Emmy-Award Winning Journalist for ABC News is a Social Science Spartan

Since graduating from MSU’s Political Science 1974 Emmy award-winning journalist, photographer and author Jay Schadler has been on an unparalleled journey across America and the planet. He “took the road less travelled” and then junket writing.

Schadler trained the writing and research skills he honed at MSU and Syracuse University into a lifetime passion for storytelling. Schadler has spent 29 years with ABC News, reporting for “PrimeTime,” “20/20,” Good Morning America, and Nightline. He also has reported and anchored major specials for the National Geographic Channel and Discovery. In 2004 he returned to the Titanic to cover Bob Ballard’s historic mission with the Legendary ship.

Jay has reported from every corner of the world, travelling to look for Tigur demise and capture pearls on the Ona Osh Caina route, to Gabon to cover Ebola outbreaks, and to Afghanistan to report on environmental destruction of the Aral Sea. He and his cameras have captured ancient tombs being opened at the Great Pyramids in Egypt and investigated the tragic death of two deep sea divers in South Africa. Always the way he has won two national Emmy awards.

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Greetings! Students returned to classes last month, and the campus is once again alive with the movement of 4,500+ degree-seeking learners, plus 360 graduate students, 400 faculty, 170 staff members, and 85,000 alumni in four schools, eight departments, and six centers and institutes.

As the incoming president for the College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA), I would like to welcome you or welcome back to MSU and the CSSAA. We want to experience all of the energy within Berkey Hall and across campus.

The May 22nd annual board meeting had plenty of action during the business meeting at the newly renovated and beautiful Wharton Center. The board welcomed new members and said farewell to those whose terms had ended. The board noted agenda items and voted on some interminable presentations. Rebecca Coppelman, who received the 2009 CSSAA Outstanding Teaching Award. The group had an amazing behind-the-scenes tour of the Wharton Center. They were so excited about this." Sparty and rows of students in a row.

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Message from the Dean

Greeting! Students returned to classes last month, and the campus is now again alive with the energy of 45,000+ determined learners. More than 1,700 of these individuals are students of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

Although we face ongoing economic challenges, I am pleased that our MSU community persists in its commitment to outstanding research and teaching. Scholars in the College continue to seek funding on issues relating to the environment and global climate change, nutritional health and childhood obesity, health-care delivery, and global diversity and social inequality.

Recently reviewed and highlighted psychology researcher Spoon Kollisch’s study exploring why some Americans perceive that President Obama is a Muslim, even though he is practicing Christianity. Kollisch’s findings suggest that people are most likely to accept false claims, both consciously and unconsciously, when others make the same claims in ways in which they concur with them, whether because of race, social class, or other ideological differences.

Sociology scholars at this time of human development are finding that evidence of what makes cities vibrant and economically competitive. Assistant professor Zhuo-Ming Zhang recently published a paper with implications for many poor, developing countries. His findings suggest that malnutrition early in life appears to diminish brain function in children who are not exposed to environmental stressors.

While at MSU taking study abroad credits, Fry met Jessica Fry, an assistant professor of criminology. She is specifically interested in the application of forensic behavioral, and economic sciences at MSU.

Thank you for your year-long interest in the great things happening in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences at MSU.

Sincerely,
Marietta L. Baha
Dean and Professor
College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) Update

At the annual alumni event, the College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) honored the outstanding alumni in our college.

The annual Alumni Reunion Days Breakfast and Grandparents Day at MSU. She served tirelessly to improve the association for many years. The outgoing board members also deserve a “Sparty” thank you. I thank outgoing President Rebecca Campbell (Political Science ’70), who received the 2009 CSSAA Outstanding Alumni Award.

To contribute to fellowships in the College of Social Science or learn about the annual Alumni Reunion Days Breakfast, please visit our website or call us at 1-800-678-2051.

Your Pledge

Maximize your philanthropic dollars By giving to the Social Science Spartan Scholarship Challenge! MSU will match $1 for every $2 donated to create new scholarships for students through 2/15/10. Invest in the future of your MSU by increasing your gift to MSU by 50% while providing support to students majoring in social science.

College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) Update

Graduate Student Pursues Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Crime

Just four days before arriving at MSU in the fall of 2008, Criminal Justice doctoral student Jessica Fry was in the Netherlands where she was born and has spent much of her life. She recently accepted a position at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she is working on her dissertation. She has spent time abroad at the University of Amsterdam and for a short time as a policy officer in the city.

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Criminology, an emerging field that focuses on multiple disciplines to examine environmental crimes, harms, and risks. She was particularly drawn to MSU because of its Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP), which brings researchers with different ideas, backgrounds, and expertise together to facilitate innovative research.

Jessica Fry has received the Frank Tomasko Fellowship. Assistant professor Tomasko specializes in forensic behavioral, and economic sciences at MSU.

From my student, I value their curiosity, enthusiasm, experiences, challenges, successes. By extending myself to meet their intellectual, I stimulate my own. Some of Dr. Mooradian’s most interesting teaching work has been done in his course on Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice with Families. Many of the students who have taken this course have gone on to work in the field in a variety of capacities.

Dr. Mooradian presented an Outstanding Alumni Award to Brigadier General James Anderson (PhD Social Work 2000). General Anderson worked tirelessly to develop reintegration programs for soldiers and their families after deployment. He was instrumental in ensuring that there are sponsors who recognize the importance of doing this kind of work and finding solutions to complex environmental problems.

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Designate a portion of your dues to support the alumni- relations activities for up to two colleges of your choosing for a single membership, or one each for a joint membership. Use the code(s) as indicated at the bottom of the application form.

- Landscape Architecture
- Ag & Natural Resources
- NL
- Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine
- Packaging
- Education
- Forestry

**Type of Membership**

- Life Single Senior (65 yrs+) $400
- Life Senior (65 yrs+) $400
- Life Joint Senior (65 yrs+) $450
- Annual Single Membership $45

**Life Installment Plans** - 3 consecutive yearly payments
- Life Joint Installment ($375 $200 $200) $775

**Annual**
- Installment ($375 $200 $200) $775

**Payment**
- Check enclosed - Payable to Michigan State University
- AMEX
- DISCOVER
- MasterCard
- Visa

Expiration Date ___

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**Contributing Editors** - Vicki Essenmacher, Andy Henion, Andy McGlashen, Jay Schadler, Allyn Shaw, and Michelle Strobel.

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Although Schadler has interviewed celebrities such as Carl Sagan and Willy Nelson, his signature as a journalist has been profiling regular people on the road. The stories most memorable to him came from his groundbreaking ABC News series, “Looking for America.” He hitchhiked 10,000 miles across the country and interviewed the people who picked him up—then often riding back home with them to continue the storytelling. When Oprah Winfrey invited him to appear on her show, he hitchhiked through his hometown of St. Joseph, Michigan to Chicago and was joined on stage by some of the remarkable strangers who, over the years, had lent their hand to a hitchhiker. Jay’s stories from the road (including a monologue called “Hitchhiking”) are credited with being among the earliest examples of what would become reality TV.

Between the road, his camera and his stories, Schadler has become a bit of a Renaissance man. In addition to his journalism career, he is an accomplished photographer and graphic artist with a studio and gallery in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When not travelling, you will find him in New England where he lives with his wife Jarden. He also still has many relatives and friends back in Michigan. We’re hoping to get Jay back to MSU this year to share a few of his amazing stories with the students and for a showcase of his art. Read more about Jay Schadler at www.jayschadler.com.

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**First Research Trip Across Western Amazon Yields Surprising Results**

An estimated 17 percent of the Brazilian rainforest has been destroyed, much of it in the newly developed eastern Amazon basin. Due to a government crackdown on illegal logging,FAKE logging operations went underground—deep into the Amazon— but he needed to confirm it.

In late June, he made the 10-day trip along the western Transamazon Highway, by truck. That section of the highway is unpaved and unmarked—a vast stretch of jungle that Walker had assumed was becoming the new logging frontier.

The researchers did find illegal logging operations, including camps and logging trucks backed out onto cutover land. Many experts believe too much deforestation could trigger a catastrophic change—or tipping point—that changes the Amazon from tropical forest to dry scrubland. “The western Transamazon Highway has become the battlefront for that tipping point,” Walker said.

But the biggest surprise of the trip was witnessing multiple examples of how the government’s conservation efforts are working. Driving through the Amazon National Park, he encountered dense, pukish people—quirky critics’ claims that protected areas in the Amazon are sparsely populated. The research supports a recent scientific study led by Walker that countered Brazil’s conservation efforts have been extensive enough to ultimately protect the Amazon. This study, funded by NSF, was based on three years of atmospheric computer modeling.

Walker “didn’t want to play the private sector and say the path towards a sustainable future is the absence of regulation. We saw how successful it can happen there with the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico,” the answer lies somewhere in the middle—that is, sustainable growth that protects both the environment and the livelihoods and culture of Brazil’s citizens.

“Since becoming a整天er I’ve had to walk on a path that most people would not even consider. Walker said: “They’re still many environmental concerns, and we certainly can’t say the battle is won and we can all go home and put ourselves on the back. But one thing we’re not doing is giving people a complete license to deforest the Amazon.”

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**Sociology Professor on National Climate Change Panel**

Tom Dietz, Sociology Professor and former director of MSU’s Environmental Sciences and Policy Program, recently completed a study as a national panel that concluded what many have assumed: Climate change is very real, is caused by human activities, and that action must be taken to reduce this global threat.

Dietz served as a co-author of the National Research Council report whose mission was to take a hard look at the science of climate change and help develop a national strategy to deal with the issue. The project was requested by Congress and funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “The basic evidence that the climate is changing is very strong, so much so that nearly everyone who is an expert on climate takes it as fact,” said Dietz.

The report calls for a new era of climate change science that improves the understanding and consequences of climate change, and provides solutions that can be put into place locally and internationally. For more information, go to http://www.msu.edu/research/.

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