This was the year of resilience and purpose. Increasingly we are seeing our students demonstrate their ability to persist and work through challenging situations ranging from interpersonal to large-scale social problems. Utilizing RISE community resources students are learning to form coalitions, seek help, speak up, organize and bounce back.

Additionally, as we continue to intervene earlier in our advising and mentoring of our first-year students, we are observing students finding their purpose sooner and with less churn. We credit our peer mentors and the depth of their commitment to first-year student success. The sense of community support and monthly student success programming provides important regular touch points for our first-year cohort.

We hope you are inspired by their stories of persistence, perseverance and change.

Laurie Thorp, PhD
Director, RISE

Heather Shea Gasser
Assistant Director, RISE
BY THE NUMBERS

- 247 LBS OF COMPOST
  - In-room composting diverted 247 lbs of food waste from the landfill
- 30,000 HONEYBEES
  - Residing on our green roof
- 50 FUNGI LOGS
  - Cultivating shiitake mushrooms at Bailey
- 67 DIFFERENT MAJORS
  - Diversity of majors participating in RISE
- 36 COMPOST BINS
  - Distributed to RISE students
- 161 AVERAGE ACT
  - For our 2016 incoming cohort
- 34 DIFFERENT CROPS
  - Grown at the Bailey greenhouse & urban farm
- 120 AVERAGE ACT
  - For our 2016 incoming cohort
- 200 RISE RESIDENTS
  - Over 200 students across all classes live in Bailey Hall
- 7 COLLEGES
  - Affiliated with RISE
- $12,230 GRANTS
  - Student grant funding received this year

SOCIAL MEDIA

@msuRISE
- 814 Followers on Twitter
/MichiganStateU.RISE
- 479 “Likes” on Facebook
Sustainable Stories
- msuriseblog.wordpress.com
  - 58 posts / 1,879 views
  - 950 visitors

GROWTH THIS YEAR

- 161 HONORS
  - Students in the RISE program
- 95 MINOR
  - Students outside RISE added the minor
- 57 GRADS
  - RISE and minor graduates
- This Year
- Last Year
Ten Spartans attended the Clinton Global Initiative University annual meeting in California in April based on their ambitious plans to address areas such as education, poverty and the environment.

Former President Bill Clinton launched the CGI U to engage a growing network of young leaders who are developing innovative solutions to pressing world challenges. Students are selected to attend the annual meeting based on their Commitment to Action: a new, specific and measurable plan that addresses an issue on their campus, in their local community or around world.

“The projects from this diverse and impressive group of Michigan State University undergraduate students demonstrates that entrepreneurial thinking applies to social ventures and can be harnessed to bring significant change to the world,” said Neil Kane, MSU’s director of undergraduate entrepreneurship.

Bridge to Health: Roberta Dankyi

Roberta Dankyi is a Master Card Scholar, second-year Honors College nursing student. Her Commitment to Action is a healthcare initiative that will train healthcare professionals to serve as the bridge that will train these professionals to educate women and girls on the risk, symptoms and prevention of cervical and breast cancer.

Garden Buddies: Eamon Devlin, Haley Fulco, Bethany Kogut

Eamon Devlin is a junior in the Honors College studying environmental studies and sustainability, Haley Fulco is a freshman in the Honors College studying zoology and Bethany Kogut is a sophomore in the Honors College studying elementary education. Their Garden Buddies Commitment to Action is applying horticultural knowledge in an innovative way to support families who want to grow nutritious food. By providing families with hands-on training and support, students will help them extend the growing season and produce high-quality nutritious food with minimal inputs.

Meals for Mealworms: Mathew Huber, Lindsay Mensch, Kirsten West

Mathew Huber is a freshman environmental science major, Lindsay Mensch is a freshman in the Honors College studying English and Kirsten West is a freshman packaging major. Their Meals for Mealworms Commitment to Action is to research the ability of mealworms to decompose polystyrene waste and to educate students at MSU about the harmful effects of polystyrene. Mealworms can digest polystyrene and break it down into nontoxic organic matter.

“RISE has helped me to become an influential leader by helping me find my abilities through risk and failure.”

BETHANY KOGUT-COE
3 RISE Scholars Nominated for Udall

The Udall Foundation awards scholarships to college sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to American Indian nations or to the environment. Each year, the foundation awards up to $7,000 for educational expenses to 60 outstanding students in the United States.

Hannah MacDonald, a sophomore majoring in environmental geosciences in the College of Natural Science is among four undergraduate students nominated by Michigan State University for the nationally competitive Udall Scholarship. MacDonald is from Alpena, MI, and is a graduate of Alpena High School. Also a member of the Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment (RISE), MacDonald currently interns at the Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory and has conducted sea turtle research in the Bahamas.

Eamon Devlin hails from Farmington Hills, Michigan and is a graduate of Harrison High School. He is a mentor in the Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment (RISE), and has conducted vermicomposting research. Additionally, he’s participated in study abroad experiences in Antarctica and New Zealand, and study away experiences at Yellowstone National Park and in Washington, D.C.

Alex Manaia is from Rochester, Michigan and is a graduate of Stoney Creek High School. He’s a research assistant for the African Atlantic Research Team, a volunteer for the Lansing Refugee Development Center and director of media and design for Global Youth for Education and Change MSU. He’s previously served as a research intern for the MSU Department of Forestry and UrbandaleFarm in Lansing.

“In our interconnected world, I aspire to make our world a more sustainable place by focusing on human systems and inspiring others to understand their impact to the environment within their daily lives”

EAMON DEVLIN - CANR

Congratulations on the nomination Hannah, Eamon, and Alex!
We are especially proud of the high-impact learning that occurs as a result of our student-led co-curricular projects. These projects provide opportunities for students to build skills and capacity to:

- Transfer knowledge to complex new situations
- Make sound judgments in the absence of rules
- Engage in collaborative decision making
- Solve novel problems
- Cultivate the capacity for lifelong learning
- Practice self-evaluation in a learning community
- The products of our program are tools for learning.
Undergraduate Grants Funded 2016
Be Spartan Green Student Fund

Each year, first-year students in the RISE seminar (NSC 192) write grants to improve campus sustainability. This assignment positions students to develop their skills in interdisciplinary teamwork, communication, and solving complex problems. Students must identify a campus partner (faculty or staff) and formulate proposals that include programming, anticipated outcomes, and evaluation. Our students were very successful this year in garnering funds to support their projects.

Bailey Hall Resale Shop-$1480
Collaboration with MSU Surplus Store
The goal of this project is to foster a culture of reuse at MSU while increasing landfill diversion efforts on campus. While the MSU Surplus Store fills this role, the location and hours of operation are inconvenient for most students. Sales using Surplus Store goods will be sold in Bailey Hall or Brody Building with profits being returned to the Surplus Store. The team will also survey the student body to determine attitudes towards reuse and awareness of the Surplus Store.

Allison Farmer- Enviro GeoSci and Terrance Beebe-FIM

Bailey Mushroom Project-$2250
Collaboration with Professor Greg Bonito Plant Soil and Microbial Science
The goal of this project is to educate MSU students about mycology from a scientific perspective as well as commercial opportunities related to fungi. Currently scientists are using fungi for bioremediation, sustainable packaging and pest prevention in agricultural systems. Growing shitake mushrooms as part of the Bailey Hall Greenhouse and Urban Farm will provide students with direct opportunities to learn about these exciting new fields while producing healthy and delicious food for sale to our campus chefs.

Melissa Eggleston- HRT, Sarah Ruth –ESS, Degan Gembarowski-HRT

“RISE has given me a sense of purpose and has allowed me to flourish at Michigan State University. It has showed me that I am welcomed and that people appreciate my thoughts and what I accomplish.”

ALEX MARX-CNS
Meals for Mealworms- $3200
Collaboration with Professor Rafael Auras, Packaging and Cayden Bunnell Compost Manager MSU Recycling Center
This pilot study is designed to research the feasibility of mealworm polystyrene decomposition. The team would also like to find useful applications for the organic waste produced by mealworms that have digested polystyrene. Outreach and engagement workshops with undergraduate peers to educate about Styrofoam reduction will be provided throughout the 2016-17 year.
Kirsten West- PKG, Matt Huber- ESS, Lindsay Mensch- PW

Bailey Compost Initiative- $4000
Collaboration with Professor Ramani Narayan, EGR and Richard Lombardo, Director of Business Development, Natur-Tec Biobased Materials
Composting is a sustainable way to redirect organic waste from landfills and turning “waste” into a valuable resource especially in urban settings. The goal of this project is to scale up current residential hall composting initiative and test three different composting systems for use in campus setting. Additional experimentation to explore the ability to compost throughout winter months with freezing temperatures. Use of vermicomposting coupled with pre-composting and supplemental heat will be tested. Educating the MSU community about the need to close the food loop eliminating the need for synthetic fertilizers.
Alex Marx- ESS, Abdullah Mohammed- EGR, Selena Perez- ZOL, Brooke Desposato- FS, Anna Jean Appeldoorn- UPLA

EARTH’D Recycling Educational Video - $1300
Collaboration with IPF Sustainability
This team created a 3 minute YouTube comedic educational video “EARTH’D” to promote recycling on campus. The video has been broadly disseminated to educate their peers on the importance of recycling and how their behaviors can impact the environment on a global scale. To date the video has 363 views on YouTube. This video premiered to a large audience at the RISE Earth Day event.
Watch the YouTube: https://youtu.be/PPyfNbPz83c

“People from scientific disciplines need to work with people in the humanities to communicate the urgency of environmental issues.”
LINDSAY MENSCH - CAL
International Student Summit on Food, Agriculture and Environment 2015

Allison Stawara, HRT senior, was selected to represent the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at this prestigious event at Tokyo University of Agriculture in October 2015. At this summit students from over 30 countries convened to share projects from their home institutions and to discuss global food problems and possible solutions. Allison presented her paper, “Addressing Local Disconnect from Food in the Context of Global Climate Change”. She also presented her work with the Bailey Greenhouse and Urban Farm as a model for other colleges and universities to make food systems change.

Josh Knoll, EEM and Eamon Devlin, ESS have been selected to attend the 2016 summit. The theme for this year’s summit is Promoting Environmental Justice in the Globalization of Intensive Agricultural Systems.

Campus Compact Award

Liz Brajevich, EEP was awarded the Outstanding Community Impact Award by the Michigan Campus Compact. Only 6 students from across the state received this award. Liz was recognized because of the hundreds of hours she has spent volunteering in Lansing supporting at risk youth through: Moving Up Michigan, Haven House Shelter Partnership and St. Vincent’s Catholic Charities Group Home.
2015-2016 RISE GRADUATES
Environmental & Sustainability Studies Minor

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Andrew Bianculli-ABM
DuoQuan Blunt-FSC
Liz Brajevich-EPP *
Katelyn Burns-FW
Miya Devoogd-ESS
Joe Fox-HRT
Cameron Freisen-PKG
Geena Fritzman-FW
Genevieve Gagnier-PKG
Rachel Hurst-PKG
Matthew Jackson-NRRT
Madeline Judge-ESS
Kathryn Kaleth-ESS
Sean Martin-ESS
Rachel McDaniel-NRRT
Allison Montambeau-ESS
Michael Pokryfki-PKG
Sarah Randall-ESS
Michelle Sondergrath-CS
Abigail Spikerman-AFNRE
Allison Stawara-HRT
Allie Trudgeon-FOR
Karlo Zadro-EEP

College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Kaitlynn Graham-ADV
Dakota Johnston-MI
Colleen Otte-JRN
Nick Smith-ADV

College of Engineering
Benjamin Bailey-BE
Elisabeth Warner-ME

College of Social Science
Kelsey Allan-PSY
Christina Ignasiak-UPLA
Hailey Lobb-PS PLAW
Jesse Nagel-ECON
Guangruo Zuo-UP

College of Business
Lindsey Burwell-HOSP
Laura Castle-MRK
Bailey Esterley-SCM
Carolyn Fisher-FI
Sarah Grassa-HOSP
Shaun Hetu-SCM
Alec Latta-MRK
Marshall Williams-SCM

College of Arts and Letters
Althea Arnold-ARTS&HUM
Grace Noyola-PW

“RISE has provided me with the confidence and skill set necessary to go out in the world and change things for the better.”

LIZ BRAJEVICH - CANR

* CANR Undergraduate Commencement Speaker
“Not only am I more aware about issues concerning our environment, but I have started to **apply this critical thinking** to politics, women’s rights, and so much more.”

**VICTORIA CHAPMAN-CAL**

“I realized this community was so crucial. It has helped me get the **strength to speak** my mind, encouraged me to launch new ideas, and gave me a huge support system.... people with different interests and backgrounds decide to **collaborate** and are genuine friends.”

**MARIE CLARK-COE**
Thank You Partners!

We are a learning community with many important partners. Without these very special relationships we could never accomplish all that we do. Heartfelt thanks to you our community partners who create the network of support for our students.

Matt Raven, Department of Community Sustainability
Dale Rozeboom, Department of Animal Science
Meghan Milbrath, Department of Entomology
Greg Bonito, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science
Paul Jaques, Spartan Innovations
Michael Kaplowitz, Chair, Department of Community Sustainability
Vennie Gore, VP Auxilliary Enterprises
Marta Mittermaier, Food Stores
Jeremy Moghtader, Student Organic Farm
Neil Kane, Undergraduate Entrepreneurship
Rebecca Selesky, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
Carla Iansiti, Residential and Hospitality Services
Ann Earhart, IPF Sustainability
Kurt Kwiatkowski, Culinary Services
Barbara Sawyer-Koch and Donald Koch, Environmental Studies Spartan Scholarship
Rick Lombardo, Natur-Tec
Becky Jo Farrington, College of Natural Science

...and our many friends at:
Culinary Services
IPF Sustainability
Residential and Hospitality Services
Residential Education and Housing Services
Housing Assignments Office

THANK YOU RISE
STUDENT LEADERS!

2015-2016 RISE
MENTORS
Sierra Barfield
Kellen Boyd,
Maria Cotter *
Roberta Dankyi
Seas Devlin
Haley Ferer
Zachary Grover
Madison Hardy
Kera Howell
Josh Knoll
Alexis Kontourosis
Nick Kurtansky
Abigail Reimel
Lillian Slajus
Natasha Sloniker
Kaylee Zajac

Rise Tutors
Lizzy Burr
Sean Devlin
Mirna Kaafarani
Kevin Kern
Abdullah Mohammed
Stephen Plont
Hannah Robar

Bailey Greenteam
Kelsey Allen
Dani Blumstein
Leah Desposato
Joe Fox
Degan Gembarowski
Michael Klacking *
Bethany Kogut
Joe Snowaert
Allison Stawara *
Tyler Vuillemot *

Emerging Leaders Scholarship Recipients
Makenzie Bosworth
Victoria Chapman
Marie Clark
Haley Ferer
Zachary Grover
Madison Hardy
Kera Howell
Bethany Kogut
Alex Marx
Lindsay Mensch
Kaylee Zajac

Rise 1st Year Recruitment Team
Alex Marx
Andrea Batten
Annalisa Rocca
Brooke Desposato
Caroline Schuetz
Dalanei Willoughby
Haley Fulco
Jared Zink
Kaitlyn Thrush
Lindsay Mensch
Lizzy Burr
Lydia Noye
Maeva O'Dowd
Makenzie Bosworth
Mary McHugh
Rachael Zarger
Rachel Burdt
Sajjad Abdul-Aziz
Sara Kolar
Selena Perez
Victoria Chapman

* indicates coordinator/manager
OUR CORE VALUES

Authenticity | We value the path of personal development is grounded in living authentically, cultivating honesty with ourselves.

Community | We value our interdependence with each other and the biosphere. Healthy relationships are essential to human and planetary flourishing.

Happiness | We value happiness as an essential outgrowth of a life well lived.

Innovation | We value a safe environment where innovation, creativity, and exploration occurs.

Respect | We value connection and openness among students from varying viewpoints and backgrounds while recognizing and addressing issues of inequity and oppression so all can engage, connect, and experience success.

Stewardship | We value a network of care and support for the planet, our community, and each other.

Wisdom | We value understanding of ourselves, our life calling, and real purpose for the betterment of individuals, the community, and the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Create, Grow, Connect: A Community of Learners Committed to Stewardship and Environmental Sustainability.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After participating in the Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment, students will be able to:

Form an Opinion
Articulate multiple perspectives about complex issues. Formulate their own positions regarding these issues.

Demonstrate Leadership
Describe and demonstrate leadership practices.

Enact Social Change
Develop the knowledge, skills, and values to effectively participate in community action for social change.

Value Collaboration
Seek and value collaboration with others from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines.

Describe Strengths
Describe personal strengths, skills, and interests. Make meaningful academic, life, and career choices.

Engage in Sustainability Work
Understand the foundational concepts of sustainability. Apply concepts of sustainability to our campus and community.