnan plans to pursue an M.D. at Wayne State University.

Pioneer

Hariharan Ramakrishnan

See above

— 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
Brendan Guenther
Kelly Hansen
Patricia Mish

Natalie Phillip
Paul Phipps
Carolina Restini

MSU Chapter Office

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MOTTO

Philosophía Krateítō Phōtôn

Let the love of learning rule humanity