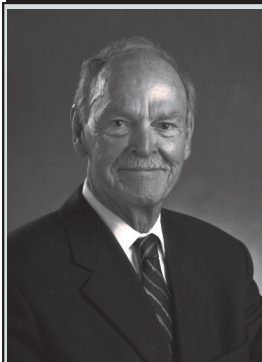


2010  
FALL

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## Steven Spees: Retiring After 44 Years of Service to Lyman Briggs



It is said that, "All good things must come to an end." It is a bittersweet truth that we all eventually come to experience personally. For a longtime fellow Briggsie, that time is just around the corner. After more than 40 years of dedicated service Steven T. Spees, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor Emeritus has announced that this will be his final year at Michigan State University.

A native of Indiana and graduate of Purdue University and the University of Southern California, prior to coming to MSU Spees taught at the Ohio State University and University of Minnesota. Spees came to MSU and LBC in 1967, at the invitation of Dr. Frederic Dutton, Lyman Briggs College founder and first Dean. Spees is a physical inorganic chemist whose research interests include coordination compounds, spectroscopy and photochemistry. As the pioneering Briggs chemistry professor, Spees and physicist Paul Parker developed a combined chemistry-physics course. In addition to over 3 decades of teaching, and his present position as Associate Dean, Spees has held several positions including Acting Director and Acting Dean. He has been active in academic governance at the unit, college and university level.

Above all, Spees has cherished the opportunities he has had to interact with students and follow their professional careers after leaving Briggs. Throughout the years Spees has stayed in touch with many of the students of "Speesiology" and has personal memories of generations of students. When former students return to visit Briggs Spees always has a memory or two to share. He has even had the privilege of welcoming children of alums to Briggs as students.

One of his earlier students, Paul Lazar, M.D., ('77) now serves as Director of Family Medicine Residency and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at McLaren Regional Medical Center in Flint, MI. Lazar says of Spees, "For me the biggest impact that Dr. Spees made on my life was when he offered me a chance to

be a Teaching Assistant (TA) in the Chemistry-Physics course. I had tutored a bit before that, but never knew that I liked to teach, or even had the ability to do so." Lazar explains that Dr. Spees had great confidence in him, even though he was young and inexperienced.

"There have been so many good things that I can reflect on when I think about my time here with Lyman Briggs," says Spees. He remembers the time period when Lyman Briggs College was on the verge of being eliminated. "I was Chair of the University Committee on Academic Policy at the time, and so I was a part of decision for which programs in Briggs were to be closed down." Spees was pleased to know that after all the hard work that he and the Briggs faculty had done, Lyman Briggs was preserved in 1981 as a School of Science and in 2007 re-instated to college status.

Reflecting on the people who have made an impact on his career at Briggs, Spees comments on how the entire faculty, staff and students at Briggs have made a lasting impression on him. "Briggs has truly become a big family to me. They have all been so supportive throughout these years, and I hope that this will continue." Spees wants his fellow Briggsies to know how thankful he is for their support of Briggs and he hopes they will continue that same support in the future. While he still has some time to go before officially retiring, Spees is offering his words of encouragement to the entire Briggs community, "Keep up the good work!"

A mini-reunion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Lyman Briggs College's first graduating class (1971) and honor Dr. Spees is being planned for May 6 & 7, 2011. More details and registration information can be found at: <http://lbc.msu.edu/2011>.

You are also invited to send your stories, memories and congratulatory notes to Briggs so that they can become a part of an album to be presented to Dr. Spees at his retirement. **Gifts in honor of Dr. Spees are being directed to the Steven T. and Esther M. Spees Endowed Scholarship. Please use the enclosed reply envelope.** (Story by: Ashleigh Rogers, Student Writer)

# Dean Elizabeth Simmons



**Celebrate 2011!** As this Briggantine is filled with news of faculty/staff, student and alumni accomplishments worthy of celebration, I add a few of my own:

First and foremost, LBC has been connecting students to science since 1967. **This spring we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first LBC graduating class.** The members of the class of 1971 are just the first of over 4000 LBC alumni who have made a positive impact on the world.

The LBC reputation for excellence in education is being noticed on a national scale. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running, LBC is again ranked among the nation's best by U.S. News & World Report's 2011 edition of Best Colleges. **Even better, we celebrate the news that 7 of the 18 high school graduates from throughout the country named as MSU Alumni Distinguished Scholars (ADS) for 2010 are attending Lyman Briggs College.** The ADS scholarships are among the most competitive in the country and the winners were chosen from more than 1,100 of the top high school seniors who applied to MSU.

A hallmark of the Briggs Experience is the faculty and staff who are so deeply committed to scholarship and student success. LBC alums join me in celebrating people like **Jane Smith Elliott, Ph.D.**, who is fondly remembered in this issue; and, **Steven Spees, Ph.D.**, who is retiring next summer after over 4 decades of dedicated service to the College. They are among LBC's many past and present scholars who have engaged in student-centered,

interdisciplinary, research-oriented teaching that inspires students to pursue their intellectual dreams. I personally celebrate the privilege of working alongside and learning from my mentor and friend, Steve Spees for these last seven years. His insight into Briggs and MSU has been invaluable as we have undertaken first the expansion and then the transition back to college status. His impact on Lyman Briggs is incalculable and enduring.

**All of us here at LBC celebrate the support and encouragement that we have received from you, our alumni and friends who have stood with LBC through its journey from college to school and back to college.** Michigan and Briggs have seen their share of economic challenges, but as many academic leaders have observed, extraordinary times can provide the impetus for essential change and renewal. Like the generations before us, we are proving this to be true. Almost simultaneously with the return of college status your support has helped us to accomplish the renovation of the labs and increase the number of scholarships available to LBC students.

**We celebrate that, in these extraordinary times, our challenge is meeting the demands that come with growth and success.** In this regard, I invite your generous consideration of financial support for the renovation of the West Lower Lounge that will provide facilities to support our successful growth in enrollment and student retention. Although it is a modest space, the new offices and seminar room will have an enormous impact on our living-learning environment.

**Finally, I hope that you will join us for Celebration 2011 in May. For more information on this visit: <http://lbc.msu.edu/2011>**

## Faculty Updates

Cori Fata-Hartley is among 23 exemplary biologists chosen to participate in the 2010 American Society for Microbiology/NSF Biology Scholars Program Research Residency.

Aaron McCright has published a study in the September 2010 issue of the journal *Population and Environment* which is an in-depth focus on gender based attitudes towards climate change.

Gerd Kortemeyer and Brian O'Shea published a paper on their recent LBC teaching innovations: *Tutorials in Introductory Physics: The Pain and the Gain*.

Cheryl Murphy is in a group of MSU researchers awarded over \$3 million in federal grants for their efforts to restore the Great Lakes waterways. Her focus is on the impact that methylmercury exposure has on yellow perch—a species of great economic and ecological importance to the Great Lakes.

Michael Nelson has co-edited the #1 best-selling environmental book on Amazon.com entitled *Moral Ground - Ethical Action For a Planet In Peril*, bringing together the testimony of over 80 visionaries—theologians and religious leaders, scientists, elected officials, business leaders, naturalists, activists and writers who present a call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet. The publication has gained national attention and was recently reviewed by the Yale Forum on Climate Change & the Media.

Robert Pennock is among a group of MSU researchers receiving attention from *U.S. News & World Report* for their research in new digital evolution techniques that give scientists the ability to watch evolution in action. This

is a part of the BEACON project at MSU. The research is shedding light on what it takes to make a species altruistic.

James Smith will be leading a new spring course entitled: The Science of Food You Love. Offered in partnership with ConAgra Foods, Inc, the class introduces students to how food companies do research.

Philip Strong has been chosen to lead MSU's Neighborhood pilot project in Hubbard Hall, an initiative designed to create a new model of integrated service to students. He is maintaining a 50% role as assistant dean of LBC.

Tess Tavormina ('73, LBC Mathematics/Honors College) has been welcomed back to Holmes Hall to serve as assistant dean of LBC. She works jointly with Philip Strong (see above). She retains her appointment as Professor of Medieval Literature in MSU's Department of English.

Elizabeth Simmons and husband Sekhar Chivukula were recently in Taiwan to give talks at a physics workshop. While there, they hosted a MSU alumni event in Taipei. Although there were no Briggsies in the crowd, the participants were all proud to be Spartans.

### BriggsWear Show Your Spartan Pride

What you want! When you want it!

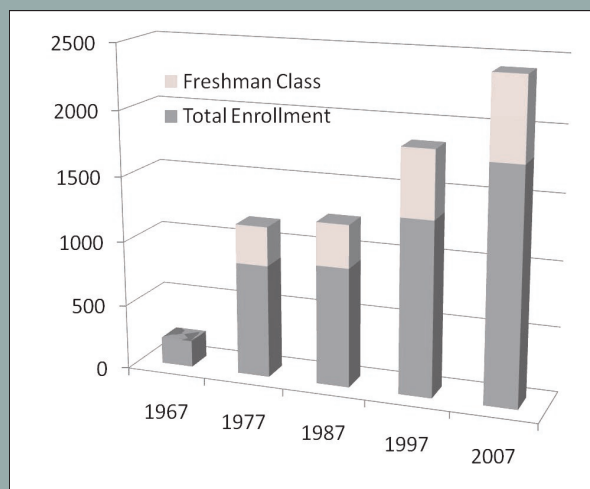
Find it at:  
<http://alumni.lymanbriggs.msu.edu>  
Follow the link to the BriggsWear Store



# Giving Opportunity: Renovation of the West Lower Lounge

Lyman Briggs College has come a long way since being established as MSU's second residential college in 1967. Growth in enrollment has created a critical need for space to support the living/learning environment that characterizes Briggs. Dean Simmons has announced plans to renovate the West Lower Lounge into:

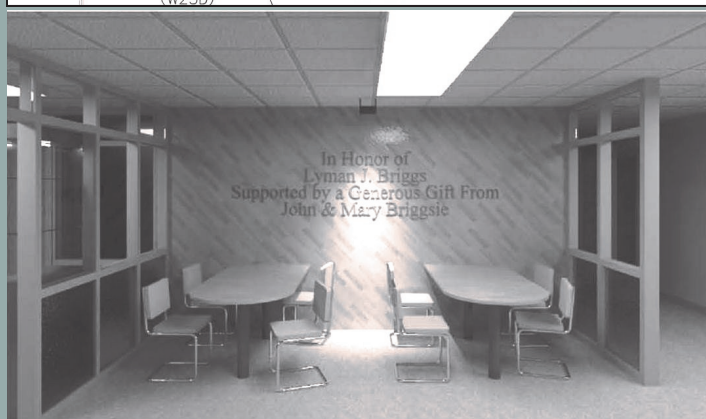
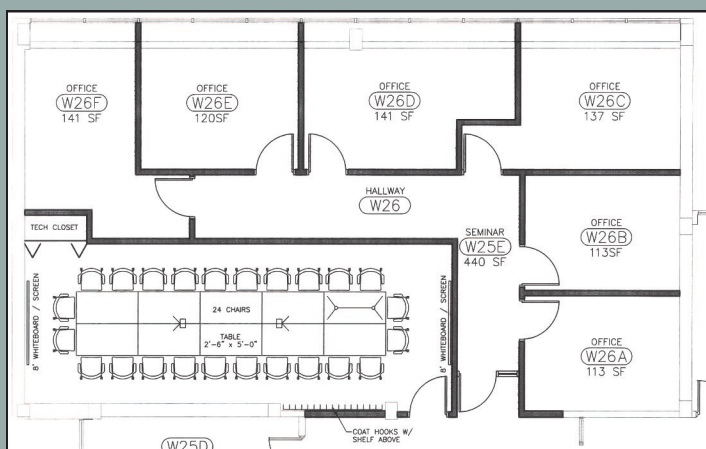
- 6 faculty offices to accommodate those presently located outside of Holmes Hall
- Senior seminar/conference room
- Student study and engagement area



## BEFORE



## AFTER



Please consider a gift in support of this project. Gifts of any size are welcome. Larger gifts can be accomplished through pledge payments extending up to 3 years.

Special donor recognition opportunities are available at the following gift levels:

- \$ 500 or more, gifts will be recognized on a special donor wall
- \$ 5,000 sponsorship gifts will be recognized on a faculty office (6 available)
- \$ 25,000 sponsorship gift will be recognized on the Senior Seminar Room
- \$ 75,000 Lead gift will be recognized in the student Study/Engagement area (1 available)

Use the enclosed reply envelope or contact Dan McKean at (517) 353-4869, [mckean@msu.edu](mailto:mckean@msu.edu)

# Remembering Jane Smith Elliott: A Woman Ahead of Her Time



When high school senior Jeffrey Boswell arrived at the Lansing Airport to visit Michigan State University it was in the midst of a snowstorm. Far from his home in Hamilton, Texas, Boswell was fortunate that his father had arranged to have Jane Smith Elliott, Ph.D. welcome him and bring him to Holmes Hall where he would later become a student at Lyman Briggs College, a residential college at MSU for the study of science in the context of society. Boswell was immediately impressed with Dr. Elliott as "Gracious, kind and helpful." She would eventually cement his decision to leave Texas and enter Lyman Briggs College. Not forgetting her kindness, Boswell recently paid tribute to her in the document establishing a scholarship in honor of his father.

Despite her death in 1987, students continue to remember and honor Smith Elliott with respect and admiration. So many have their own personal stories to share about her, who many knew as "Aunt Jane." Those who knew her would tell you that she was well known for her vast knowledge and her kindness. Even today, her students and colleagues remember her as a scientist, pioneer, innovator and a caregiver who made a difference in the direction of their lives. At a time when few women found support or encouragement to pursue a career while raising a family, she managed both. She did this with dedication, courage and grace.

Many do not know the details of this truly extraordinary life and how remarkable her accomplishments as a wife, mother, grandmother, scientist and educator have been.

Jane Elizabeth Inch was born on April 20, 1911, in Kalamazoo, Michigan the only child of Florence Allen, M.D. and George Inch, M.D. Her mother, a remarkable woman in her own right, worked as a physician for several years, but decided not to work after she married. Her father was a staff physician with the Michigan State Asylum in Kalamazoo. Jane was kept out of school for a year because of a serious polio epidemic. When school started the next fall, she was placed in first grade, but was very quickly moved into the second grade. Her early education was influenced by several of her teachers whom she would describe as "unusually capable," who "using the best of educational ideas to help to teach us," employed methods "far from the traditional form of education."

In 1926 Jane's father, a psychiatrist, became superintendent of the state hospital in Traverse City. He once brought home a model of the human skull which sparked her passion all things zoological. She was in high school at the time and thought about becoming an

architect, journalist, archeologist or geologist. Also, her interest in ancient history was inspired by her mother and maternal grandfather, who had a great curiosity in the work of Charles Darwin and how things change over time. Like many of the Briggs students she would later serve as Director of Advisement, for as long as she could remember she had an interest in science.

Graduating from the University of Michigan in 1932, with a B.S. in geology, Miss Inch intended to continue on with graduate work. But soon

after graduation she married Robert J. Smith and a couple of years later, the two began raising a family. The newly married couple lived in Lansing, Michigan, where Robert worked for the state as a Civil Engineer. While in Lansing they had two children: George and Benjamin. Shortly before the birth of their third child, Martha, in 1939 it was discovered that Robert had a kidney disease that would lead to physical disability and eventually death. During this time Mrs. Smith's father died. Using inheritance money, her mother bought a house in East Lansing where the family could be near to what was then Michigan Agricultural College (MAC).

In the fall of 1942, after Robert suffered a stroke and could no longer work full-time, Mrs. Smith decided to find a job that could help support the family. She took some courses to learn secretarial skills. In 1943, she was offered a part-time position at MAC as an instructor in the geology department. During this time she decided to pursue a master's degree in geology, which she received in 1949, at what was then called Michigan State College. She became an assistant professor at that time. She even found time to volunteer in Boy and Girl Scout activities with her children.

A 1949 Lansing State Journal article written by Joan Ball stated:

*The Smith family includes George Michael, now 14, a student at East Lansing High School, who is interested in such abstruse matters as physics and mathematics... Benjamin, 11, is in the sixth grade at Bailey School and Martha, 10, in the fifth grade there. Ben is interested in athletics, Martha, in a varied and busy social life. With three such different and active children, the Smiths have to be on their toes all the time.*

The article further stated:

*Mrs. Smith's scientific bent comes naturally. "Ever since I've been knee high to a grass hopper...well...knee high to the lowest vertebrate...I've been interested in zoology. My parents, both physicians, took me to museums of natural history when I was a child. We traveled a great deal and I was always curious about the hills and the land and how they got that way and why. It was simply curiosity that led me into geology," said Smith.*

Jane continued to teach and care for her ailing husband, an elderly mother with dementia and three very active children all in the same household.



In 1952, about a year after Robert's death, she enrolled in the University of Michigan to pursue her Ph.D. in geology, which she received in 1959. Jane, Ben and Martha lived in Ann Arbor for a year while Jane took classes. George started college in the west. They returned to East Lansing so that Jane could resume her position in the Geology Department and complete her research in invertebrate Paleontology and Micropaleontology.

Every Sunday from 1953 to 1963, Jane served impromptu, buffet suppers to students and/or friends that happened to be there at the time. They would share good food, stimulating conversations and fun. In those years she invited college students from various foreign countries to have dinner with them on Thanksgiving, all of this while working on her Ph.D. and teaching.

Dr. Smith became an associate professor in 1960, and in 1963 she had a dual appointment in Geology and the Science-Mathematics Teaching Center where she had responsibility for teaching the Earth Science portion of the Academic Year Institutes (AYI). It was her work with the center that led Frederic Dutton, the dean of the relatively new Lyman Briggs College to invite her to join the Briggs faculty (1969). From 1965 to 1970, she also experienced the joys of seeing her three grandchildren brought into the world.

In addition to becoming the Director of Academic Advisement for Briggs, Dr. Smith was promoted to full professor and named Assistant Dean in 1970. She held this position until she retired in 1977. In 1973, Dr. Smith married Jack Elliott, a colleague at Lyman Briggs who retired that year. He passed away in 1975. She served as MSU Ombudsman during 1978 and continued working with Lyman Briggs after her retirement until 1982.

Writing at the time of her death in 1987, Professor of Geology Harold B. Stonehouse, Ph.D. wrote:

*I had the pleasurable opportunity to observe Jane as teacher, and learn a lot from her, and experience her as a manager who made the (AYI) trips run much more smoothly than could have been reasonably expected. I also got to hear how her students - experienced teachers themselves - spoke with awe of her knowledge, energy, dedication and stamina. Clearly Jane was a person before her time, a female faculty member in a discipline where this is still a rarity, a lady for whom you instinctively held the door or her chair at dinner with an old-fashioned courtesy you didn't know you had.*

*She was a colleague who neither took advantage nor accepted disadvantage at business meetings. Certainly a liberated woman.*

Recently, Dr. Elliott's daughter Martha (Marty) and her husband Dr. Thomas J. Kakuk (Tom) visited Briggs to tour the college and visit with Elliott's old friends and colleagues like Dr. & Mrs. Howard Hagerman, Dr. Steven Spees, Dr. Chuck Elzinga (a Graduate Assistant during Elliott's tenure) and Mrs. Sandy Conner. The Kakuks also used this opportunity to share Dr. Elliott's story. Speaking with

pride and admiration, Marty showed the scores of cards and letters offered on the occasion of her retirement in 1977 and her death in 1987.

*This article relies on a 1975 interview conducted as a part of a class project by Peg (Geggie) Thomas, Ph.D. Dr. Thomas, who lives out east, graciously allowed us to use her work. She received her M.A., Education in 1968, and Ph.D. Education in 1981. Some may remember Peg as a hall advisor when she, her husband, and baby lived in Holmes Hall. Peg still remembers the students who did baby-sitting for her.*



Dean Michael Harrison congratulates Dr. Jane Smith Elliott on her retirement from Lyman Briggs in 1977.



Marty & Thomas Kakuk are proud to honor Jane Smith Elliott, Ph.D.

## Announcing the Jane Smith Elliott Endowed Scholarship

A scholarship has been established in honor of Jane Smith Elliott, Ph.D., by her daughter Martha (Marty) Kakuk and Marty's husband Thomas Kakuk, D.V.M., Ph.D., along with Jane's son Benjamin Smith, Ph.D., and his wife Nancy Frasure-Smith, Ph.D. The scholarship supports future generations of Lyman Briggs College students who were so important to Jane.

Recently, Marty and Tom Kakuk visited Lyman Briggs to tour the college and visit with Jane's old friends and colleagues: Dr. & Mrs. Howard Hagerman, Dr. Steven Spees, Dr. Chuck Elzinga (a Graduate Assistant during Smith Elliott's tenure) and Mrs. Sandy Conner. The Kakuks also took this opportunity to share Jane's story. Speaking with pride and admiration, Marty showed the scores of cards and letters offered on the occasion of her retirement in 1977 and her death in 1987.

Dr. Smith Elliott's friends and former students are invited to make a contribution to the Jane Smith Elliott Endowed Scholarship. Please use the enclosed reply envelope. Feel free to include a short note with your memories of her, which will be forwarded to the family.

# Briggsie Updates

**Kathleen M. Andries, M.D. ('71, Biology)** is an Internist at Lakeside Healthcare Specialists in St. Joseph, MI. She earned her M.D. from MSU (1975). She met her husband, Dean K. Ray, Jr. (MSU, MAT

**Michael R. Gold, Ph.D. ('78, Physics/Honors College)** is department head, Microbiology & Immunology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. Dr. Gold received his Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of California, Berkeley (1984) and is on the faculty at the University of British Columbia.

**Daniel R. King, D.D.S., ('79, Physical Sci.)** received his D.D.S. from University of Detroit (1983). He has a practice in Ludington, MI.

**Stephen P. Arneric, Ph.D., ('79, Physical Sci.)** is Chief Scientific Officer, Pain & Migraine, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Arneric received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa (1983). He has also worked with Pfizer and Neuromed Pharmaceuticals.

**Steven D. Hillson, M.D., ('79, Chemistry/Honors)** received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University (1983). He is a physician with Hennepin Faculty Associates and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

**Todd R. Tureck, ('79, Biology/Arts and Letters)** is an artist and instructor at the Austin Museum of Art. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Iowa, in Ceramics (1985).

**Robert T. Pilarski, (MS, CGC, ('80, Zoology)** received his M.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1984). Pilarski is a Certified Genetic Counselor and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Human Genetics, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Ctr.

**Mark J. Brennan, M.D. ('80, Biology)** is director of Wellness Physical Medicine Center Neurosurgery Group, PC, Clinton Township, MI. Dr. Brennan graduated from Wayne State University Medical School (1984).

**Michael J. Herringshaw, D.D.S. ('80, Biology)** is a dentist at Unique Smiles in Warren, MI. Dr. Herringshaw received his D.D.S. from the University of Detroit Mercy (1984).

**Iran Niroomand-Rad, D.O. ('80, Zoology)** is Medical Director at Continuing Care Clinic Miami Children's Hospital, Miami, FL. Dr. Niroomand-Rad received her M.S. in Zoology at MSU (1982) and her D.O. from Nova Southeastern University (1989). She is also Director of Education for the Osteopathic Residency Program at Miami Children's Hospital.

**Brent J. Bracco, D.D.S. ('81, Biology)** is a dentist in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Dr. Bracco received his D.D.S. from the University of Detroit Mercy (1985).

**Meg Warner, D.V.M. ('82, Microbiology)** is associate veterinarian, Waterhouse Animal Hospital, Fresno, CA. Dr. Warner received her D.V.M. from Michigan State (1986). She also holds a M.S. in Respiratory Physiology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1991).

**Mark D. Schwartz, Ph.D. ('82, Geography)** has been named a University of Wisconsin at Madison Distinguished Professor.

**Kenneth E. Seigneurie, Ph.D. ('82, Zoology/English)** is Director of Programs in World Literature and a faculty member at Simon Fraser University in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. He received his Ph.D. from University of Michigan (1995).

1972, Botany) in Lyman Briggs where he was a teaching assistant.

**David Chapman, ('71 Biology, '76 MS Biological Science)** a science teacher at Okemos High School, Michigan, has been named 2001 Science Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Science Teacher Association. He also chairs the American Meteorological Society's national board for Outreach and Pre-College Education.

**Dennis Fitzgerald, ('72, LBC/Honors College, Computer Science)** served as Grand Marshall for the MSU 2010 Homecoming Parade. He was recognized for his distinguished career in the aerospace industry, including the receipt of a NASA Silver Snoopy Award (1986).

**Rick J. DeRoven, D.D.S. ('74, Physical Sci/Honors College)** is a dentist at Rick J. DeRoven, D.D.S. PC, Walled Lake, MI. He received his D.D.S. from University of Michigan (1978).



**Nancy (Beadles) Fitzgerald with husband Dennis ('72) as he serves as Grand Marshall for the MSU Homecoming parade.**

**Ted Lupina, ('75, Medical Technology)** is Director of Regulatory for Sensient Flavors, Inc., in Indianapolis, IN. He is also an avid ornithologist.

**Thomas I. Vogel, Ph.D. ('76, Mathematical Sci/Honors College)** is an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at Texas A&M University. Dr. Vogel received both his M.S. (1978) and his Ph.D. (1981) from Stanford University.

**Ronald J. Ryel, Ph.D. ('77, Environmental Science/Honors College)** is associate professor of Plant Physiological Ecology at Utah State University Wildland Resources. He received his M.S. in wildlife Science from Utah State University (1980) and Ph.D. in Plant Physiological Ecology from the University of Wurzburg, Germany (1994).

**Curtis P. Freedland, D.O. ('78, Biology/Honors College)** is a specialist in Gastroenterology and Nutrition and Internal Medicine. He received his D.O. from the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines, IA (1981). He is owner of the Meadow Lane Surgery Center in New Port Richey, FL.

**Debra L. Robinson, M.D. ('78, Biology)** received her M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine (1981) and did her internship and residency training in Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and McLaren General Hospital in Flint, MI. Her medical practice has ranged from Emergency Medicine to HMO medicine to a private practice in West Palm, FL.

**Gary Nelson, D.M.D., ('78, Biology)** received his D.M.D. degree from Oral Roberts University (1982). He is a family dentist with emphasis in cosmetic and reconstructive dentistry. His practice, Front Street Family Dentistry, is located in Celebration, FL.

Read more alumni and student stories, or tell us what you are doing at:  
[www.alumni.lymanbriggs.msu.edu](http://www.alumni.lymanbriggs.msu.edu)





#### LBC 2010 Homecoming Tent—Join us next year!

1. Dr. Spees, Pat Schroth, Dean Simmons, Mary Schroth ('81), Carla Schroth
2. Shawn R. Smith ('89) and family with Dean Simmons
3. Jeffrey Boswell, M.D. ('78) with guest Diane
4. Richard Singer, M.D. ('84) with guest September
5. Tess Tavormina, Ph.D. ('73) and Frank Dolinar, Jr. ('76)
6. Edward Lee, D.O. ('78) and wife Gloria

**Mitchell deLong, Ph.D. ('82, Chemistry)** is Vice President of Chemistry R&D, Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Durham, NC. He has filed over 43 patent applications, and holds 14 issued patents. Dr. deLong received his Ph.D. in Synthetic Organic and Medicinal Chemistry with a concentration in Cancer Biology from Stanford University (1992).

**John M. Spitsbergen, Ph.D., ('83, Biology)** is professor and chairperson, Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Dr. Spitsbergen received his M.S. in Bio Science (1986) and Ph.D. in Vet Med. (1991) from MSU.

**Karen Mandarinio ('84, Natural Science-Physics)** is CFO and VP of Operations at Galco Industrial Electronics, Inc. She received her MBA from Wayne State University (1993).

**Wendy L. Frankel, MD ('84 Biology)** received her MD from The Ohio State University (1988) and is a professor for the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is a key author in several publications involving cancer research.

**Dan T. Chu, ('84, Microbiology)** received his M.S. in Molecular Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder (2009). He is V.P. for Affiliate and Regional Strategies for the National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C. He was previously Executive Director for the NWF's affiliate in Wyoming.

**Dale G. Gutt, ('86, Computer Science)** received his M.S. in Software Engineering from Southern Methodist University (1996). His career has included: Senior Software Engineer at CA World, Adjunct Faculty at Southern Methodist University and Software Engineer at Sterling Software.

**Shawn R. Smith, ('89, Earth Sci.)** is a research associate with Florida State Univ. Ctr. For Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies. He received his M.S. in Geology/Earth Sci. from Univ. of Wisconsin Centers (1992).

**Kimberly Gilbert ('90, Biology)** is a research and development recruiter for Dow AgroSciences, Indianapolis, IN.

**Daniel J. DiBardino, M.D. ('96, Physiology)** was featured on a new ABC News eight-part series called Boston Med. DiBardino is a cardiac surgeon

at Harvard Medical's Children's Hospital in Boston, MA, who specializes in neonatal cardiac surgery. He received his M.D. from the Wayne State University School of Medicine (2000).

**Ben Major, Ph.D. ('97 Microbiology)** has been awarded a NIH Director's New Innovator Award. He received his Ph.D. from the Huntsman Cancer Institute (2004) and is an assistant professor at the Univ. of North Carolina School of Medicine.

**Reed F. Morris, Esq. ('00, Biology)** is an associate in The Law Offices of Ralph A. Cantafio, P.C., Steamboat Springs, CO. He received his J.D. from the University of Colorado (2003).

**Lindsay Knippenberg ('02, Biological Science)** has been named an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow one of only 32 teachers selected nationally. She was a Biology and Environmental Science teacher at South Lake High School in St. Claire Shores, MI. She received her M.S. from University of Michigan, Dearborn in Environmental Science.

**Douglas Rasher ('05, Zoology)** is a graduate student in the Department of Biology at Georgia Tech University. Douglas was recently featured in a NSF article: *Killer Seaweed: Scientists Find First Proof that Chemicals from Seaweeds Damage Coral on Contact.*

**Tabby McLain ('06 Zoology/Honors College)** received her J.D. from the MSU College of Law (2010). She was recently accepted as a student member of the Jurisprudence section in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and is a member of the Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute.

#### In Memoriam

**Julie (Barris) Cookenmaster ('98, Biology)**, November 13, 2009, at the age of 33. Julie was married to Scott Cookenmaster. She received a Master's Degree in Manufacturing at Kettering University and had been employed by General Motors.

**Nannette Andrews Amish ('74, Biology)**, April 24, 2010, at the age of 58. Nan lived in California and received her MBA from the U of M. She was a speaker, teacher, consultant, founder of the Nandrews Group. She taught at the University of San Francisco, Boston University and for the US military.

## Celebration 2011 - Honoring the Class of 1971 and Dr. Steven Spees

In 2011 Briggs will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first graduating class and honor the retirement of Dr. Steven Spees. Plans are now being made for a Mini-Reunion & Dinner celebration May 6 & 7, 2011. In addition to these events guests are invited to attend the LBC Spring Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 3:30 PM in the MSU Auditorium.

For details and registration visit: <http://lbc.msu.edu/2011>

## Making Learning Come to Life: “Twilight” on Isle Royale

Nowadays when we hear the word “Twilight” we no longer get simple reactions. We may hear the squeals of young girls as they watch the “Twilight” films. As an older generation, we tend to roll our eyes as those same teens tell us that when it comes to the series, we simply don’t understand. Well, while the vampire/wolf saga continues, a Lyman Briggs instructor is giving her students the opportunity to take the laws of nature from a classroom book, and make those pages come to life by experiencing what nature has to offer. And to think it all began with a “twilight” encounter with a wolf pack, minus the vampires of course.

In 2008, Lissy Goralnik began teaching in Lyman Briggs, where she encourages her students to understand that there are certain aspects of nature that simply cannot be taught within the constraints of a lecture hall. It is with this philosophy that Goralnik leads her students on various field trips throughout the semester that allows them to develop a relationship with nature and the ethics of such. “My goal is for my students to bring the worlds of science, philosophy, literature, natural history and even ecology together,” Goralnik states. “I want them to bring the context of what we learn in the classroom to life.”

This past summer, Goralnik, a former Briggs student herself, was leading a team of students on Michigan’s Isle Royale, when they had a close encounter with nature. “We were awoken in the middle of the night to the sounds of the Middle Pack alpha male howling very close. We rushed outside with telemetry gear and even without an antenna we could hear the beeping from the wolf’s collar, meaning that he was within 100 feet. We couldn’t see him, but he certainly could see us. His packmates were howling in and around the area as well.”

Human Biology senior Jessica Rogner was one of the students who had the opportunity to join Goralnik on this adventure. “I had heard about the program through a friend and I also have family near the Isle Royale,” stated Rogner. “So I filled out the application for the program, and although it was outside of my field of study, I still wanted to be involved.” The Isle is located in the northwest portion of Lake Superior

and is home to a population of wolves and moose. Goralnik and her students had an experience of a lifetime encountering the wolf pack, moose and otters, went camping and took in all that nature had to offer them. “The experience can be described as pure magic,” stated Goralnik. “There were a ton of memorable moments,” explained Rogner. “But hearing the wolves was definitely one of the most memorable.”

The experience with the wolves gave the students a sense of “heightened awareness” about a world that they may have only read about or seen on



LBC students experience the wonders of nature in the real-life “classroom” on Michigan’s Isle Royale.

National Geographic. Instead of being in a lecture hall, the students were taught while walking along the Isle’s hiking trails and sitting on the docks near the water. Instead of reading about nature in books, the students brought those pages to life with this trip. Aside from the academic research, Goralnik encouraged her students to understand that sometimes you simply have to go outside of your comfort zone to experience real life. She explained that science should tell a story of the past and we

as the individuals should go out and experience those things and get the facts for ourselves. We shouldn’t just rely on old science to learn things about our current world.

Lissy Goralnik’s passion about nature and the development of the nature/human relationship is very evident in her teachings. “Even if I can reach one student who otherwise may have not had this experience, then I have done my job as an instructor,” she said. Most students would agree that it is the hands-on activities and field trips that allow you to take on a completely different aspect of learning. “All these personal experiences I had with nature made me more aware of my actions when it comes to nature,” Rogner said. “Learning how what we do as humans has an affect of nature was really amazing.”

Although there were no vampires or werewolves present on the Isle Royale, Goralnik’s students were certainly able to take a huge bite out of what nature had to offer them. And that is something that even the “Twilight” series couldn’t teach.

By Ashleigh Rogers, Student Writer