

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

RISE

RESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE
ON THE STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

RISE 2017-2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Residential Initiative *on the* Study
of the Environment at **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Create, Grow, Connect: A Community of
Learners Committed to Stewardship &
Environmental Sustainability*

REPORT CONTENTS

3 | Recruitment Efforts

3 | RISE Growth

4 | Land Grant Goods

5 | Peer Mentor Program

5 | NSC 292 Contemplative Practices for Resilience

6 | Soichiro Kurachi Endowment

7 | Japan Corn Starch Summer Study Internship

8-9 | Co-Curricular Teams

Liberty Hyde Bailey Hydroponics
Sustainable Stories Blog Team
Health & Wellness
Bee Team

10 | Graduates by College

11 | Student Awards & Leaders

12 | Thank You RISE Partners!

April 15, 2018

One cannot look back on this year without recognizing the tragedy our institution faced as details from the Nassar case were revealed. The horrors of this abuse of power shook us to the core and continue to reverberate through our community. In light of this tragedy we have doubled our efforts and commitment to providing our students with a living learning environment that is safe and inclusive. We are proud of our students who have created a new RISE Health and Wellness team focused on providing restorative workshops to educate their peers about mental and physical self-care. As leaders at MSU, Heather and I continue to advocate for university resources to provide students with improved access for counseling and psychiatric services. We both recently received training in intergroup dialogue in an effort to support the university-wide culture change in becoming a place where listening is valued.

As a testimony to our students' incredible resilience you will find in the following pages stories of great work towards a better future. RISE students have expanded the Bailey Tea Project to become MSU's first ever student-run business, Land Grant Goods. We are exploring new ways to cultivate mushrooms in our passive solar hoophouse. Our Campus Fair-Trade team recently attended a national conference in Washington DC in order to bring back best practices to MSU. In 2018 we will award two scholarships from our newly established Soichiro Kurachi RISE Student Leader Endowment and we will send three students to Japan to study international sustainable business practices.

We hope you will be continually inspired by our student's commitment to change.

Laurie Thorp
Laurie Thorp, PhD
Director, RISE

Heather Shea
Heather Shea





"Plants go through stages of development from seed to maturity. While people and plants are rather different, both plants and people grow. My experience with RISE can be compared to the growth of plants."

CORRINE JOHNSTON-CANR, RISE CLASS OF 2020



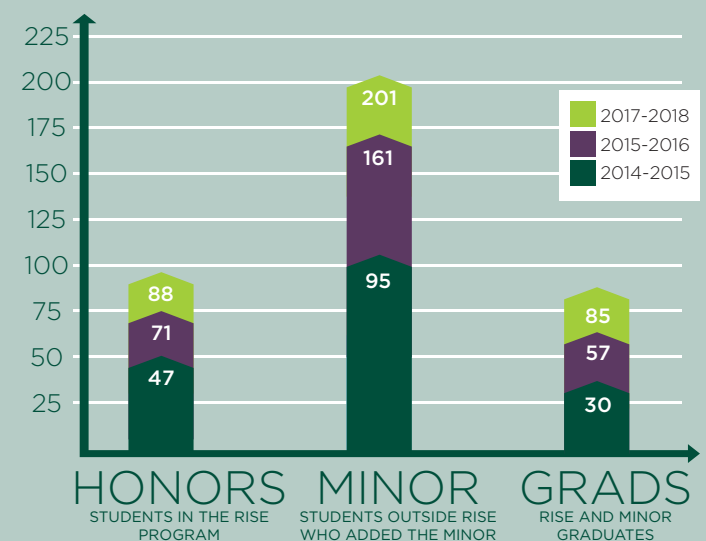
Recruiting the students who will be our future **RISE CHANGE AGENTS**

We are especially proud of our recruitment efforts this year. Led by Heather and assisted by our MSU Student Affairs practicum student **Karlee Moxley** and several undergraduates we witnessed the largest turnout for our annual RISE Open House with over 125 attendees. We are clearly seeing the fruits of our labor pay off in the quality of our recruits. The strength of our facilities combined with our experiential learning pedagogy is attracting high performing students with a wealth of prior environmental leadership experience. This year we anticipate at least **four Academic Distinguished Scholars** and a **University Distinguished Scholar** in our fall 2018 cohort. The **average ACT score for this cohort is 30**, up from an average of 27 last year.

The RISE Academic Orientation Program (AOP) Prep workshop is held in April prior to the university orientations that occur throughout the summer. The aim of this day is for students to become acquainted with the MSU colleges in order to find their best fit. Students will leave with a foundational understanding of self-awareness and their own areas of interest. The session includes student panels and conversations around passion, skills, and self-authorship and characteristics of students that are in each MSU college. AOP

Prep aims to improve self-assessment of skills and strong interests in career paths, to promote a safe space for self-discovery, and to provide the opportunity for real conversations about career exploration by introducing the conversation of what truly makes up a major. Students leave AOP Prep with points of contact within RISE and the ability to begin navigating the MSU system to be best prepared for AOP sessions in the summer.

>> RISE Continues to **GROW**



>> Did You **KNOW?**

75% of first-year RISE students have signed up to return to on-campus housing next year!

RISE return rate is up from 72% last year and compared to 34.7% of all students not in an LLC.



Founding CEOs Bethany Kogut and Alex Marx with CFO Jake Standefer and COO Abdullah Mohammed.

“RISE has provided me a safe haven full of people that challenge me to be the best person I can be and have helped me find and develop my passions.”

BETHANY KOGUT - EDUCATION, RISE CLASS OF 2018

LAND GRANT GOODS Goes Green for Good

This year marked the first full year of business for MSU’s first ever student-run business Land Grant Goods. As a fulfillment of the provost’s vision for expanded entrepreneurial skill building at MSU, this business has provided students from multiple majors and colleges “hands-on” experience with running a value-added agricultural start-up. The student leaders report to a board of directors comprised of the participating partners for the business: Neil Kane, Director for Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Paul Jacques, Spartan Innovations, Ken Szymusziak, Broad College of Business, and Laurie Thorp, RISE Program. All products are made from products grown organically at Bailey Greenhouse and Urban Farm or the MSU Student Organic Farm. You can purchase LGG products online (landgrantgoods.com) or at the **1855 Place Spartan Market** and the **MSU Surplus Store**.



Drew Frommelt, Evan Beresford, and Hannah Monville sell LGG products at the MSU Surplus Store. While Abdullah Mohammed shows off the product line at 1885 Place.



RISE Mentors enjoy a retreat at Woldumar Nature Center.



Supporting Transitions & Student Success through our **PEER MENTORING PROGRAM**

Now in its fifth year, the RISE peer mentor program continued to provide support for student transitions and academic success at MSU via intentional outreach, RISE events, and one-on-one support. Our peer mentor program pairs experienced second-year students with incoming first year students. This year's mentor cohort was the largest

we've ever had (19!) and many of the mentors served in dual roles as tutors, NSC 192 learning assistants, and team leaders. The Mentor Coordinator, **Cameron Andrews**, provided support to mentors as they assisted first year students. For next year, the RISE Mentor Program will be one of the Pilot Activities for Michigan State University's **Co-Curricular Record**.



NSC 292 in the Baker Woodlot



Heather and Laurie working at BGHUF.



"RISE is more than just a program. It is, in simple terms, a community."

DON NGUYEN - NATSCI, RISE CLASS OF 2020

Contemplative Practices for Environmental and Community **RESILIENCE**

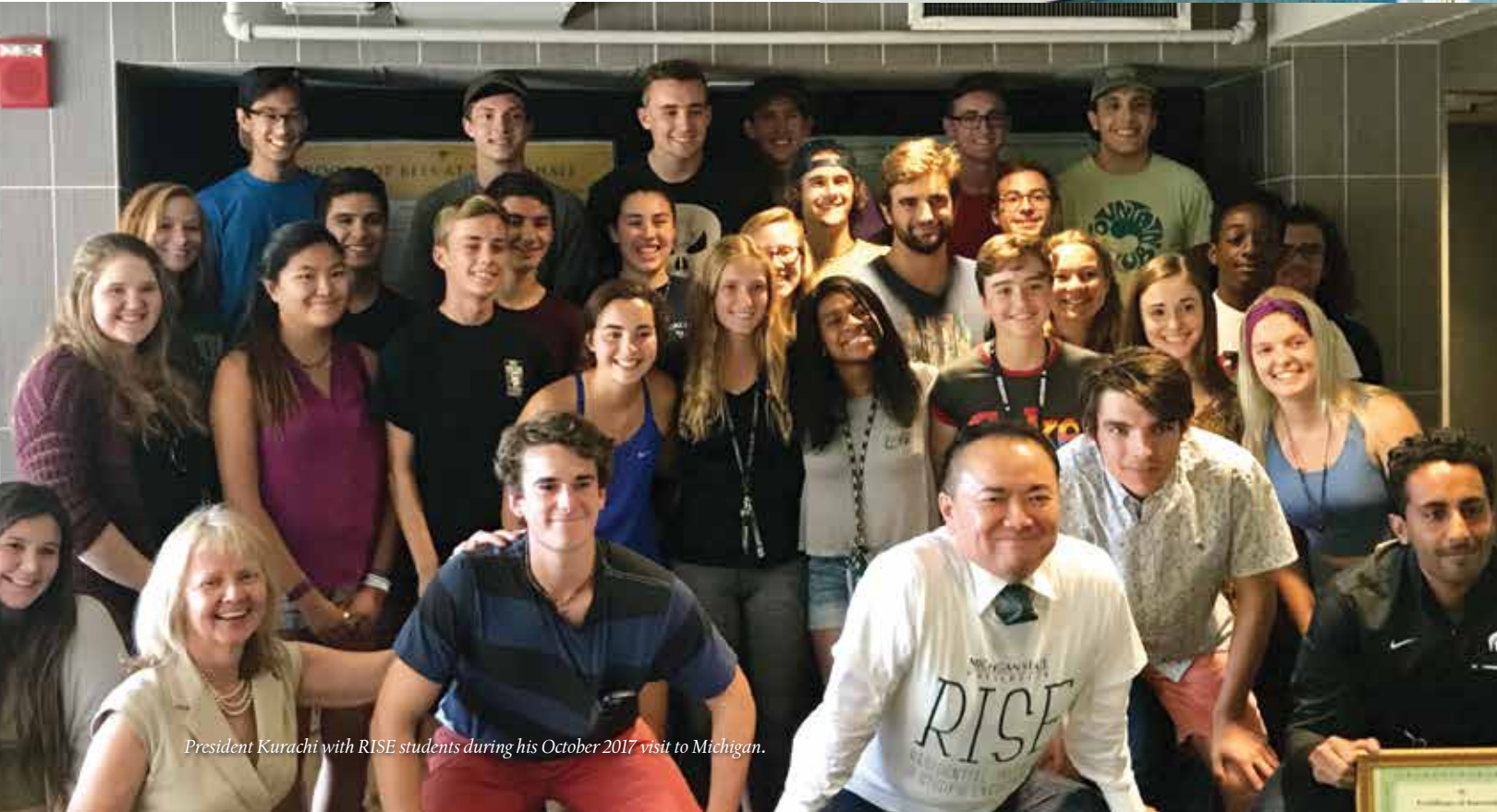
In the spring semester, **Drs. Lissy Goralnik, Robby Richardson** and **Laurie Thorp** facilitated a 2-credit seminar on contemplative practices for ecological resilience. The course is designed to explore how contemplative practices can help sustainability learners and leaders develop individual resilience, in ways that support the development of resilient communities, who can then work collaboratively toward resilient socio-ecological systems. Each class includes short group practices with longer weekly explorations of other contemplative practices as well as creative

and contemplative readings and open dialogue. Contemplative practices can help students find balance in their commitments, as they strengthen their inner reserves and develop skills to not only cope, but to flourish in the academic and activist environments. As well, working with breath and body can re-ignite a connection one's whole self in a way that can inform environmental learning and practice, while also healing and sustaining one to do good work on behalf of communities and the natural world.

We are Grateful for Global Partnerships and **TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS**

Soichiro Kurachi Endowed Scholarship for Emerging Leaders in RISE

We are exceedingly grateful this year for our partnership with **President Soichiro Kurachi** of Japan Corn Starch. President Kurachi has a long history working with Michigan State University and Professor Ramani Narayan on compostable plastics. He has a deep commitment to international exchange in education and sustainable business practices. RISE was identified by President Kurachi as an exemplary academic program for his daughter to study environmental leadership for women. Following her experience with RISE, Erika Kurachi went on to be awarded the opportunity to study at University of Illinois. Because of our mentoring and leadership development for his daughter, President Kurachi chose to establish the Soichiro Kurachi Endowed Scholarship for emerging leaders in RISE. This gift of \$125,000 will allow us to award two deserving RISE leaders annually with academic scholarships.



President Kurachi with RISE students during his October 2017 visit to Michigan.



2017 JCS Interns Alex Marx and Abdullah Mohammed with President Kurachi.

An Opportunity *to* **LEAD**

JCS Summer Study Program

In addition to the generous gift to establish the Soichiro Kurachi Endowment, President Kurachi has made an annual commitment to bring two to three RISE students to Japan for a 10-day summer study program. The expenses for this program are entirely covered by Japan Corn Starch.

RISE students will have the opportunity to travel to Japan and experience multiple aspects of a large international agricultural business first-hand. Japan Corn Starch is a 150 year-old business focused on the production of: bioplastics, corn-starch, pharmaceutical cornstarch, corn sweetener, and rice starch. JCS is a world leader in sustainable practices including composting of production waste materials, CO2 reduction, recycling and other forms of pollution prevention. JCS also supports US farmers who produce non-GMO corn.

During this intensive internship, students will visit the JCS corporate headquarters in Tokyo and tour the Kinuura Plant in order to see all aspects of

production. Students will have the opportunity to meet with CEO and President Soichiro Kurachi, along with directors of Research and Development, Sales, Marketing, Quality Control, and Purchasing.

New in 2018, students will tour the site of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster to learn more about the impact and aftermath of the tsunami on this region.

Included in this study program are several cultural tours to provide our students with exposure to historical and cross-cultural learning. Students will experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, tour a Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple, dine on authentic Japanese cuisine, visit Mt. Fuji, sightseeing in Nagoya and Tokyo.

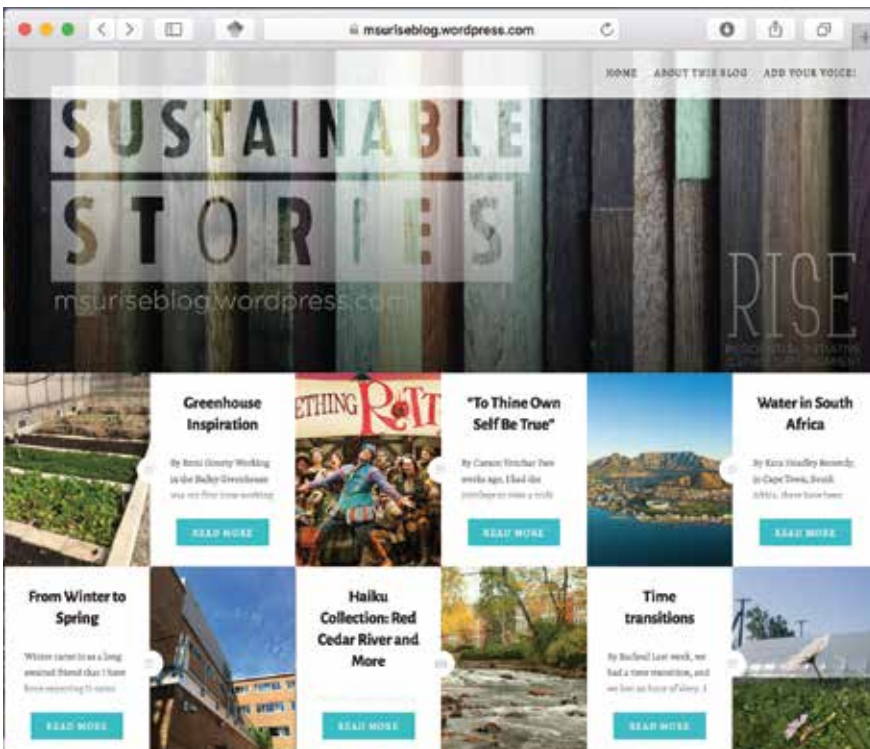
Summer program participants in 2018 are **Evan Beresford, Lauren Lepsky, and Eleanor Kole.**

Interdisciplinary Experiential Learning through **CO-CURRICULAR TEAMS**

Our co-curricular teams are the heart and soul of the experiential learning we embrace in RISE. Each year in NSC 192 we require our students to provide 10 hours of engagement with their favorite RISE team project. Every year the scope and variety of teams varies, however, some of our perennial favorites include: compost, worms, cooking workshops, bees and mushrooms. These high-impact practices allow students the opportunity to engage in real campus change initiatives, develop team leadership skills and interdisciplinary communication. Although the teams are formed in the fall semester we foster the growth of these teams into spring semester. Sophomores and juniors typically provide continuity of leadership for the projects.

Liberty Hyde Bailey Hydroponics

First-year students **Ashley Wright** and **Caleb Spall** are exploring the viability of growing herbs hydroponically in Bailey Hall. This team was very successful in garnering equipment donations from Botanicare Plant Energy Products and High Tech Garden Supply. The hydroponic system is a pilot project to explore both growing plants in a limited space (often urban) as well as the need to reduce water use and waste. Our first successful crop was Thai basil grown from January through March and sold to our partners in **MSU Culinary Services**.



Sustainable Stories Blog Team

It was the best of blogs, it was the worst of blogs. It was an age of Wordpress, it was an age of poorly thought out parody intros.

The RISE blog, Sustainable Stories, is a student-run blog (edited by **Kara Headley**, **Haylie May**, and **Racheal Nassimbwa**) that posts weekly articles about environmental news, RISE events, and other things. The blog team members work together to create

a supportive environment where any writer can publish their work. Our goal is to make environmental news accessible to everyone in an easy to read and entertaining way. In between news, we publish articles about the different activities RISE students participate in, like yoga nights, movie nights, and working in the greenhouse. Sometimes the articles feature stories about entertainment, like movie reviews and strange places to sleep. The blog team is a place where students can grow their writing skills and make new friends.



"The unconditional support and compassion I've felt in the RISE community has inspired the presence I try to bring into my daily life."

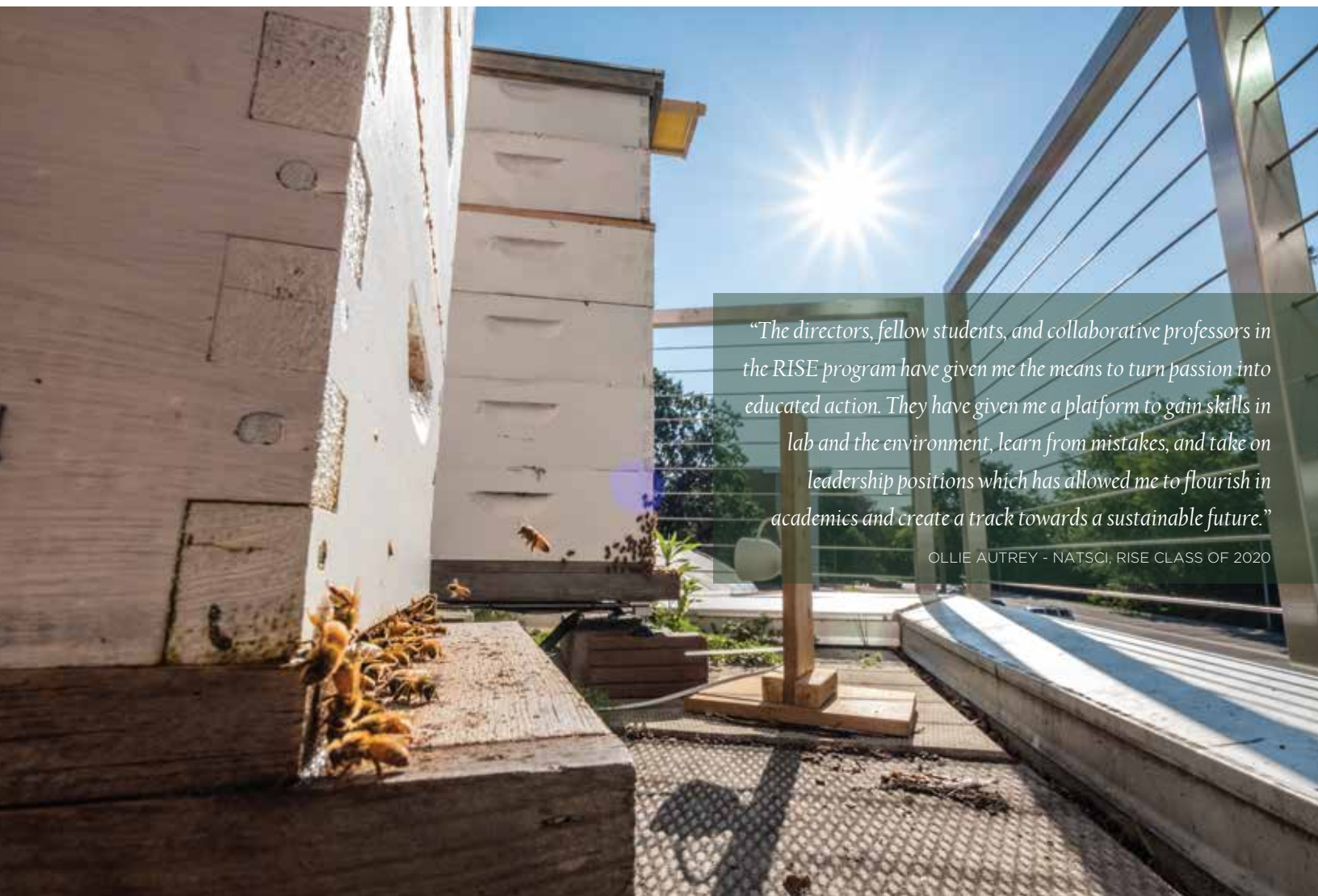
HALEY FERER - CANR, RISE CLASS OF 2018

Health & Wellness

This new team was created by **Hannah Grindling** and several first-year RISE students in response to the increasing need to develop coping strategies for stress, anxiety, depression and a host of mental health issues. The Health and Wellness team has hosted throughout the year a series of workshops to provide their peers with skills such as yoga, mindfulness, time-management, and a variety of therapeutic crafts.

Bee Team

Our Bee Team continues to hum along with the extraordinary news that our rooftop colonies have survived the long Michigan winter and Varroa infestation! The team held several workshops for Brody residents and **Oliver Autrey**, **Michal Babinski**, and **Anna Jullie** presented their work at the Clinton Global Initiative University. They have also presented their project at a meeting of the mid-Michigan beekeepers organization. Several local elementary schools have also learned about the wonders of bees thanks to the Bee Team.



"The directors, fellow students, and collaborative professors in the RISE program have given me the means to turn passion into educated action. They have given me a platform to gain skills in lab and the environment, learn from mistakes, and take on leadership positions which has allowed me to flourish in academics and create a track towards a sustainable future."

OLLIE AUTREY - NATSCI, RISE CLASS OF 2020

MAY 2018 RISE GRADUATES

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sabrina Alafita- FW
 Alex Albers-Nutri Sci
 Sierra Barfield- FOR
 Sarah Ebaugh-Food Sci
 Blake Erhart- EEP
 Ashely Dixon-FW
 Jack Duvall-EEM
 Haley Ferer-PKG
 Kristen Field-FOR
 Zachary Forbush- SPRT
 Bret Foster-FOR
 Degen Gembarowski-HRT
 Anna Marie Hense-PKG
 Taylor Hess-FOR
 Shane Hoey-PKG
 Kera Howell-AFNRE
 Colleen Joseph-Nutri Sci
 Alysha Keeling-ESS
 Joshua Knoll-EEP
 Nathan Lee- EEM
 Katie Mercer-FOR
 Nicole Mosteller-ESS
 Shaina Opperman-ESS
 Caroline Redick- EEP-
 Jacqueline Rogge-ESS
 Jack Schumacher-PKG
 Tegan Servo-PKG
 Zack Thomas-PKG
 Espoir Tuyisenge-FIM
 Maggie Vroman -PKG
 Becky Wildt- FW
 Jess Wiley- ANS

Eli Broad College of Business

Christiana Apol- FIN
 Jeff Barko-Supply Chain
 Abbey Baum-HRM
 Stephen Brown-Supply Chain
 Juliet Degain-Supply Chain
 Savannah Krull- Supply Chain
 Victoria Qiao-MGMT
 Brittany Shaheen- MKT
 Kaylee Zajac- Supply Chain

College of Natural Science

Darlene Brennan- Biochem
 Nicole Featherstone- ZOL
 Nick Green- ZOL

Environmental & Sustainability Studies Minor

Ariana Hernandez-ZOL
 Kathyryne Johnston-EBM
 Hannah Macdonald-Earth Sci
 Cody Madsen-Biochem
 Michelle Michaels-Earth Sci
 Nicole Robichaud-ZOL
 Nur Sapuan- EBZ
 Lucy Schroeder-PB
 Dave Urich- Hum Bio
 Isaac Walton-ZOL
 Nicholas Wilson- Hum Bio
 Erin Zimmer-EBZ

College of Social Science

Grace Clark-ISS
 Zach Grover-CJ
 Amy Hair-ANT
 Julian Hughes-Pol Sci
 Megan Isaacson-ECON
 Joe Klawiter-Pol Sci
 Diane Lee-ISS
 Alec Manaia-Soc
 Kealan Millies-Lucke- URP

College of Engineering

Matthew Hamilton- AES
 Jarrett Janicki-Chem EGR
 Shyly Katbai-Enviro EGR
 Alexis Kontorosis-Biosystems
 Patrick Kuiper-AES
 Harrison Malach-AES
 Nikki Onopa-AES
 Marina Ostaszewski-Env EGR

College of Communication Arts and Science

Ryleigh McGregor- Com

College of Arts and Letters

Jay Hull-PW
 Hanna Kielar - PW

Lyman Briggs

Abby Sulesky-EBM

College of Education

Bethany Kogut- Primary Ed

James Madison College

Joe Lange-SRP

College of Nursing

Roberta Dankyi-Nursing



Marielle Kouassi, RISE Class of 2017, gives the Commencement Address at the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources graduation ceremony.



Dr. Thorp with Maria Cotter, RISE class of 2017, who is now in a PhD program at The Ohio State University.



Eamon Devlin, RISE Class of 2017. Currently studying at the Said Business School at Oxford University.



Dr. Thorp with Vincent Karenzi, RISE Class of 2017, MasterCard Scholar, currently working for the Rwanda Trading Company and managing his own farm.

Student Awards

SCHOLARSHIPS & HONORS

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| Lillian Slajus | STAR Scholarship | 4 year full ride |
| Jaclyn Barta | G. Malcom Trout Scholarship | \$3000 |
| John Pynnonen | Knight Center for Environmental Journalism | \$3500 |
| Bethany Kogut | Gupta Values Scholarship, UECF COE, MSU Community Club | \$9000 |
| Mary McHugh | FLAS, CAL Beyond Boundaries | \$9000 |
| Abby Branstetter | Hal and Jean Glassen Scholarship | \$5000/yr x 4 |
| Caleb Spall | Henry Ritter Scholarship | \$2100 |
| Lauren Lepsky | Trout Food Science and Nutrition | \$5000 |
| Kiera Quigley | Niles R. Kevern Scholarship | \$1000 |
| Lauren Lahie | Ann E. Parker Scholarship | \$1200/yr |
| | MSU Homecoming Court 2018-2019 | |
| Holly Pummell | Hal Glassen Scholarship | \$3000 |
| Don Nguyen | MSU Dean's Research Scholarship | \$1500 |
| | University of Michigan MD/PhD Summer Research Program | \$4500 |
| Emma Rice | Ralph E. & Patricia A. Hepp Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship | \$1000 |



THANK YOU RISE STUDENT LEADERS!

2017-2018 Mentors

Shatha Alabbad
Cameron Andrews *
Jaclyn Barta
Claire Dion
Hannah Grindling
Braedon Halle
Ethan Jodoin
Parker Johnson
Lauren Lahie
Hannah Landwerlen
Andrea Lescoe
Brittany Mae
Don Nguyen
Kiera Quigley
Max Raphelson
Jamie Raupp
Hannah Rusgo

Joseph Wakar
Mia White
Abe Yeck

Tutors

Abe Yeck
Brittany Mae
Don Ngyuen
Joe Wakar

Bailey Green Team

Rachel Burdt
Lexi Dalecki *
Degen Gembarowski
Corrine Johnston
Bethany Kogut *
Lindsay Mensch **
Caleb Spall *
Mia White **

1st Year Recruitment Team

Jaclyn Barta
Kathryn Beauchamp
Evan Beresford
Abby Branstetter *
Michael Chung
Emily Dettloff
Alison Ferer
Nicole Hawes
Zach Hayes
Natalie Kagole
Nana Krah
Lauren Lahie
Katie Mack
Karlee Moxley *
Racheal Chris Nassimba
Kaitlyn Nessler
Max Offerman

Kiera Quigley *
Jamie Raupp **
Kellie Rietsch
Nick Trolz
Faith White

Land Grant Goods Paid Staff

Evan Beresford
Zack Hayes
Bethany Kogut *
Nana Krah
Alex Marx **
Abdullah Mohammed **
Jake Standefer

* Indicates Current Coordinator/leader
** Indicates Past Coordinator/Leader

Thank You **PARTNERS!**

We couldn't do it without you. Heartfelt thanks to you our community partners who create a network of care and support for our students.

Neil Kane, Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Ken Szymusziak, Broad College of Business
Paul Jacques, Spartan Innovations
Chris Sell, Spartan Innovations
Denae Friedheim, Student Organic Farm
Mike Hamm, Department of Community Sustainability
Lissy Goralnik, Department of Community Sustainability
Robby Richardson, Department of Community Sustainability
Kurt Kwiatkowski, Culinary Services
Meghan Milbrath, Department of Entomology
Greg Bonito, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Science
Michael and Donna Kaplowitz
Becky Jo Farrington, College of Natural Science
Daniel Spadafore, International Studies and Programs
Angha Childress, International Studies and Programs
Tom March, MSU Surplus
Jennifer Kay, Residential Education and Housing Services
Vennie Gore, Auxillary Services
Daniel Delaney, Sparty's Market

...and our many friends at:

Culinary Services
IPF Sustainability
Residential and Hospitality Services
Residential Education and Housing Services
Housing Assignments Office
College of Natural Science
College of Agriculture And Natural Resources
College of Engineering
Eli Broad College of Business
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
College of Social Science
College of Arts And Letters



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