

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY



09.22.23

Broad Art Museum

547 E Circle Dr • East Lansing, Michigan



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Given to alumni who have differentiated themselves by
obtaining the highest level of professional accomplishment.

COLLEGE AWARDS CEREMONY

Thank you for attending the College of Social Science Awards program. Today, we recognize the best of the best. The individuals honored are making an impact in companies, communities, Michigan State University, and around the world.

MARGARET **DIMOND**, PhD

Margaret Dimond, PhD, is an innovative and experienced healthcare leader. Margaret joined Sparrow in May of 2023 as President of Lansing based Sparrow Hospital and was promoted to Regional System President of U of M Health on September 1, 2023. Dr. Dimond has deep roots in Michigan and an extensive background in all facets of hospital operations, including acute care, ambulatory, and physician group experience. She is part of the founding team of the Michigan State University Women's Leadership Institute. Margaret received her doctorate in Philosophy from MSU, while earning a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan, a master's in Social Work from Boston College, and a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana.



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Given to College of Social Science graduates who have distinguished themselves through a high level of professional accomplishment early in their career. These individuals demonstrate a commitment to the College of Social Science through outstanding volunteer service on behalf of the university, and/or participation and leadership in meritorious public service on a local, state, national, or international level.

CHAYSE HURLEY

Chayse Hurley is a Political Science-Prelaw, Political Science Scholar and Master of Public Policy alumna. After graduating, she joined Teach for America and taught Secondary Science in Detroit. She currently serves as Program Coordinator for the Detroit InnovateGov Internship in the Political Science Department at Michigan State University. There, she places students in public service-based internships in the City of Detroit. In her spare time, Chayse spends time with her family and pastoring the youth in her local church.



ELIAS KOKALY

Elias Kokaly, an Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, is the Head of Deployment Strategy at TRM Labs, a blockchain analytics company that provides anti-financial crime solutions to crypto businesses, financial institutions and government agencies. In this role, Elias ensures TRM's public and private sector clients are successful - whether establishing a risk-based anti-money laundering program, to efficiently conducting crypto investigations. Prior to joining TRM, Elias was Special Investigations Team Lead at cryptocurrency exchange Bittrex. In this role Elias led a team engaged in complex investigations, acted as a law enforcement liaison and managed special projects.



HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Presented to Michigan State University College of Social Science supporters who have demonstrated support, aid and action, designed to maintain and protect human dignity on a global, regional, or local scale; and who has made an outstanding impact on behalf of the College of Social Science.

MIKE & DENISE
BUSLEY



Mike is co-founder, co-owner and current President of Grand Traverse Pie Company. The original Pie Shop opened in July of 1996 in Traverse City, Michigan. Mike is a 1980 graduate of Civil Engineering at MSU and, prior to pie, had a 15 year career in aerospace in Southern California. Mike is committed to using Michigan products and suppliers whenever possible and is passionate about focusing collective efforts on growing and supporting the folks who work in the pie shops. Pie is a celebration of family and tradition and he believes the “power of pie” can help create life-changing and positive impacts in communities around Michigan and Indiana.

Denise is co-founder/co-owner of Grand Traverse Pie Company. She and her husband Mike met while attending MSU for her B.S. in Microbiology (1980). After graduation, they moved to Southern California where they had their two beautiful children (Kellee and Bobby). Denise had a 15 year career in medical sales. In 2010 she hung up her apron at the pie shop to focus on advocacy work in child sexual abuse prevention and for youth experiencing foster care. Given the challenging world we live in, she continues to believe there are no conversations too difficult to engage in over a warm piece of pie.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Presented to an individual, family, association, corporation, or foundation with a proven record of providing major, ongoing financial support and leadership to the College of Social Science at Michigan State University.

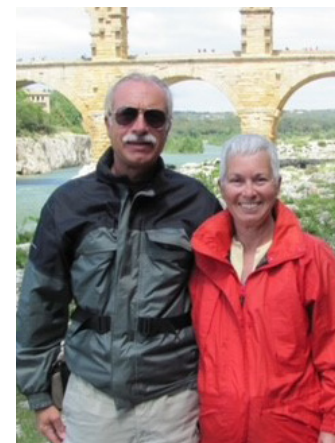
KARL & BARBARA **BECKER**

Karl and Barbara Becker grew up and met in Massachusetts. Karl went to Yale followed by the University of Chicago Law School. He then spent most of his career as a corporate lawyer specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Barbara went to the University of Wisconsin earning a degree in Physical Therapy and spent her career working with mentally and physically challenged children. They lived in the Chicago suburbs during their careers and then retired to Hilton Head, South Carolina where they have been living for the past 30+ years. They claim they will take up golf once they get bored, but it hasn't happened yet. Karl and Barbara are proud to extend their philanthropic support to Michigan State University and the Department of Psychology.



GERALD & JEAN **RAKOCZY**

Jean and Gerald Rakoczy established two endowments to give back to Michigan State University to support scholarships in the College of Social Science and in the College of Natural Science. Jean, graduated with a degree in History from MSU in 1974 and Gerald was a transfer student that graduated in 1973 with a BS in Fisheries Biology. Jean found her passion running her own Title Insurance company and thrived. Gerald found his dream job working for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a Great Lakes Fisheries Biologist.



SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Michigan State University College of Social Science supporters who have demonstrated service to the college and/or meritorious public service on a local, state, national, or international level.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This is the highest recognition given by the College to a faculty member, who has worked for MSU for at least 20 years. This individual has excelled at teaching, research and service.

NEAL **SCHMITT, PhD** & KARA **SCHMITT, PhD**

Neal Schmitt, PhD, is Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Management at Michigan State University. He was a faculty member in Psychology from 1974 to 2010, where he was department chair from 2000-2010. He also served as interim dean of the College of Social Science from 2015 to 2016. After moving to Boston, he has taught Research Methods in the Management Department at Boston College. The recipient of numerous professional awards, he has authored three textbooks, co-edited four books, and has published approximately 250 peer-reviewed papers and chapters.



Kara Schmitt, PhD, served as the Director of Testing for the State for 30 years. She and her staff were responsible for the examinations associated with 65 professions licensed by the State. During her tenure she also served on numerous national psychometric committees, authoring informational materials for these programs, and auditing national examination programs. She has made over 80 presentations at national conferences and is the author of two books dealing with the general area of credentialing.

DEBBY **KASHY, PhD**

The late Dr. Deborah “Debby” Kashy, a social psychologist, has been awarded the College of Social Science’s Lifetime Achievement Award for Teaching, Research, and Service. With nearly 25 years of service at Michigan State University, Dr. Kashy established a record of remarkable achievements in scholarship, instruction, and mentorship, as well as exceptional service to both the University and the field of social psychology. Her research made important contributions to the understanding of the role of relationships in social behavior, including close relationships, group dynamics, and interpersonal perception.





THANK YOU

Congratulations to all of the
award recipients!



OUR SCIENCE **TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**
AND INSPIRES LEADERS



College of Social Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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