"MSU was the only college that I applied to because it was the second best school in the nation for criminal justice. But, those plans to major in criminal justice and pursue a career in federal law enforcement fell by the wayside after only a year. However, I’m still extremely happy about the decision to attend MSU. From the beautiful campus to the raging football games to the fantastic academic and research opportunities, my life at MSU has been wonderful thus far."

JESSICA MUDGE
Neuroscience and Psychology ‘15

College of Natural Science
2014-15 Dean’s Research Scholar
A conversation with Jessica...

**What is the societal impact of your research:** My research adds to the knowledge of the mechanisms behind Kennedy’s Disease and could therefore help with future research to find a cure or preventative mechanism for the disorder.

**How has your undergraduate experience been impacted by this research opportunity:** The knowledge that I have contributed in some small part to the study and potential treatment of a disease is incredibly fulfilling. Moreover, working in a neuroscience lab has contributed to my desire to work in the hard sciences and reaffirmed my career goals.

**What is something you never expected at MSU:** The biggest and most obvious surprise that MSU had in store for me was the career goal of “doctor”. When I got to MSU, I fully intended to major in criminal justice and try for a job in federal law enforcement. My experiences, however, led to me a new goal that I think fits me much better, steering me into the hard sciences and toward medicine.

**Person who has inspired you:** My grandmother is a daily inspiration to me. She was an incredibly strong woman who weathered countless tragedies without ever considering the idea of giving up. Although her life as a mother and storekeeper was remarkably different than mine, her positive and determined approach to life is something that I try to emulate.

**Worst invention:** One of the worst inventions is asbestos because it has caused widespread health problems for countless people, as well as costing an extraordinary amount of money to properly dispose of.

**Favorite food:** My favorite food is apples – specifically, Granny Smith apples.

**On your bucket list:** The number one item on my bucket list is visiting Australia. I’m a very outdoorsy person, and the sheer volume of ecosystems, wildlife and unusual outdoor activities in Australia is extremely appealing to me.

**Person you’d most like to meet, living or dead:** I’d be very interested in meeting with the president, preferably in a casual setting so that I could ask a variety of questions about how the country is run and for a personal account of how the president interacts with Congress and other government groups.

**Major research breakthrough of the next decade:** With the huge push for energy conservation and fuel-efficient vehicles, and the American propensity for trucks and SUVs, I think that engineers will soon discover a way to make large vehicles that still get incredible gas mileage.

**What are some of your favorite MSU memories:** I’m a huge football fan and some of my favorite MSU memories definitely involve screaming and cheering at football games, sometimes in the front row. Most notable, I think, was the Big Ten championship game this past fall that I was fortunate enough to be able to attend.