



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Let's Chat

The art of thoughtful conversation

College Connections is a listening project designed to collect oral histories and feedback. We collect our data through interviews, transcribe them in an internal database, and then interpret our data meaningfully. Feedback is shared with the dean to encourage investment in opportunities for growth.

2018-19

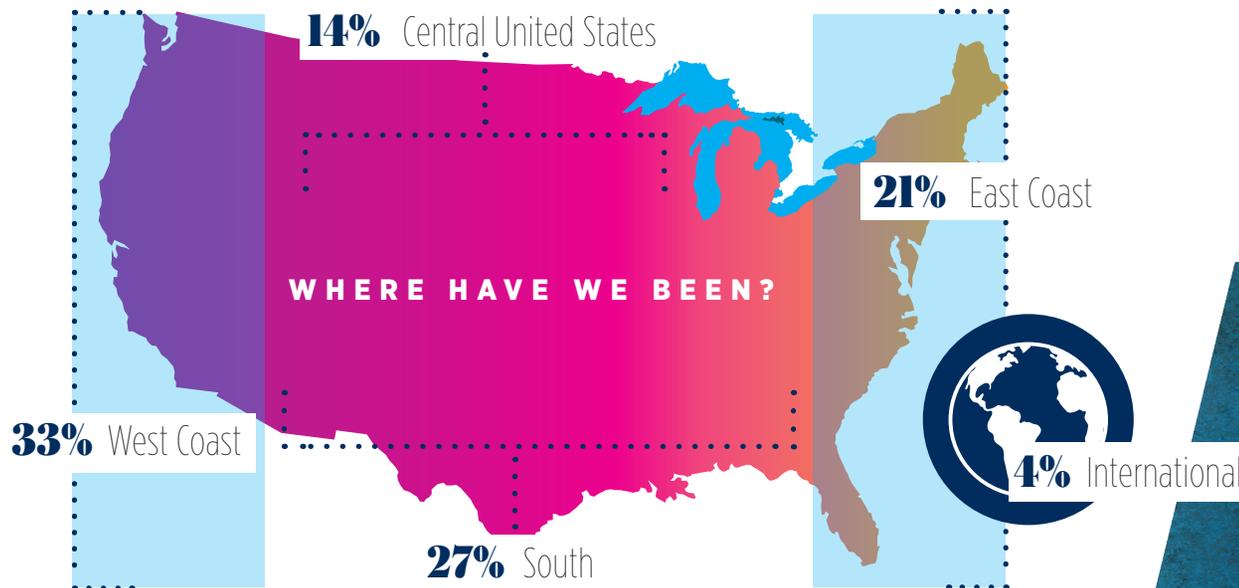
A YEAR IN REVIEW

We've interviewed **469 people**.

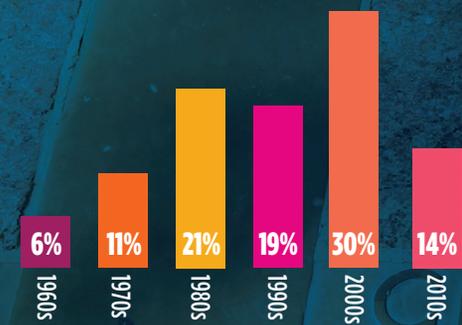
WHO WE'VE INTERVIEWED



65 parents were *first-time parents* of college students.



ALUMNI GRADUATION YEARS



We've interviewed both LSA alumni and parents of current LSA students. Throughout the report, you'll notice that our data is labeled *alumni views* or *parent views*, which serves as your identification guide. Note: For those of you who are alumni and parents, you'll be represented in the alumni views category only. In addition, student data is gathered from parents and will be noted with a parent views label.

Quotes from our experts reflect academic and experiential support for our work.

Generative Conversation

Generative conversation allows us to get to know each other by establishing common bonds. By finding mutual ground, we can break-down the early barriers, so that our conversation can be honest and candid.

WHAT BROUGHT STUDENTS TO U-M AND LSA

CURRENT STUDENTS

(parent views)

1. Academic reputation
2. Big Ten School
3. Campus atmosphere

ALUMNI

(alumni views)

1. Academic reputation
2. Family/Friend Connection
3. Raised in Michigan



From the expert: I often find that if you ask someone directly if they have an idea to share, they can be hesitant because they are intimidated. Generative conversations build trust that helps you get to something deeper. By really listening and showing the speaker that you value what they're saying, they begin to have more self-confidence. That's an amazing thing and it's why I love the work we do here in LSA!"

— Jeff Sorensen, Director for Social Innovation

WHAT ALUMNI STUDIED

- 17% English
- 11% Economics
- 11% Political Science
- 9% History
- 9% Psychology

EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

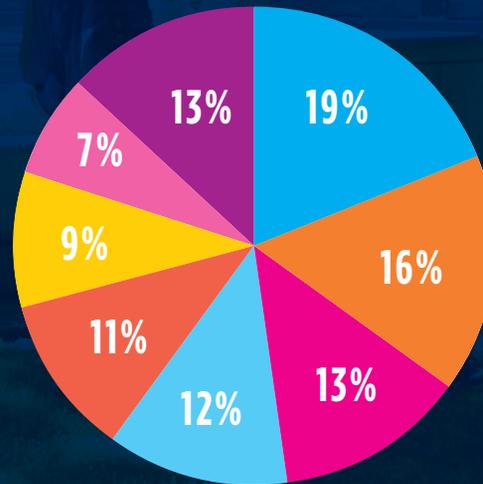
ALUMNI



CURRENT STUDENTS



WHERE ALUMNI WORK



- EDUCATION
- MEDICINE/HEALTH
- LAW
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- BUSINESS
- NONPROFIT AND GOVERNMENT
- MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT
- OTHER

Please note: Respondents could select more than one option.



Reflective Conversation

Once we understand your personal experiences we begin to uncover the impact of an LSA education.



From the expert: Reflective conversations help us become more self-aware and also more socially aware of others and society as we choose our adult life pathways. One of the most important goals of the college experience is to find purpose and meaning in one's life. As an alum, having reflective conversations helps to shed light on the path that one took in college and the relationships one developed with friends and faculty, bringing clarity and insight to one's purpose and direction as an independent adult and professional."

—David Schoem, Director of Michigan Community Scholars Program & Adjunct Associate Professor

ADVICE TO PARENTS *from parents*

Encourage your student to find community **38%**

Encourage your student to get involved **33%**

Help your student prepare for the climate **29%**

ADVICE TO STUDENTS *from alumni*

Explore U-M **69%**

Leave your comfort zone **36%**

Have fun **29%**

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

CAMPUS ATMOSPHERE
FRIENDS

SPORTS AND SPIRIT
CLASSES

WHERE THE COLLEGE THRIVES

ALUMNI VIEWS

Academic reputation **63%**

Alumni network **23%**

Culture of excellence **21%**

PARENT VIEWS

U-M community **30%**

Academic quality **20%**

Individualized Attention Provided **12%**

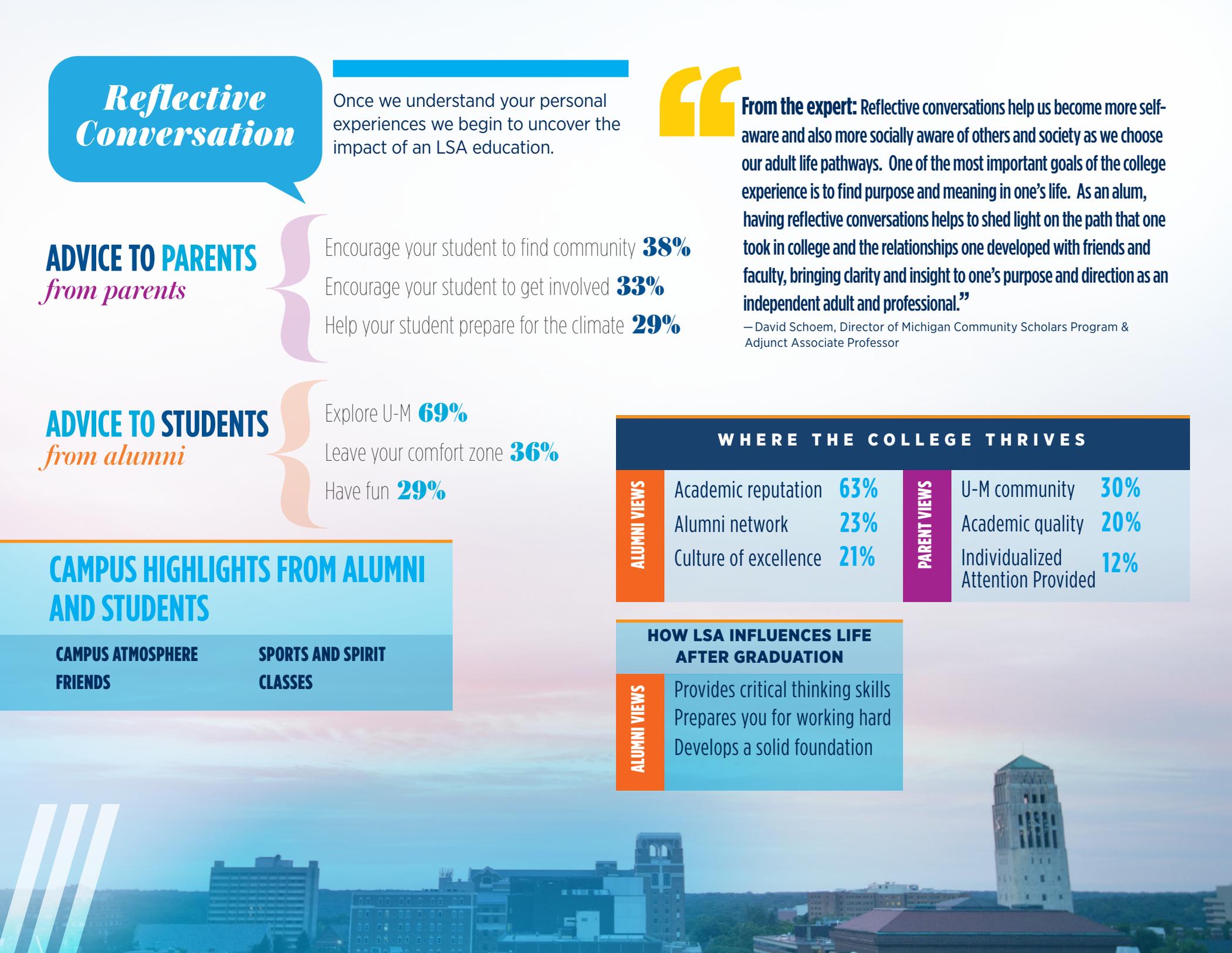
HOW LSA INFLUENCES LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

ALUMNI VIEWS

Provides critical thinking skills

Prepares you for working hard

Develops a solid foundation



Conversations on growth

Our conversations are incomplete unless we ask how the college can grow. As LSA adjusts to a changing world, it must be agile while continuing to maintain its integrity.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW

Department reports are sent annually to LSA departments. We share notes on alumni who would like to get involved and other feedback we gather to get folks engaged directly. This includes ways to make the curriculum more relevant, better preparing students for life after college.

We continue to work with the **LSA Opportunity Hub** to provide career and internship opportunities to our current students, while also finding ways to engage our alumni with current students.

We have **quarterly check-ins** with college leaders, including the dean, updating them on what we hear in the field.

Through continued commitment to the **College Connections** program, the college garners a fuller understanding of the historical, and current, state of the school. By finding campus partners, it continues to share feedback with the appropriate stakeholders.



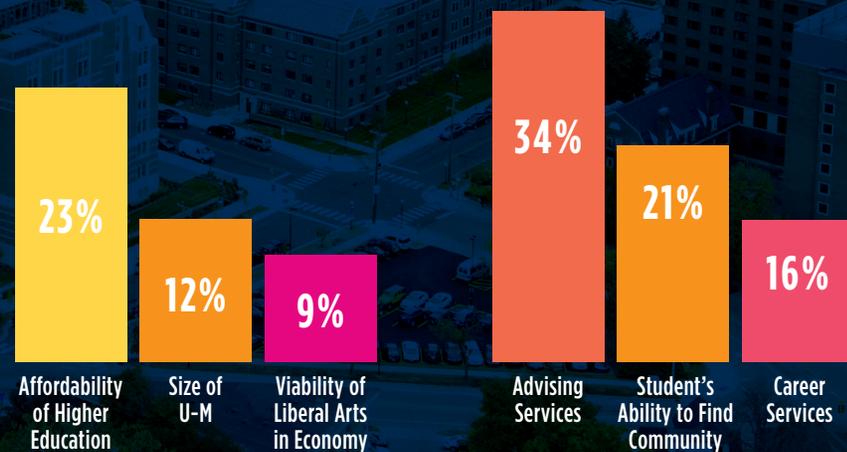
From the expert: I've had experience with students who interview well because they are able to critique a company and its implications for consumers. They have a bigger perspective that allows them to not only include course content, but also consider the organization's greater role in society. By identifying opportunities for growth, they show that they have a vision."

— Lisa Nakamura, Director of the Digital Studies Institute

COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT U-M AND LSA

ALUMNI VIEWS

PARENT VIEWS



*Since we
last talked*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW DEAN

Anne Curzan has been named the dean of LSA, effective September 1. Since 2015 Anne has served as associate dean for the humanities. She is an Arthur F. Thurnau professor, the Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, and is also a professor in LSA's Department of Linguistics and at U-M's School of Education. Many of you also know her as a delightful guide to the English language on Michigan Radio's weekly "That's What They Say" segment.



Thank you, Liz Cole

College Connections greatly appreciates the leadership Liz Cole provided during this time of transition for the college. While maintaining the college's commitment to academic preeminence, she also championed inclusive campus dialogue. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors!

TEAM UPDATES



Selena Joarder graduated from LSA in May 2018 with an A.B. in organizational studies. Selena began her time at U-M in the Michigan Community Scholars Program, which gave her experience in encouraging meaningful engagement. She also promoted student philanthropy on campus by working with the Gifts of Kindness Fund, and fundraised with FeelGood, a national nonprofit. Learning from the Center for Positive Organizations, she studied research-based strategies to build authentic relationships. Her love of meeting new people, combined with a genuine belief that a liberal arts education allows people to be their best, compelled her to join the team.



Kai Mason graduated from LSA in May 2019 with an A.B. in English. The newest member of the team, she transferred to U-M from Michigan State University and began her Michigan tenure in the Global Scholars Program, where she was a Dialogue Facilitator and Resident Advisor. Throughout her college career, she served as president and competing member of U of M Slam Poetry, was an optiMize grant and fellowship recipient, and the first graduate of the Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts program, an interdisciplinary thesis track from LSA's Honors College. With a love of storytelling and travel, she is excited by the opportunity to connect with alumni and help enhance her alma mater.



Anna Thompson graduated from LSA in May 2016 with an A.B. in communication studies. At U-M, Anna was a leader of Appreciate + Reciprocate, a philanthropic student organization that volunteers and fundraises in the community. She held internships with the Ella Sharp Museum of Jackson and later the Development Summer Internship Program where she worked in alumni relations. Anna also worked with the Michigan Association of Communication Studies to provide professional development opportunities for students interested in media-related career paths. Anna was inspired to work in alumni relations after meeting the alums who funded her undergraduate scholarship, realizing the powerful impact relationship building can have on the future of the college.

Farewell to Joe

Joe Murray (2016-2018) left the College Connections program in November 2018 to join the LSA Major Giving team. He now meets with alumni and donors in the Chicago region, joyfully connecting more people to LSA.





*Thanks for
chatting with us!*

CONNECT WITH LSA

- Provide an Internship or Career Opportunity
- Share Your Expertise
- Join the LSA Young Alumni Council
- Mentor a Student
- Serve as an Online Ambassador
- Give to the LSA Annual Fund
- Leave a Legacy Gift

*To get involved, connect, or share more
feedback, contact us at*

collegeconnectionsprogram@umich.edu

Thank you. We appreciate your time, feedback, and commitment to LSA. We are grateful for your participation in the College Connections program.