When we started interviewing alumni six years ago, we had high hopes for the program's success, but we couldn’t have imagined just how far-reaching its impact would be. Today, our small team of recent LSA graduates has conducted more than 4,000 interviews, amassing an oral history of Michigan experiences, past and present. It’s a project unlike anything the College has embarked on before, and we can’t thank you enough for making it possible.
Thousands of alumni interviews have shown that no one major guarantees a specific career. As expected, English, political science, and history majors are strongly represented in law, while biology, chemistry, and psychology majors are strongly represented in medicine. The surprise is that what we originally thought of as anomalies (e.g., computer science majors turned lawyers and philosophy majors turned engineers) were actually quite common.

view an interactive version of this graphic here
Michigan Memories

Anecdotal accounts add a rich texture to data gathered in interviews. Your stories have helped us develop a vivid picture of the Michigan experience throughout the past half century.

“When I was a student, semesters began on Thursday or Fridays, meaning that the first discussion sections often preceded the first lectures. In such cases, the teaching assistants would post signs on classroom doors cancelling the first discussion. My senior year, my friends and I went to Mason Hall, and removed a "class cancelled" sign for a section of Prof. Gayl Ness' Sociology 100. When the freshmen came as scheduled, one of us posed as the teacher and proceeded to give a bizarre and thoroughly pompous explanation of what the course would entail, and concluded by assigning a paper due at the first lecture. Prof. Ness was surprisingly good natured when he learned of our prank.”

— Barb Sefcovic '43
Retired Elementary School Teacher

“What is your most vivid Michigan Memory?”

“LSA encouraged me to teach in the inner-city of Chicago to provide hope in a place that had long suffered from drugs and violence. LSA propelled me to start a non-profit to address educational inequality in the villages of rural China. LSA shaped the way I think, speak, act, and live, and it will continue to do so for the rest of my life.”

— George Dong '09
Founder/CEO, Education in Sight

Which Opportunities Should LSA Prioritize?*

Service-Based Learning: 35%
Global Experiences: 31%
Internships/Career Prep: 46%
Guidance/Advising: 32%

* More than one option could be selected.

What Advice Would You Give Students?

- Explore (30%)
- Step outside comfort zone (11%)
- Have fun! (11%)
- Take interesting classes (8%)
- Use advising (6%)
- Other (34%)
The College Connections team started a mentorship program that pairs students interning in Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Michigan with young alumni living in these cities. One-on-one meetings, social events, and professional-development workshops provided invaluable learning experiences and allowed alumni to make meaningful connections with students.

“My mentor gave me a tour of her office, introduced me to her co-workers, and shared advice on how to excel at my internship this summer. She inspired me to apply to Google next year and informed me about particular opportunities at U-M that I should take advantage of before I graduate. I am so thrilled to be able to network with a Michigan alumna who does marketing in New York City”

—Alana Goldstein (LSA Junior)
We are excited to announce two new additions to the College Connections team: Christina Pechette and Monica Philipp. Christina graduated from LSA in May 2013, earning her B.A. in international and comparative studies, and French. Monica is a 2014 LSA graduate and a former John J. and Emily S. Guettler Scholarship recipient. She earned her B.A. in psychology with a minor in community action and social change. We are thrilled to welcome these outstanding LSA graduates to our program!

Kathleen Hinkley has left Ann Arbor to pursue a career in Madison, Wisconsin, where her husband, Tim, is completing a pharmacy residency program at UW Hospital. We wish them the best in Madison!

The College Connections team launched a pilot program that trains U-M study-abroad students to meet with and interview alumni living abroad. The students share Michigan updates and record alumni impressions of U-M, adding a valuable international perspective to our program. Eighteen U-M study-abroad students interviewed more than 40 alumni in 12 international cities during the summer pilot program.

New Faces
We are excited to announce two new additions to the College Connections team: Christina Pechette and Monica Philipp. Christina graduated from LSA in May 2013, earning her B.A. in international and comparative studies, and French. Monica is a 2014 LSA graduate and a former John J. and Emily S. Guettler Scholarship recipient. She earned her B.A. in psychology with a minor in community action and social change. We are thrilled to welcome these outstanding LSA graduates to our program!

Best Wishes
Kathleen Hinkley has left Ann Arbor to pursue a career in Madison, Wisconsin, where her husband, Tim, is completing a pharmacy residency program at UW Hospital. We wish them the best in Madison!

Thank you!

Collegiate Connections

Hire an LSA student intern
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