As the University of Michigan celebrates its bicentennial, the College Connections Program recognizes the importance of the oral history we gather from one-on-one interviews with alumni.

Since 2008, the program has collected stories from more than 7,400 LSA alumni. We have heard about your favorite classes and professors and the time you spent on the Diag, in the dorms, and at the Big House. We’ve learned why you chose your major, the reasons you attended U-M, and the ways in which your liberal arts degree impacted your life.

You have also shared your perceptions of the College’s current state and how we can enhance the LSA experience for generations to come. The 2017 College Connections Annual Report highlights your feedback as well as the initiatives and priorities LSA is focused on to ensure students continue to have transformative educations throughout the next 200 years.
2017

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, the College Connections Program has conducted 569 interviews with alumni around the country and the world. The following data reflects information collected during fiscal year 2017.

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Interviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Coast</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central U.S.</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern U.S.</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDUSTRIES

- Nonprofit and Government: 5%
- Media/Entertainment: 6%
- Law: 10%
- Health/Medicine: 11%
- Education: 15%
- Science and Technology: 16%
- Business: 22%
- Other: 15%

GRADUATION YEARS

- 1960s: 8%
- 1970s: 11%
- 1980s: 14%
- 1990s: 17%
- 2000s: 20%
- 2010s: 30%

*The College Connections team interviewed alumni in Argentina, Canada, Mozambique, Oman, and the Philippines this past year.
Our well-rounded liberal arts education at the University of Michigan started in the lecture halls, classrooms, and academic buildings on campus. This is where we discovered areas of interest, explored potential majors, and experienced standout academic moments.

**IN THE CLASSROOM**

```
IN THE CLASSROOM
```

These classes achieved the goal of all education: They taught me how to learn. These treasured experiences are what lay the foundation for the lessons life teaches us every day of our lives.”

— Dennis O’Reilly (A.B. ’79), Writer, Workers’ Edge, Santa Rosa, CA

The variety of courses across many departments allowed me to cultivate an academic experience that expanded my knowledge across an array of subjects which ultimately contributed to an educational depth and intellectual growth that is unparalleled.”

— Julia Esposito (B.G.S. ’16), Sales Solutions Consultant, LinkedIn, San Francisco, CA

**AREAS OF STUDY**

- Social Sciences: 47%
- Natural Sciences: 22%
- Humanities: 18%
- Other: 13%

**TOP MAJORS**

1. Political Science
2. Economics
3. English
4. Psychology
5. History
6. Communications
7. Mathematics
8. General Studies
9. Computer Science
10. Anthropology
TODAY THERE ARE...

3,000 COURSES

112 MINORS

92 MAJORS

40 TOP-RANKED PROGRAMS

AVAILABLE TO LSA STUDENTS
OUR FAVORITE FACULTY

We remember our favorite classes to this day because of the instructors who made them stand out. These faculty members made tedious material interesting, helped us discover our majors, and made us work hard for that good grade—THEY INSPIRED OUR LEARNING.

The SAC screenwriting program helped to prepare me for work in Hollywood in a number of ways, but I think the most important lesson I carry with me would be from Jim Burnstein. He taught me that the second draft is the most important, to be open to change, and to let go. Take the path less traveled and embrace your fears; your characters will follow suit, making you a stronger writer, and more importantly, a stronger person.”

— Kelci Parker (A.B. ’11), Coordinator, Original Programming and Development, Comedy Central, Los Angeles, CA

The greatest compliment I can pay Professor Uzoigwe is that the class knocked me far out of my comfort zone and altered permanently my perception of the world, and my personal history in it.”

— Dennis O’Reilly (A.B. ’79)

Three diverse liberal arts courses at Michigan have had a surprisingly important impact on my life, long after graduation. Art History has enriched my travel experiences and visits to my local art museum and galleries. Great Books gave me a foundational philosophical lens to see world events through. And, most of all, Professor Sidney Fine’s American History class, which preceded Ken Burns, keeps giving me context for understanding modern-day issues generated by history.”

— Lynn Taylor (A.B. ’70, M.S.W. ’73), Counselor, Intuitive Insights for Hope, San Antonio, TX
100% of tenure-track faculty teach undergrads.

74 endowed professorships.

14:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

Our faculty today.
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Learning is just as important outside of the classroom as it is in it. Our extracurricular activities—work, research, activism, student organizations, and volunteering—helped shape our time at U-M. Going on an alternative spring break trip, studying abroad, or just hanging out in the dorms with friends are experiences that sped by quicker than we would have liked.

“BAM strike, teach-ins, sit-ins, protest marches, SDS, burning bras—I got to be a part of it all at U of M—I raised my voice, stood up (or sat down) and we changed our world and the world around us for the better.”
— Ellen Simich (B.S ’73), Owner, The Ivy Leap Tutoring, Waltham, MA

“I can tell you there were many late/early nights in that dorm room on 5th Klein in Alice Lloyd. To this day, I have no idea what we talked about but I can remember at times laughing uncontrollably and other times getting into heated but civil debates. I was lucky to have both my roommates because those late nights helped shape my wonderful experience at Michigan.”
— Avery Chi (A.B. ’96), Center of Expertise, Practice Leader, Travelers, Oak Park, IL

TOP RESPONSES — WHAT’S YOUR MOST STAND-OUT MEMORY?
More than one could be selected.

- FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS 30%
- ATMOSPHERE 12%
- SPORTS/SCHOOL SPIRIT 12%
- CLASSROOM 10%
- OTHER 14%
Learning outside of the classroom is not only encouraged at LSA, but it is a priority. Whether it is through community-engaged academic learning, domestic or international internships, social innovation, or research—the College of LSA has a multitude of programs available to students.
One of the foundational parts of my Michigan experience was my time in the New England Literature Program—a spring semester spent journaling, hiking, and introspectively analyzing texts and myself. Though my own moments of purpose and clarity were found there, I think the beauty of what LSA offers is a multitude of experiences, programs, and outlets for students to both find their way and feel that way.”

—Courtney Rabideau (A.B. ’11), Content Manager, Google, San Francisco, CA

The Michigan in Washington Program was one of my most valuable Michigan experiences. Through this program I was able to apply academic lessons to policy settings, test the limits of my thinking, and gain invaluable insights into career paths in public policy.”

—Jessica Pavel (A.B. ’14), Senior Associate, Hamilton Place Strategies, Washington, D.C.

I studied abroad three times during my time at U-M. I fell in love with art history in a villa just outside of Florence. I explored museums, cemeteries, and sewers in Paris, and I took university classes with French students in Aix-en-Provence. Each experience played a major role in my academic trajectory and my professional endeavors.”

—Marina Gross-Hoy (A.B. ’11), Ph.D. Student in Museum Studies, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, Canada
We all had our favorite spots on campus—the Diag, the Arb, the endless restaurants in Ann Arbor. While the look of campus may change, the spirit of our Uncommon Campus stays the same.
CAMPUS UPDATES

If you’ve been back to campus recently, you probably noticed some big changes happening. The U-M Museum of Natural History will be moving into the new Biological Science Building (BSB) next door. The BSB will have more interactive exhibits, a new Digital Dome Theater, and labs where visitors will be able to see U-M scientists conducting research. As for the Ruthven Building, the structure will undergo a renovation to accommodate the President’s Office that will be moving from the Fleming Administration Building. The Ruthven project will also include active-learning classrooms and dry laboratories.

The BSB isn’t the only new addition on campus. The LSA Building will be expanding to house LSA’s Opportunity Hub. Take a look at the new building designs here and read more about this exciting endeavor on the next page.
LEADING IN THOUGHT

A liberal arts education is more relevant than ever before as industries shift and jobs come and go. The mission of the LSA Opportunity Hub is to encourage students to explore the connection between their liberal arts education and their goals and aspirations. This will be a space where students can discover internship and job opportunities, find resources to support these experiences, and connect with alumni and employers who want to help facilitate their success.

The efforts of the Hub are focused on four cornerstones:

1. **Internships**
   Internship opportunities are key for students to gain real-world experiences and demonstrate their skills and abilities. The Opportunity Network—our resource for connecting students to employers who are interested in hiring interns—continues to grow both domestically and internationally. As the number of opportunities posted in the network continue to grow, LSA has already provided 440 student interns more than $860,000 in support this year.

2. **Employer Engagement**
   The Hub strives to host employers from a variety of industries to share information regarding internships and career opportunities with students. Learn more about how to host an information session at the LSA Opportunity Hub [here](#).

3. **Coaching and Prep**
   LSA offers courses in Applied Liberal Arts that students can take to learn about internships, professional writing, and presentation skills. These courses are designed to help students prepare for life after college.

4. **Alumni Engagement**
   As the largest college at the University of Michigan, LSA has alumni around the world who are willing to [coach and mentor students](#). Their careers and life experiences exemplify how students can leverage their degrees.

“... A liberal arts and sciences education prepares our students to be lifelong learners, who not only can adapt to change, they lead it.”

— Andrew D. Martin, Professor of Political Science and Statistics, Dean, College of LSA
BECAUSE OF ALUMNI LIKE YOU

LOOKING FORWARD

LSA’s vision for the future is made stronger when our alumni are engaged with the College. It is because of alumni like you—who have taken the time to share your thoughts and experiences with the College Connections Program—that LSA will continue to improve upon the liberal arts experience.

HOW DO YOU STAY ENGAGED?
More than one could be selected.

VISITING CAMPUS 41%
MICHIGAN SPORTS 38%
GIVING 25%
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 25%
LSA MAGAZINE 11%
There are many aspects of the university to be proud of: the power of a Michigan degree and the reputation it carries, the alumni network, and the vast opportunities available to students are top strengths you recognized.

While there are many strengths the University gets recognized for, there is always room for improvement. Thirteen percent of you are concerned with the affordability of higher education and want a Michigan education to be accessible to all students. LSA shares this concern, and offers scholarship support to provide access for classes, internships, and study abroad experiences. LSA’s largest scholarship cohort is the Kessler Presidential Scholars, which provides scholarship support and a strong sense of community to a group of U-M students who would otherwise not have been able to attend Michigan.

Many of you also expressed concerns that there is not enough diversity at the University. LSA emphasizes the value of a diverse campus, and will continue to support diversity initiatives through programs like the LSA Comprehensive Studies Program and strategic plans for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Top Strengths
1. Academic reputation 45%
2. Degree is valuable 26%
3. Proud of alumni network 17%
4. Vast opportunities 16%

Top Concerns
1. Affordability of higher education 13%
2. Not enough diversity/inclusiveness 6%
3. Too big 4%
4. Too focused on athletics 2%
PROGRAM UPDATES

The LSA Young Alumni Council (YAC) is a group of young alumni who serve as ambassadors of the College. The council facilitates connections and fosters a culture of giving and engagement in our young alumni community. There are currently 334 recent graduates involved in the YAC Network, 151 of them are council members.

GIVING BLUEDAY

U-M’s annual online giving day, Giving Blueday, had its most successful year yet. In 24 hours, 7,364 participants raised $5,541,901 for Michigan. The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences had more donors than any other department and the Biological Station raised the largest amount of funds to a single department.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The LSA Summer Mentorship Program started in 2013 and has continued to facilitate mentor/mentee relationships between students and alumni. This year, the mentorship program paired students and alumni across 15 regions in the U.S.

“It is an honor to give back for Giving Blueday because I know firsthand the difficulties students face during their time of study. Financial gifts are so important because they can really make a difference in a student’s experience. I was able to study abroad in Germany because of a gift. That is why, as an alumna, I will keep advocating for students.”

— Kendall Johnson (B.S. ‘15, M.S.W ‘16), Social Work Ph.D. Student, Boston University, Detroit, MI
TEAM UPDATES

Samantha joined the College Connections team back in May 2016 after obtaining her degree in psychology with a minor in business administration. Born and raised in Holland, Michigan, Samantha followed in the footsteps of her older brother, Alex (B.B.A. ’13), from the shores of Lake Michigan to the bleachers of the Big House. As an undergrad, Samantha was heavily involved with Appreciate + Reciprocate, a philanthropic student organization that volunteers in the community and also fundraises for the LSA Appreciate + Reciprocate Endowed Scholarship. This experience led Samantha to the Development Summer Internship Program (D-SIP), where she worked on a fundraising plan for a teen space at Ypsilanti District Library. She also served a brief stint as a sports writer for the Michigan Daily. Samantha’s love for the University, strong belief in the value of a liberal arts education, and appreciation for people and stories of all kinds sparked her interest in alumni relations. In her spare time, you can find Samantha watching basketball and football, spending time with family and friends, running, reading, and fishing.

Joe joined College Connections in November 2016 after graduating from LSA in the spring of the same year with an A.B. in Program in the Environment. Raised in Traverse City, MI, he was very involved in his community, volunteering with the Traverse City Film Festival for five years. In 2014, he received an LSA internship scholarship and spent the summer working full-time for the festival. He returned in 2015 and 2016 as a manager. As a student, Joe was a member of the Graham Sustainability Scholars, serving as the education assistant for the Graham Institute his senior year. He participated in an eye-opening trip to Australia and New Zealand through the program, studying the region’s progressive sustainable business and policy initiatives. In addition, Joe served on the leadership team of Circle K, the University’s largest community service organization, facilitating a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for students. In 2013, he cofounded U-M’s chapter of FeelGood, a nationwide nonprofit that aims to sustainably end world poverty by 2030 through educational initiatives and grilled cheese delis that fundraise for the cause. He loves U-M football, attending concerts, seeing new places, and helping alumni tell their stories.

Amanda joined the College Connections team in October 2016 after graduating from LSA in May of 2016 with an A.B. in Political Science. Amanda hails from Saginaw, Michigan, and comes from a big Wolverine family, with her mother and three uncles having attended the University. As an undergrad, Amanda worked in many areas of the University including Telefund, LSA-DMC, and the LSA International Internship Program. She also devoted her time to various student organizations including Student Food Co., a student-run produce stand that provides affordable and consciously sourced produce on campus and Zeta Tau Alpha, a sorority whose philanthropic efforts support breast cancer education and awareness. In the summer of 2015, Amanda participated in two international internships that lead her to a FTSE 100 insurance company in Cardiff, Wales, and the National Coastal Agency of Tirana, Albania. In both countries, she worked as a communications intern and had invaluable professional and cultural experiences. Amanda’s passion and appreciation for the liberal arts and her love of meeting new people inspired her to work for College Connections. During her free time, Amanda enjoys traveling, reading, and trying new restaurants around Ann Arbor.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?


- **Christina Pechette** (2014–2016) will be saying goodbye to Michigan this fall and will be heading to Boston to pursue a Master’s in Public Health at Harvard University.

- **Monica Philipp** (2014–2016) is completing her first year as Regional Director of Development for LSA and has been enjoying her constant travel to visit with our West Coast alumni.

- **Patrick Pjesky** (2015–2016) now works for Google as an Account Strategist.

- **Ellie Chessen** (2012–2015) received her master’s degree from the U-M Ford School of Public Policy. In the fall, she will move to Washington, D.C., to join Deloitte’s federal consulting practice.

- **Mark Chou** (2013–2015) recently moved to the Bay Area and accepted a job as a product specialist with Facebook.

- **Kathleen Hinkley** (2011–2014) was recently appointed the Director of Development at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

- **Jenny Howard** (2009–2012) lives in Ann Arbor and serves as LSA’s Director of Planned Giving and as a major gift officer on our Central States team. She will be celebrating eight years with LSA Development in August.

- **Elizabeth Williams** (2009–2012) moved back to Ann Arbor from Washington, D.C. last fall! She is still fundraising for the University of Michigan, but is now part of the University’s central development team in Washtenaw County and Southeast Michigan.

- **Tina Sula** (2008–2012) is now with the Henry Ford Health System as a Chief Development Officer and continues to stay involved with the College as a lecturer in the LSA Program in International and Comparative Studies. She and her husband, Elvis, just had their first child, Zara!
As Michigan celebrates its bicentennial, we are grateful to have alumni like you who have been a part of its history and made it the great institution it is today.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORIES, your post-graduate experiences, and your honest feedback with the College. Your thoughts are now part of Michigan history, and your perspectives will help us continue to make informed decisions regarding the future of the College.
GET CONNECTED

Want to get more involved in the College?
Discover ways you can engage or re-engage with LSA:

- Post an internship with the Opportunity Hub
- Join the College Connections Mentorship LinkedIn Group
- Join the LSA Young Alumni Council
- Sign up for the Young Alumni Newsletter
- Mentor a Student
- Give to the LSA Annual Fund or your favorite department