MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

“I’m from Ohio, so MSU wasn’t on my original list of schools, but as soon as I found out about its wealth of research opportunities and top-notch Honors Program, I knew it was worth my time. At MSU, I’ve done quite a bit of research in high energy physics which has put me on the forefront of one of the most exciting areas in science while acquiring skills and clarifying my career plans.”

JOSEPH NUTTER
Physics and Economics ‘15
A conversation with Joseph...

What is the societal impact of your research: Particle physics research has led to major advances in many technologies used every day, including superconductivity, touch screens, the internet and medical treatments like MRIs and PET scans.

How has your undergraduate experience been impacted by this research opportunity: My research has helped me meet friends and feel comfortable in the physics department while acquiring skills, clarifying my career plans and being more engaged than in a classroom.

What is something you never expected at MSU: The campus does a surprisingly good job of opening itself up to cars while separating itself from the wider community.

Person who has inspired you: Jackie Robinson overcame baseball’s color barrier not by talking trash or making bold statements, but by showing every single person watching that he was the best. Winning is the only way to prove yourself.

Book you’d recommend: I just read the first two books of Hilary Mantel's Cromwell trilogy - Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies - and was extremely impressed.

Coolest gadget: While a lot of people have questioned the efficacy of smart fitness bands, they have the potential to help people understand their habits and their body's reaction to various foods and exercises, or lack thereof. With appropriate privacy protections, they have the potential to gather data of use to doctors in making diagnoses.

On your bucket list: I’m currently teaching myself Spanish so that as soon as I get a job with some savings and vacation days, I can travel around South America, particularly Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.

Person you’d most like to meet, living or dead: Miles Davis. In addition to being an instrumental virtuoso, he revolutionized jazz by pioneering bebop. Then, he invented cool jazz and modal jazz and he contributed to electric jazz fusion. And he did all this while remaining uncompromising, both artistically and personally, in his dealings with his record company and associates.

Major research breakthrough of the next decade: The technology to harvest energy from waves is rapidly growing more efficient and less expensive. In time, we should be able to access this virtually unlimited energy and distribute it through a revamped “smart grid” that allows lighting, climate control and transportation to happen virtually for free.

What are some of your favorite MSU memories: Cooking out and playing wiffle ball on spring afternoons.