In justice, then, to the true spirit of learning, to the best interests of society, to the historic life of this state, let us now hold wide open the gates of this university to all our sons and daughters, rich or poor, whom God by gifts of intellect and by kindly providences has called to seek for a liberal education.

— PRESIDENT JAMES BURRILL ANGELL
June 26, 1879

In his 1879 commencement address, “The Higher Education: A Plea for Making It Accessible to All,” President Angell implored his audience to remember that pillar of equality on which the university was established. During his tenure, Angell fought vigorously to equalize opportunities for a college education across economic strata.

Talent is distributed evenly throughout our society, but opportunity most certainly is not. The University of Michigan is proud to partner on this historic initiative to address our nation’s pressing need to ensure equal opportunities for students across the socioeconomic spectrum.

—PRESIDENT MARK SCHLISSEL
December 13, 2016

More than a century later, Angell’s vision continues to define the university. President Schlissel recently announced U-M’s partnership with the American Talent Initiative. Like the HAIL Scholarships and Wolverine Pathways program, the initiative will provide opportunities at U-M for talented low- and middle-income students.

It was recognized that without a certain amount of assistance from private sources the university could not properly fulfill its destiny.

—WILFRED B. SHAW (AB 1904), early 20th-century U-M director of alumni relations and encyclopedic chronicler of U-M history

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Above: Presidential nominee John F. Kennedy—in a speech at the Michigan Union on October 14, 1960—laid the foundation for the Peace Corps. For more, see how past meets present on campus in “Take a Tour With Me” on page 34.

To enjoy an enriched, online experience of the stories in this special bicentennial edition of Leaders & Best, be sure to check out the Leaders & Best bicentennial website at LeadersandBest200.umich.edu

We extend our sincerest thanks to the dedicated professionals of the Bentley Historical Library. Without your work in preserving—and helping others access—the history of the university, this publication would not have been possible. Thank you.
This year marks the bicentennial of the founding of the University of Michigan.

In honor of our history, and to help us pave the way to a bright future, we invite you to enjoy this special edition of Leaders & Best as we pause to reflect on the important role philanthropy has played in shaping the university throughout our first two centuries.

Our bicentennial would not be complete without recognition of the amazing role our friends and supporters have played in taking this institution from good to great. For the remarkable achievements of the past 200 years, the university owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the passion and dedication of its friends and supporters.

The university’s earliest “subscribers”—as donors were then called—donated funds to construct the first building and hire the first two instructors, who taught a grand total of six or seven students. Those early teachers and learners gave birth to a long tradition of academic excellence.

One of the very first available rankings of universities dates back to 1908, when the Carnegie Foundation ranked U-M No. 4 among North American universities. More than 100 years later, the university continues to be recognized among the nation’s leading institutions of higher education. This past fall, The Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education ranked U-M the No. 1 public university in the country.

What began as an ambitious educational experiment conceived as part of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 has become a global research university advancing the highest ideals of what a public research university should be. The enterprise as we know it today includes some 40,000 faculty and staff members working with 61,000 students on three vibrant campuses. We’ve come a long way, thanks in part to the work of volunteers and the generosity of philanthropists.

Donors have always played a vital role in shaping the University of Michigan—and, by extension, the mission of a great public research university in a world that has grown increasingly complex. A solid appreciation of the university’s history will position U-M to continue its role as a world leader in defining the future of public higher education. I encourage you to learn more about how the generosity and foresight of people like you have helped the university to become what it is today.

Through your engagement with the university, you help make the university what it is. With your ongoing support, you help define what it can become. For your part in helping the university achieve its bicentennial promise—always leading, forever valiant—thank you.

Sincerely,

MARK SCHLISSEL
PRESIDENT

THE ROOTS OF BLUE

Among the treasures documenting U-M’s history—including early support from donors—are (clockwise from top left) [1] an act signed by founding father John Monteith on September 12, 1817, establishing that “no subscriber...shall be required to pay more than $50 in one year if he desires such accommodation;” [2] a chart of proposed areas for teaching and learning, handwritten by founding father Augustus Woodward in the act establishing the university; [3] an original receipt from December 9, 1817, for Woodward’s $12.50 gift to the university; [4] a document signed by Monteith appointing a trustee to office; [5] page one of the act establishing the university.
When dozens of Native Americans gathered along the Maumee River in northwest Ohio in 1817 to sign a treaty brokered by territorial governor Lewis Cass, their signatures—simple "X" marks, as they were—set into motion the richest custom at the University of Michigan.

By ceding land to the fledgling "University of Michigan," Native Americans were the first benefactors. Records do not indicate how willing the native peoples were; their giving, however, began a custom that stretches deeper into the institution’s past than the art of teaching, the sharing of a library, or the granting of diplomas.

For nearly two centuries, philanthropy has shaped the university with gifts of land, artwork, scientific specimens, books, and cash. When Wilfred B. Shaw (AB 1904), the director of alumni relations, set out in the early 1930s to catalog the history of giving at Michigan, the result was a 50-page treatise to President Alexander Ruthven (PhD 1906) about gifts large and small, including three deer heads for the School of Forestry, dynamos for the Engineering College, 100 volumes of Russian history from Grand Duke Alexis, and 40 acres of Ann Arbor real estate. “The practice of private support for the University of Michigan, well established in its early days, has set up a tradition never broken,” Shaw concluded.

For all the diversity of gifts through the years, the earliest ones shaped the physical and intellectual scope of the university and the students it educated. As Shaw observed, “Throughout the university’s history... it was recognized that without a certain amount of assistance from private sources the university could not properly fulfill its destiny.” These are some of the transformative gifts from the university’s first 100 years.
**Leaders & Best**  

1. **In Saginaw nor rife with timber**

   The Saginaw Forest was neither in Saginaw nor rife with timber when Regent Arthur Hill (BSECiv 1865)—he of Hill Auditorium distinction—donated the 80 acres to his alma mater.

   With U-M having established a School of Forestry in 1903, Hill felt it important that students have a living laboratory and designated a tract of land five miles west of Ann Arbor. The soil was poor and thin, there were few trees, and much of the area had been extensively farmed. Still, 80 acres of rural land presented quite an opportunity for the young forestry program, within a year of the gift, 40 species of saplings planted by students and faculty were taking root to complement small stands of oak and hickory.

   Hill, one of the state’s most successful lumbermen, lived his entire life in Saginaw, Michigan, and stipulated that the new forest bear the name of his hometown. Saginaw Forest remains a primary feature of environmental education and is operated by the School of Forestry’s descendant: the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Located east of campus and bordered by the Huron River to the north and Geddes Avenue to the south, the land operated as both arb and garden for about a decade. After that, faculty unhappy with the arboretum called for separate botanical gardens. (Decades later, those would be named the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.)

   The property officially became the Nichols Arboretum in 1923, during a decade that brought numerous plantings and gardens. Today’s Nichols is approximately 123 acres. A popular feature of the Nichols Arboretum is its spectacular Peony Garden, itself a gift: Dr. William Upjohn (MD 1875), a graduate of the U-M Medical School and founder of the Kalamazoo pharmaceutical firm that would bear his name, was a peony enthusiast. He donated plants from his extensive collection to U-M in 1922.

2. **In the Shawnee**

   When Detroit businessman Dexter Ferry gave 27 acres to the University of Michigan in 1902, the intent was to provide a playing field for football. Two years later, Ferry supplemented his gift with $9,500 for a brick-and-limestone wall to surround the field. The pièce de résistance would be an ornamental gate at the northeast corner of Hoover Avenue and State Street.

   Designed by Albert Kahn, the auditorium originally seated 4,308 guests. With its parabolic interior, the facility has exceptional acoustics—a prerequisite of the Board of Regents when seeking designs. “A whisper from the stage can be heard in any portion of this great hall,” wrote Shaw, the alumni relations director.

   Hill’s bequest left $200,000 to build a campus hall “for the gathering of the students and college body, and their friends, on large occasions such as graduating exercises and musical festivals, … I request that it be open to the people of Ann Arbor, among whom I have enjoyed—both when a student and during my connection with the Board of Regents—a generous hospitality… .”

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   Pursuit of Knowledge

   In compiling the inventory of philanthropy, Shaw gave ample credit to early donors who came forward at a time when the university was still raw and unorganized. These supporters, he said, claimed a kind of ownership of this new place of learning. Providing the tools of

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**1837 CENTRAL CAMPUS**

When Michigan entered statehood in 1837, it spurred the reorganization of the state’s lone university, including a governing Board of Regents. The university would have three departments of learning: literature, science, and the arts; law; and medicine. Tuition was not to exceed $10, and students could not pay.

Most significantly, the university would need a place to call its own. And the board approved a capital campaign to construct a campus with special buildings and equipment. That it could not pay.

When Detroit businessman Dexter Ferry gave 27 acres to the University of Michigan in 1902, the intent was to provide a playing field for football. Two years later, Ferry supplemented his gift with $9,500 for a brick-and-limestone wall to surround the field. The pièce de résistance would be an ornamental gate at the northeast corner of Hoover Avenue and State Street.

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Pursuit of Knowledge

In compiling the inventory of philanthropy, Shaw gave ample credit to early donors who came forward at a time when the university was still raw and unorganized. These supporters, he said, claimed a kind of ownership of this new place of learning. Providing the tools of
The university belongs to the people and is always willing to work for the interests of the people. — U-M President Harry Hutchins (AB 1871)

1854 DETROIT OBSERVATORY

On the day he was inaugurated as U-M’s first president, Henry Phillip Tappan made it clear that for the university to thrive as a true research institution, it needed an observatory. Afterward, when a prominent Detroit businessman asked the new leader how the people of Detroit could help, Tappan was direct: Raise money for the finest telescope possible.

They did. Led by Henry Walker, Detroiters contributed $15,000 to build and equip what would be one of the world’s most advanced observatories. Tappan responded by naming the facility in their honor; the Detroit Observatory stood on a hilltop a half-mile from the northeastern edge of campus.

While medical buildings and residence halls dwarf today’s Observatory, its telescope still functions and the building is open regularly for public tours. It sits on the National Register of Historic Places.

1859 ZOOLOGY SPECIMENS

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lt. William P. Trowbridge spent all of one year as a U-M faculty member, teaching mathematics in 1856–57. The job was not what he expected—there is no record of what, exactly, he had hoped for—and he left to return to the Army. Before his year in Ann Arbor, however, Trowbridge was stationed along the Pacific coastline of the United States. In his spare time, he collected thousands of amphibian and reptile specimens, which he donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

After consulting with Trowbridge, Smithsonian leaders forwarded the vast collection to U-M; a native of Troy, Michigan, Trowbridge wanted the specimen to go to his home state. President Henry Tappan, a vocal advocate of scientific research, was thrilled with the donation, which laid the groundwork for the U-M Museum of Natural History. “The regents of the university are thus encouraged to put forth an enlightened zeal in the cause of science, and will endeavor to build up, in this young university of the north-west, a great and well-ordered museum that shall reflect honor upon the state,” Tappan wrote.

1862 COLLECTION OF IRON ORES

Neither flashy nor exotic, the ores, fluxes, and manufactured iron donated during the Civil War were designated for the university’s geology and mineralogy collections.

What was notable were the donors: Eber Ward Owen (BS 1860) and Aaron Cone Jewett (AB 1862), both graduates of the university, making their gifts the first ever made by U-M alumni. Owen was an 1860 graduate of Lake Erie College; Jewett received his degree two years later. Since their gifts in 1862, not a year has passed without support from Michigan graduates.

1911 LABADIE COLLECTION

Sentiment compelled anarchist Je Labadie to give to U-M his remarkable collection of radical literature, materials that chronicled “the struggle of the underdog.”

Labadie was a member of the Socialist Labor Party who organized the first real labor union in Michigan, the Knights of Labor. He became known as “the gentle anarchist” because of his friendly ways.

When he contacted the Board of Regents in 1911, Labadie asked that his archive—a rich in advocating anarchy, communism, and other radical strains—be treated again as a shoko, the first metal instrument from among the many musical instruments that chronicled the university’s commitment to music education and performance.

1893 FRIEZE MEMORIAL ORGAN

The magnificent Hill Auditorium is amplified by the majesty of the massive pipe organ that stands at the rear of the stage. Engineered and built in Detroit, the 3,901-pipe organ was designed for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. Following the great fair, the organ was taken apart, shipped to Ann Arbor, and reassembled in University Hall. In 1913, with the opening of Hill, the great organ again was moved. Its place on the Michigan campus was made possible by the University Musical Society, which appealed to music patrons across the state and beyond to help purchase a great organ for the university. The successful campaign for a pipe organ fulfilled a longtime desire of U-M’s interim president, founder Henry Simmons Frieze, who also served as U-M’s interin president on three occasions.

Through the years, the Frieze Memorial Organ has been reconstructed and expanded: its tonal range now includes 7,600 pipes, only a handful of the originals remain. But it remains a signature feature of the university’s commitment to music education and performance.

1899 STEARNS COLLECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Frederick Stearns (LSA 1876) was a Detroit manufacturer who traveled the globe to collect rare musical instruments. At the turn of the 20th century, he gave his 1,840-piece collection to the university and continued to add to it until his death in 1907. The uniqueness of the instruments cannot be ignored: an 1870s porcelain violin from Germany; a rare 17th century Buddhist temple gong known as a mokugy; a Mexican mandolin crafted from the entire shell of a turtle; a shoko, the first metal instrument introduced into Japan; a double slide trombone dating from 1823 Paris; and a moose call fashioned from bark by a Mi’kmaq Indian of Canada and used by Stearns himself on hunting trips. The collection has grown to 2,500 instruments, making it the largest assembly of musical instruments at any North American university.

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

Where early U-M leaders looked to the state to support “immediate educational activities” such as classrooms and laboratories, they turned to philanthropists for gifts to sustain cultural features. These were aspects of a university that “practical-minded taxpayers” would not necessarily embrace. And yet, without libraries, museums, student unions, and the like, Michigan “would be an infinitely poorer place spiritually and culturally,” as Wilfred B. Shaw wrote in his 1930s history of giving at U-M.
freedom and in knowledge…and that if it were donated then it might be stowed away in some drawer and lost probably forever.

But he wanted U-M to have the collection, because his family had called Michigan home for nearly 200 years and because his daughter, Charlotte (AB 1912), was currently a senior.

President Harry Hutchins assured Labadie his collection was welcome. “The university belongs to the people and is always willing to work for the interests of the people, to do what it can in the way of giving information and in the way of general uplifting.”

The Labadie Collection, part of U-M’s Special Collections Library, today is the country’s oldest collection of radical literature.

**Supporting Scholars**

The earliest endowed support of students and faculty came from strangers—two New York State women with no connection to each other or to Ann Arbor. What bonded them was their appreciation for U-M’s decision in 1870 to admit women. Their respective gifts began a legacy that has evolved into thousands of endowed chairs, fellowships, and scholarships on all three U-M campuses.

### 1895 SETH HARRISON SCHOLARSHIPS

A grande dame of the Victorian era laid the groundwork for financial aid to support Michigan students.

Clara Harrison Stranahan—close friend of Andrew Carnegie, founding trustee of Barnard College, ars patron of New York City—led a life of privilege that has evolved into thousands of endowed chairs, fellowships, and scholarships on all three U-M campuses.

Her wealth came via her husband, James S.T. Stranahan, a Brooklyn congressman and business magnate. She had no known connection to Michigan, either state or university. But she apparently appreciated U-M’s decision to admit women; in 1889, she contacted President James B. Angell about establishing scholarships for any progeny of her father, Seth Harrison. With 10 children, Harrison’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren could be expected to provide generations of offspring. (Having married later in life, Clara Stranahan had no children.)

She mailed a $25,000 check to Angell in 1895 and placed few additional stipulations on potential scholarship recipients. If a student did not graduate, “some education is far better than none.” Should a student be expelled, any aid would “forever” be moth, however, “genuine repentance and contrition” could revive the support. For those recipients who excelled and graduated, Stranahan provided $50 for each year of study as a sort of commencement gift.

The scholarship was the first to be endowed at U-M and has been awarded to dozens of Harrison descendants, most recently in the 2012–13 academic year.

### 1903 ANGELINE B. WHITTIER FELLOWSHIP

When he died in 1903, Saginaw businessman Joseph B. Whittier left instructions in his will that $4,000 be donated to the university to endow a botany fellowship in memory of his mother, Angeline. Whittier attended the university for two years shortly after the Civil War but never graduated; he went on to become a lumber and salt manufacturer in Saginaw, Michigan.

Within months of receiving the endowment, the Department of Botany awarded a $200 stipend to the first Whittier Fellow in Botany—Alfred Dacknowski, who would earn his U-M doctorate in 1916. His fellowship came at a time when U-M students spent about $400 a year on classes, housing, and meals.

The Whittier gift was one of only a handful of fellowships being established at the university in the nascent days of the 1900s. “Most of the stronger universities have received sums for the endowment of a considerable number of such fellowships, which secure the attendance of brilliant and promising scholars,” President James B. Angell said in 1904 in his annual report to the Board of Regents. “A great many of our most gifted graduates are thus every year called away to other institutions.”

Today’s Whittier Fellowship is awarded to advanced graduate students of plant biology.

### 1913 HELEN NEWBERRY RESIDENCE

At the turn of the 20th century, female students lived in either sorority houses or a scattering of 10-plus private rooming houses in Ann Arbor that were inspected, approved, and supervised by the dean of women. While adequate, the system provided few opportunities for women to truly live and work together as scholars.

That changed in 1913 when three siblings—John S., Newberry, and Helen Newberry—and Helen Newberry Joy—offered a gift of $75,000 for a women’s dormitory. They wanted the hall to be named in memory of their mother, Helen Handy Newberry.

Two decades earlier, Helen H. Newberry donated $18,000 for a residence hall for U-M students, but was adamant about women having equal access to higher education; doing so “would raise the standard of the home and of society,” she wrote. Barbour wrote to U-M President Harry B. Hutchins. Barbour had no sisters or daughters, but was adamant about women having equal access to higher education, doing so “would raise the standard of the home and of society,” he wrote.

Hundreds of women from China, Japan, Turkey, India, Sumatra, Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines have called themselves Barbour Scholars. Barbour’s gift created U-M’s first significant fellowship for international students.

“Why did the University of Michigan need a residence hall for women?” asks James B. Angell in his 1904 annual report to the Board of Regents. “Why couldn’t the women live in the sorority houses near the University?” He cited the need for space, comfort, and protection. The Newberry gift would establish the first residence hall for U-M students, male or female.

Helen Newberry Residence opened in the summer of 1915 and continues to the university in the nascent days of the 1900s. “Most of the stronger universities have received sums for the endowment of a considerable number of such fellowships, which secure the attendance of brilliant and promising scholars,” President James B. Angell said in 1904 in his annual report to the Board of Regents. “A great many of our most gifted graduates are thus every year called away to other institutions.”

Today’s Whittier Fellowship is awarded to advanced graduate students of plant biology.

### 1917 BARBOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

While U-M admitted its first international students beginning in the late 1840s, it wasn’t until the 20th century that a specific scholarship was available to attract scholars from other countries.

Alumnus and Regent Levi Barbour (LLB 1865) wanted women from Asian nations to experience a U-M education. Originally designated for undergraduates, the Barbour Scholarships began to attract graduate students seeking their doctorates.

In 1948, the award became a graduate scholarship, which today is administered by the Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

Barbour’s gift created U-M’s first significant fellowship for international students.

“The idea of the Oriental girls’ scholarships is to bring girls from the Orient, give them an Occidental education and then take back whatever they find good and assimilate the blessings among the people from which they came,” wrote Barbour to U-M President Harry B. Hutchins.

Barbour had no sisters or daughters, but was adamant about women having equal access to higher education, doing so “would raise the standard of the home and of society,” he wrote.

Hundreds of women from China, Japan, Turkey, India, Sumatra, Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines have called themselves Barbour Scholars.
ORIGINS OF FUNDRAISING

William W. Cook (AB 1880, LLB ’82) was what some might call an eccentric. His contemporaries described him as brilliant yet reclusive, gregarious yet discerning. He lived alone after divorcing early in life and never remarried—odd for a man of his time, place, and station. But at the turn of the 20th century, Cook was nonetheless well known and well regarded in New York City and beyond. He was a respected scholarly writer, general counsel to John Mackay’s telegraph and cable companies, and one of the most influential men of his era in corporate law. His success and his considerable wealth almost guarantee that Cook would have been well known in Ann Arbor, where he graduated from the University of Michigan and its Law School.

But the most remarkable thing about Cook may have been his dedication to an ideal. He believed that the legal academy was the genesis of law, order, and moral conduct in American society, and that its cultivation was paramount to a healthy democracy. “[T]he character of the legal profession depends largely on the law schools,” he wrote. “Hence in my opinion nothing is more important than those schools and anything that tends to elevate them tends to perpetuate American institutions.” When Cook died in 1930 following a decade-long battle with tuberculosis, he left everything to Michigan Law.

In today’s dollars, Cook’s gifts to U-M would exceed $250 million. They provided funding for the John P. Cook Dormitory, named for his father; the Legal Research Building, home to the Reading Room and Law Library; and Hutchins Hall. These came in addition to the Lawyers Club, which The New York Times called “one of the finest buildings of its kind on any campus in the world.” Together, they completed the Law Quadrangle, later dedicated in Cook’s name. It still stands at the heart of the Ann Arbor campus, an iconic monument to its benefactor’s grand vision and particular tastes.

Just as remarkable as the story’s conclusion is its beginning, 20 years prior to Cook’s death. It was 1910. At U-M, students were pressuring the Board of Regents and U-M President Harry Burns Hutchins (AB 1871) for a women’s dormitory. At the time, sorority and boarding houses had made up the majority of student housing for women. While this system had been adequate for a time, there was mounting need for university-sponsored accommodations. Students at U-M set out to raise funds to make the project a reality.

Hutchins and the Regents encouraged the students’ mission, but they were mindful of the potential problems that inexperienced student fundraisers could cause. In the infancy of development at the university, they wondered: Would student fundraisers understand the nuances of “the ask”? What if they asked for too much, or too little? Despite their concerns, Hutchins—like President James B. Angell before him—believed that private support could be the key to elevating the university to new heights.

Myrtle Elizabeth White (AB 1910), a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and vice president of the Women’s Athletic Association, graduated at this opportune moment. She had served as treasurer of the Women’s League for two years, and her
fundraising accomplishments already included securing $3,000 from Thomas W. Palmer (AB 1849) to clear the debt on the Women’s Athletic Field, later renamed for its benefactor. At the encouragement of President Angell, White had traveled throughout the state of Michigan in the summer of 1909 as a volunteer fundraiser for U-M. She was young, capable, and resourceful—an ideal fundraiser for the women’s dormitories project.

After White graduated, the Regents authorized the Women’s League to pay her to visit college dormitories at the University of Chicago, Mount Holyoke, Vassar, and Simmons College. Later that year, they recruited White to travel to New York City. There she called on prominent alumni for donations. “I was armed with the blueprints of the dream dormitory we had worked up, and a convincing story of the student housing need in Ann Arbor,” she later wrote to her 1910 classmates.

White began writing to alumni with requests for interviews, and Hutchins drafted a letter to help drum up more interest. “The University of Michigan was the first of the great universities of the country to open its doors to women,” her letter began. “From that time to the present, this university has exercised a dominating influence in co-educational matters. We have now in attendance seven hundred and fifty young women. The time has come when certain economic and social needs of the women must receive our attention.”

Letter in hand, White garnered the support of a few alumni, who collectively pledged some $3,000 to her cause. Then on January 15, 1911, she found herself at the heart of Wall Street. Her appointment was with William Wilson Cook.

White began their meeting with a story of her request. Over an hour’s conference, he probed with questions and picked away at her blueprints. Finally, he promised her a gift. “Have your president call on me,” he instructed.

A month later, President Hutchins would secure Cook’s promise to contribute $10,000 for a women’s dormitory. “This news will doubtless be very acceptable to you and give you great encouragement,” Hutchins wrote to White. “The subscription is undoubtedly due principally to your efforts.” In Ann Arbor, her success was making headlines of its own. The Michigan Daily heralded her return in late February 1911. “SECRETARY PAYS VISIT TO ANN ARBOR — Says Campaign Has Been Successful — All Are Enthusiastic,” the front page read. White soon departed for Omaha, Nebraska, to continue her campaign, not realizing at the time that her fundraising mission would soon prove complete.

Under Hutchins’ patient stewardship, Cook eventually agreed to fund the dormitory project in full, including furnishings. Named after Cook’s late mother, the Martha Cook Building opened in 1915—only shortly after the Helen Newberry Residence, the first women’s dormitory on campus. At a cost of $400,000, the Martha Cook Building was beautiful and spacious, and would over time become a beloved mainstay in Ann Arbor. Although they never met him, the residents of Martha Cook made sure that Mr. Cook always received flowers for his birthday.

The building marked the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between Cook and the university. He later funded the construction of the Law Quadrangle, an odyssey recalled in Portia, by Atlilio and Furio Piccirilli, The heroine of Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice stands over the building’s front door. Cook presented her Shakespeare’s greatest lawyer. the building’s 50th anniversary, “Eve” watches over the building’s Red Room.

As for White, she would later become Myrtle White Godwin, the wife of a successful Los Angeles physician, Dean E. Godwin (MD 1909). She wrote fondly of Ann Arbor and remained connected to the university. It wasn’t until late 1931 that she played a miraculous role in the conclusion of Cook’s winding story.

Cook’s ex-wife, Ida Olmstead, emerged shortly after his death to claim half of his estate. It shocked the Regents and left the university reeling. Myrtle, through persistent and a little luck, discovered that Olmstead was willing to settle for much less outside of court. The university avoided a costly legal defense of Cook’s will and, mặc dù—decades after her first meeting with Cook—helped preserve his gifts to the university. In her storied contributions to Michigan, Myrtle White Godwin’s early cultivation of William Cook’s legacy helped transform a fledging campus into a robust and iconic institution. That process required decades of careful management and the untold efforts of many people, including several regents and three U-M presidents. But it began with a fundraiser fresh out of college. She found herself at the heart of Wall Street, armed only with her blueprints and a letter from her university’s president.

During the years leading up to his death, many feared that Cook would rescind his million-dollar promises to the law school. Some considered him prickly, temperamental, and unpredictable. A close friend once described him as “a strange composite of the urbane and the tyrannical, the generous and the suspicious, the dreamer and the dictator.” He repeatedly refused offers to visit Ann Arbor and see his creations for himself; he feared that they couldn’t possibly live up to his lofty expectations. But Cook’s will shows that his commitment to Michigan was nothing short of true blue.

“I trust that this gift of my residuary estate may cause others to realize that the university can no longer be regarded in its main developments by state taxation alone,” he wrote. “If its standards of scholarship are to be maintained and advanced, they should be generous in their financial support. That university is and should be the pride of the state of Michigan.”

As for White, she would later become Myrtle White Godwin, the wife of a successful Los Angeles physician, Dean E. Godwin (MD 1909). She wrote fondly of Ann Arbor and remained connected to the university. It wasn’t until late 1931 that she played an influential role in the conclusion of Cook’s winding story.

Cook’s ex-wife, Ida Olmstead, emerged shortly after his death to claim half of his estate. It shocked the Regents and left the university reeling. Myrtle, through persistence and a little luck, discovered that Olmstead was willing to settle for much less outside of court. The university avoided a costly legal defense of Cook’s will and, subsequently—decades after her first meeting with Cook—helped preserve his gifts to the university. In her storied contributions to Michigan, Myrtle White Godwin’s early cultivation of William Cook’s legacy helped transform a fledging campus into a robust and iconic institution. That process required decades of careful management and the untold efforts of many people, including several regents and three U-M presidents. But it began with a fundraiser fresh out of college. She found herself at the heart of Wall Street, armed only with her blueprints and a letter from her university’s president. M

Postcard of the Martha Cook Building (ca. 1915). The building was designed by architecture firm York and Sawyer of New York. The same firm would later design the Law Quadrangle.

Reflecting on the experience, Godwin more than a century ago acknowledged her fundraisers as “the first volunteer. They could impart on his alma mater and the world the kind of influence that fundraisers can have at a public university like ours. After all, it was that first conversation with Myrtle that enlightened Cook to the positive change his generosity could impart on his alma mater and the world. In the past two centuries, fundraisers like Myrtle have ensured that philanthropists like Cook stay connected to the university. Their efforts have helped elevate U-M from humble beginnings to a world-class institution with iconic campuses, global influence, and an endowment of nearly $10 billion.

Each year, U-M recognizes the contributions of exceptional university champions with the David B. Herrmelin Award for Fundraising Volunteer Leadership, the highest award given by the university to fundraising volunteers. The commitment and passion that drove Myrtle White Godwin more than a century ago continue to drive today’s acknowledging fundraisers to this day. Unlike Myrtle, they receive no remuneration for their efforts. Like Myrtle, they speak eloquently and effectively about the needs of the day. They frequently help friends of the university understand how, by supporting U-M, they can bring about positive social change in areas of great importance to them. I’d like to acknowledge our fundraisers alongside Myrtle and Cook’s story—by way of reminder of what your efforts can accomplish.
The University of Michigan’s campus is ever changing. In the last 200 years, philanthropy has shaped the landscape of this great university. Philanthropic contributions, though initially intended to create change in one or a few areas of the university, have in fact—unknowingly or unexpectedly—weaved webs of change throughout U-M’s history.

The connections formed through time with just one act of philanthropy can’t be predicted, so take a small glimpse into some of the ways yesterday’s connections have inspired the connections of tomorrow. Though difficult to document every connection, or those of the future, know that the connections your contributions have etched in U-M’s history make a difference, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

The generous donors mentioned have given to many areas of the university. The chronology highlights just one way each of these donors has made a difference.

**Detroit Observatory**
The Observatory was at the heart of scientific research as the first dedicated research laboratory on campus and was home to the discovery of 21 asteroids and two comets.

**KENNETH (AB '15, PhD '10) AND JEANNE D. (AB '76, AM '81, MSW '82) LEVY CHURCH**
In 2014, the couple bequested $10 million to create the Ken and Jeanne Levy-Church Fund to Improve Cardiovascular Access. The initiative helps patients and families with expenses related to care, improves access to clinical trials, and provides support for innovative technology.

**FRANCES (AF '94, TeachCert '04) AND KENNETH (AB '64) EISENBERG**
To help accelerate the development of personalized treatments necessary to conquer clinical depression, bipolar disorder, and related illnesses, the Eisenberg’s gave $10.75 million in 2016 to the U-M Depression Center.

**Sanjay Gupta (BS '90, MD '93, MedRes '93, LHD Hon '12)**
In 2009, the U-M Food Allergy Center was named the Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center in recognition of Mary Weiser’s advocacy for food allergy awareness.

**William K. Eisenberg (BS '50, MS '52, PhD '65)**
In 2004, the Brehms gave a $4.4 million gift to Michigan Medicine. The gift provided funds for the Brehm Center for Diabetes Research, several faculty positions, and a research facility to be built as part of the expansion of the Kellogg Eye Center.

**WILLIAM R. (BS '50, MS '52, LLD Hon '13) AND DOLORES BREHM**
In 2001, the Weisers have made many significant gifts to areas across U-M. One recent gift of $50 million to the U-M Depression Center.

**Antonia Novello (MedRes '74, LLD Hon '94)**
In 2014, a blue oak was given by students, faculty and staff to commemorate the inauguration of Mark S. Schlissel as Michigan’s 14th president.

**Regent Ron (BBA '66) and Eileen L. (MBA '75) Weiser**
The Weisers have made many significant gifts to areas across U-M. One recent gift of $50 million included $9.5 million for the Food Allergy Center.

**William J. Mayo (MD 1883)**
In 1857, the Block “M” was a gift of the Class of 1933 to U-M President Harlan Hatcher and placed in the spot were the two diagonal walks cross.

**The Diag**
To make the campus—then consisting of four buildings on a flat enclosure of 40 acres—more aesthetically appealing and a fit place for learning, Professor Andrew Dickson White took it upon himself to plant trees on the Diag without permission or funding.

**Charles T. Munger (LSA '43, LLD Hon '10)**
2013 graduate residence which was named in his honor.

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**MARY AND MARC A. (BSE '81, MBA '00) WEISER**
Provided $20 million, bringing the family’s total gift to the Food Allergy Center to $10 million.

**Regent Ron (BBA '66) and Eileen L. (MBA '75) Weiser**
The Weisers have made many significant gifts to areas across U-M. One recent gift of $50 million included $9.5 million for the Food Allergy Center.

**Michigan Medicine**
In 2017, this became the name for the all-encompassing health system at U-M. It expresses U-M’s excellence in research, medical education, and patient care.

**MADALINE AND SIDNEY FORBES**
In 2001, they gave $12.5 million for cancer research. The largest private donation for cancer research in U-M history, the gift created the Forbes Institute for Cancer Discovery within the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**The generous donors mentioned have given to many areas of the university. The chronology highlights just one way each of these donors has made a difference.**

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**TIME**
In 1848, U-M opened the first university-owned medical facility in the United States. The 20-bed hospital was located in the residence of a former professor. It had no patient wards or operating rooms.

**NOTABLE ALUMNI**
In 1890, U-M established the first four-year medical school curriculum in the U.S.

**U-M Medical School**
Opened in 1850 with more than 200 students. They were charged $5 a year for two years of education.

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**CONNECTIONS**

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**T H R O U G H**

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**M**
A reserved, elderly man, dressed in baggy clothes, permanently moved into the Michigan Union to live amid a crowd of students at the University of Michigan. It was 1937, and though guest rooms at the Union were for alumni during short-term stays at the university, this gentleman called it home for 11 years. His name was Crapo (Cra-poe) Cornell Smith (LLB 1865).

Smith, one of U-M’s unique philanthropists, was a native of Detroit. The grandson of Henry Howland Crapo, Michigan’s governor from 1865-68, and cousin of the pioneering automaker William Crapo Durant, Smith carved his own path through life. A Harvard University graduate, Smith entered the U-M Law School in 1895 and graduated the following spring—at the time, it took one year to obtain a law degree.

Though he practiced law in Detroit and Boston, Smith wasn’t one to favor big cities. Upon retirement, Smith found himself heading back to Ann Arbor. Alone at age 68, he sought a home in the Union. University President Alexander Grant Ruthven (PhD ’06) granted him a six-month stay, suggesting that he “give the community a trial by living in the Michigan Union.” Three months later, Smith
Smith lived in a guest room in what was known as the men’s center—in one of the largest rooms, in fact. The spacious room, however, seemed smaller as it was crammed full of cardboard boxes, each stuffed to the brim with papers. And everything was covered in a thick layer of dust. Except for his bed and his chair, not an inch of space was spared. He had witened with age, becoming almost skeletal, his attire too big for his thinning body. Dressed in black suits with an old-fashioned, high, stiff white collared shirt, he always kept a rolled black umbrella with him, but no matter the weather. He was a popular man with the students, though that popularity was due to the sheer curiosity of the hundreds of students who frequented the Union. And it would have been hard not to be curious. Smith would spend most of his day in a leather chair in the lobby, buried behind his New York Times. If not reading the paper, he’d go for a stroll around campus or walk to the Michigan League for lunch. The Union had a cafeteria of its own, but he preferred the League cafeteria, claiming meals were 10 to 15 cents cheaper.

But what was interesting about Smith was his curiosity about the students themselves. Smith was truly an observer of sorts. He seldom spoke to anyone but occasionally, he would get up, shuffle to the registration desk, and ask the name and salary of some student he noticed waiting tables, cleaning floors, or engaged in some odd job around the Union. Then he’d give a curt “thank you” and go back about his business.

This strange behavior all made sense one day. And the university was in for a big surprise.

On March 4, 1948, Smith passed away at the University Hospital. He had made the university the sole beneficiary of his estate—of unknown value at the time. At first, while sorting through Smith’s home in Detroit, university representatives came across 14 bank books and two safe deposit boxes containing thousands of dollars in stocks and bonds. Additional securities were discovered in his Boston home. But the biggest shock of all was found on campus, in his room in the Union. In an almost-forgotten closet hidden behind the room’s furniture were more than $600,000 in stocks and bonds.

In all, Smith left the university $1 million, along with very specific instructions. He authorized the Board of Regents to establish a fund to be used for gifts, loans, scholarships, and merit awards for needy students, just like those Smith had quietly observed for 11 years.

And so, the Crapo C. Smith Scholarship was created with a $1 million endowment. Having helped hundreds of students attend U-M since its inception, the scholarship fund now totals almost $6.7 million.

The mystery man in the Union may have appeared reserved and most peculiar to some, but his keen observation of and empathy for struggling students made him one of the university’s most interesting philanthropists.

Smith was buried in Ann Arbor. The inscription on his tombstone is a testament to his compassion and dedication to U-M. It reads: “A friend of the students of the University of Michigan.”
Philanthropy at U-M is a longstanding tradition dating back to the university’s earliest days, when enthusiastic Detroit citizens provided support in the form of “subscriptions,” as contributions were called at the time. The tradition of pooling funds to create something together continues through the years with a number of individual, short-term projects in support of specific goals, such as the construction of the Michigan League and Burton Tower. Comprehensive fundraising campaigns in pursuit of university-wide priorities, though, only began emerging at the university less than three quarters of a century ago, often to the idealism that immediately followed World War II.

A 2001 letter to U-M, Jacqueline Koller Haring (AB ’37), a professional archivist, shared her memories of the university’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign.

After World War II, Haring was administrative assistant to Erich A. Walter II, who was dean of student affairs at the time. “One day,” Haring wrote, “a Michigan student came into the office to offer his idea for a suitable memorial of the war—a project which would foster scientific work for man’s good, rather than his destruction—in a word, a phoenix rising from the ashes of the atom bomb.”

The idea held broad appeal, and the Phoenix Project was formed, bringing donors together to pool their funds in pursuit of atomic energy’s peaceful uses. The life-affirming efforts of the Phoenix Project were intended to serve as a “living memorial” to the 579 U-M community members who died in the war.

An early draft of a campaign logo design stands as a “record and symbol of the hopes and ideals leading to the Phoenix Project.”

In Pursuit of EXCELLENCE

THE MICHIGAN MEMORIAL—PHOENIX PROJECT 1946–53
RAISED: $8.5 MILLION

A perhaps unforeseen result was the realization of how much U-M community members could accomplish by banding together in the pursuit of shared ideals—a finding that would prove true in future campaigns, as well. This campaign also appealed to corporations, which contributed more than half of the money raised, at a time when they were not yet accustomed to making major gifts to higher education.

It was the first modern comprehensive campaign of such grand scope by a public university and the first organized effort to raise funds for university projects not supported by the state. Over time, as it became apparent that the state could support only the most basic educational programs and facilities at U-M, this kind of comprehensive fundraising campaign would become increasingly important. With this project, a template was set.
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MICHIGAN 1981–87
GOAL: $160 MILLION
RAISED: $178 MILLION

Former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford (AB ’35, LLD Hon ’74) served as honorary chair of the President’s Campaign, with a goal beyond $100 million. Roger B. Smith (BSN ’58) Boyles of Grand Rapids, Michigan, reflected campaign priorities and, together with campaign gifts from many others—created a lasting legacy. The couple established endowed funds in the mid-1980s that continue providing support to this day for research at the School of Nursing and scholarships for Law School students.

“The campaign, Janet and I, continue to make gifts to our established funds,” John said.

“It is fabulous to see,” Janet said, “with the astute investments that go on at U-M—and with the large amounts that they get to invest from everybody at the university—how these funds have increased.”

WATCHING their endowed funds grow—and seeing the impact that has had on the lives of students who would otherwise be unable to attend U-M—has brought John and Janet Boyles great satisfaction, they said. “These are very bright, ambitious young people who have great goals as to how they’re going to improve the world.” John said.

THE BILION-DOLLAR CAMPAIGN FOR MICHIGAN 1991–97
GOAL: $5 BILLION
RAISED: $1.4 BILLION

“We’re not going to do millions in this campaign; we’re going to do one billion,” a campaign steering committee member said to have announced at a meeting to discuss the campaign nucleus with a “B.” Some said it was Mike Wallace (AB ’39, LLD Hon ’87) of CBS News’ 60 Minutes fame B, others swear it was J. Ira Harris (BBA ’59, LLD Hon ’12) of Palm Beach, Florida.

Serving under the national campaign chair, Regent Emeritus Robert E. Nederlander, Sr. (AB ’55, JD ’58, LLB ’90), were five campaign co-chairs: Wallace, Harris, Allan D. Gilmour (BBA ’58), Margaret Riecker (LLD Hon ’09) —then CEO of General Motors Corp.—was honorary co-chair.

Campaign priorities included enlarging the endowment and funding the construction and renovation of facilities for teaching, research, and clinical work. Endowment support from alumni of all schools and programs, and the large amounts that they get to invest from everybody at the university—how these funds have increased.

At the campaign launch in 2000 for U-M’s first multibillion-dollar campaign, Campaign Chair Rich Rogel (BBB ’70, LLD Hon ’98) of Avon, Colorado, thanked donors for their “vision, determination, and astute investments that go on at U-M—and the future of the state of Michigan, and the future of our nation and world.”

As the impact of past campaigns suggests, the activities of the present moment will have a profound influence on the university’s future. Since taking the helm of the university and the Victors for Michigan campaign in 2011, U-M President Mark S. Schlissel B has been working to position U-M “for perpetual excellence and public impact in research, creative work, performance, patient care, and education,” he has said. Today’s donors empower these efforts by providing support for the ongoing campaign.

THE MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE 2000–08
GOAL: $2.5 BILLION
RAISED: $3.2 BILLION

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THE STORY CONTINUES

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The campaign’s three key priorities are support for students, engaged learning, and bold ideas. It is the most ambitious campaign in university history, and its success to date reflects the increasing generosity of U-M donors over time.
The origins of U-M’s oldest endowed professorship have always been somewhat of a mystery. Following her death in 1898, Dr. Elizabeth H. Bates bequeathed $100,000 to the U-M Medical School, at a time when tuition there cost $12.50 a semester. In today’s dollars, her gift would have amounted to more than $2 million. Remarkably, history shows us that Bates never worked, taught, or studied at the university. In fact, as far as anyone can tell, Elizabeth Bates never so much as set foot in Ann Arbor.

Since 1899, the Bates Professorship of the Diseases of Women and Children has supported the work of seven professors at the U-M Medical School. It is one of the most prestigious chairs not only at U-M, but for obstetricians and gynecologists across the country. This is the story of how—or why—it came to be.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Bates, benefactor, the Bates Professorship of the Diseases of Women and Children

Elizabeth H. Bates was born April 1, 1832, in Charlemont, Massachusetts. Elizabeth was described as a very delicate child due to an injury suffered early in life; she spent much of her early childhood indoors with her mother, whom records describe as “an invalid.” Her father, Dr. William K. Bates, was renowned as a physician of exceptional ability: “clear and precise in expression, acutely observant, and of a medical judgment almost unerring in serious cases.” Elizabeth spent much of her later childhood traveling at his side, accompanying him on trips into the country districts to treat his patients.

She began her education in Charlemont, before her father’s practice expanded and relocated the family to Morris, New York. She completed her education at Mrs. Willard’s Seminary at Troy, New York, and returned to her parents in 1852. By then, Elizabeth was ready to confide to her father that she wanted no part of a domesticated life. She felt lost without regular work and confided that she

legacy

of

U-M’s First

Endowed

Professorship

A Force of Character

And the Extraordinary Woman

Who Started It All

“NO HALFWAY WORK”

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...
“did not want to do nothing as other girls did.” Studying medicine had been her ambition since girlhood, and she aimed to pursue it now.

Her father, forever pragmatic, answered: “If you do, you must do it desperately. I want no halfway work.” At the time, women in medicine were rare—the first woman to receive her medical degree in the U.S. had graduated from medical school only five years earlier. William knew it would require an abnormal amount of commitment, exceptional skill, and an endurance in character and spirit. “Think it over for two weeks, but do not speak to me of it until then,” he instructed. Elizabeth—perhaps predictably—answered that she was ready to begin immediately.

They studied together in secret for a year before Elizabeth enrolled at the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, one of the world’s first medical schools for women, where she graduated in 1854. Her 30-page handwritten thesis, “Best Means of Preserving Health,” is still on file in the college’s archives, maintained by the Drexel University College of Medicine.

DOMINANCE OF MIND AND WILL

Dr. Bates practiced medicine alongside her father in Owego, New York, where they enjoyed two decades of success. Then, in 1872, Elizabeth’s mother died suddenly. Tragically, her father followed soon after. Dr. Bates knew that women could compete. Many at U-M and beyond called the co-educational university a “dominance of mind and will.”

Bates Professorship since 1899

1899–1901
JAMES N. MARTIN, M.D.
1901–30
REUBEN PETERSON, M.D.
1931–63
NORMAN F. MILLER, M.D.
1964–78
J. ROBERT WILLSON, M.D.
1979–84
ALAN BEER, M.D.
1985–91
PRESTON V. DILTS, M.D.
1993–PRESENT
TIMOTHY R.B. JOHNSON, M.D.

One of those self-reliant, competent, and capable women that are only found in free America,” it recalled.

Her funeral services drew much of Port Chester. The minister’s eulogy lauded her accomplishments in life and in medicine—celebrating Bates in special consideration of her time and place in the world. She had flourished “when such achievement on the part of women was far less frequent than at the present time and when it encountered far more of prejudice and opposition,” he said. “For many years she was left to fight the battle of life singlehanded, managing her business affairs and augmenting her material fortune in the face of the world’s masculine strength and shrewdness.”

“All this required and developed a force of character, which resulted in a remarkable accentuation of willpower and personal authority… Her experience as a whole was one remarkable for the dominance of mind and will.”

Dr. Elizabeth Bates was buried next to her father in Morris, New York. But the wide reach of her legacy was only beginning to become apparent. Soon after her death, officials at the University of Michigan were stunned to receive word of a bequest to the Medical School by a physician from upstate New York. No one at the university had ever heard of an Elizabeth Bates, but she had left almost her entire fortune—more than $100,000—to U-M.

“It does not appear that our benefactor ever visited the university,” President James B. Angell reflected in announcing the gift. “As far as we can learn, she was moved to remember us in this generous manner by the fact that this university was one of the first to offer medical education to women.”

The only stipulation of Bates’s gift may have confirmed Angell’s inference. She instructed that U-M continue to “receive female students in the medical department, to pursue their studies, and to receive the same advantages as male students.”

The university—having already educated women at its medical school for close to two decades—accepted her terms. At the Regents’ meeting of September 1899, James N. Martin (MD 1883) was appointed the first Bates Professor of the Diseases of Women and Children.

A LASTING LEGACY

It would be hard to imagine that Bates could have predicted the extraordinary impact that her gift to U-M would ultimately have. Since 1899, the Bates professorship has supported the work of seven professors at the U-M Medical School. Their combined work has imparted untold change on our campus and our world.

Today—almost 100 years after its establishment—the Bates chair is held by Timothy R.B. Johnson, M.D. (AB ’70, AM ’73, MedRes ’79). Johnson is chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, a professor of women’s studies, and a research professor in the Center for Human Growth and Development. His international teaching and training in Ghana have earned him an honorary fellowship at the West African College of Surgeons, an honorary fellowship of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a fellowship ad eundem at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London. Johnson’s peers credit him with transforming women’s care at U-M and in communities across the globe; they describe him as a mentor, a teacher, a lifesaver, and a good friend.

Recently, his peers came together to raise funds to create the Timothy R.B. Johnson, M.D. Professorship in Global Women’s Health, to ensure exceptional care and justice for women around the globe. Their goal: “to honor and celebrate a beloved teacher, leader, caregiver, and change agent who represents the best of the maize and blue and the best of mankind.”

Johnson is the third Bates professor to have a professorship created in his honor. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Michigan Medicine is also home to the Norman F. Miller Professorship of Gynecology and the J. Robert Willson Professorship of Obstetrics.

“The Johnson Professorship will be awarded to an individual who shares his commitment to being a voice for women throughout the world,” Johnson’s peers wrote. “It will inspire future generations and be a lasting tribute to Dr. Johnson’s impact on us and in the world.”

One hundred nineteen years after its receipt, Dr. Bates’s gift to the university has provided for the betterment of women’s and children’s health in Ann Arbor and around the world. Dr. Johnson and his predecessors have carried on her legacy in ways she may not have been able to imagine. The professorships created in their honor—an indirect result of Bates’s gift in 1898—illustrate the tremendous, long-lasting change that can be brought about through philanthropic giving. It shows us that generosity bears generosity, and that generosity can change our world.
It's nearly impossible to walk around campus and not be struck by the impact of giving. So much of our university's growth was made possible through philanthropy and transformational giving, which is something I learned while working as a philanthropic tour guide for the Office of University Development. The selflessness of others has allowed many thousands of students to attend college, work with some of the best, most advanced technologies; study around the world; and build the foundation on which their future rests.

I came to embrace the importance of philanthropy and admire the positive change it brings. I believe that donations don't lose their significance once a building is constructed or a scholarship is funded. If anything, they only grow in importance over time and signify the evolution of our campus. While much of U-M has been touched by the work, time, and giving of others, for me, certain buildings and monuments deserve special recognition as hallmarks of Michigan's highest ideals.

My favorite monument on campus is a steel and granite structure, tucked away on North Campus, called Köszönöm (“Thank You”). The sculpture honors the life and legacy of one of U-M's most esteemed alumni, Raoul Wallenberg (BSArch '35), who is credited with saving the lives of more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II. As the great-grandson of Jewish immigrants who lost family during the Holocaust, I feel this monument is particularly important to me. Sol King (BSArch '34), who was Wallenberg’s college classmate and close friend, provided the funds to make Köszönöm's construction possible.
When you think about a landmark on campus, what are some of the first ones that come to mind? For me, it’s the Cube.

Stationed prominently in Regents’ Plaza and surrounded by the Fleming Building, the Michigan Union, and West Quad, this massive structure has greeted many over the last half-century. But most don’t know that the Cube was a gift from the Class of 1965 and Bernard Rosenthal, the artist.

Did you know that Arthur Miller (AB ’38, LLD Hon ’56), one of the great playwrights of the 20th century, was a proud Michigan Wolverine? North Campus’s Arthur Miller Theatre honors Miller’s accomplishments and embodies our university’s commitment to the arts. The only theater in the world to bear Miller’s name, it was made possible by a generous gift from U-M alumnus Charles Walgreen, Jr. (PhC ’28, MS Hon ’52, LLD Hon ’92). Expressed as a translucent glass cube, the strikingly beautiful building complements the equally elegant theater, which hosts many musical, artistic, and theatrical productions throughout the year.

The Intramural Sports Building (IMSB) inspired the construction of campus recreational facilities across the country. Just recently, owing to the tireless work of students and Student Life staff members who called on administrators to enhance our university’s commitment to the arts and their connection to the campus community, our community has been blessed with a newly renovated IMSB. This activism inspires us to expand our understanding of philanthropy and the act of giving beyond dollars and cents; students, university staff, and community members “give” to the IMSB with their time, advocacy, and commitment to “Building a Better Michigan.”

The Cube “Endover” in the Regents Plaza.

Next, the Munger Graduate Residences. That philanthropy was behind this building’s construction is well known. But what makes this gift so powerful, though, is the vision that spearheaded the building and the residences. Charles T. Munger (LLD Hon ’10) wanted a space that would unite graduate and professional students from different backgrounds and academic disciplines—one that would foster professional and personal connections as well as the development of new ideas. In addition to advancing this goal, the building features a rooftop track, which provides one of the most wonderful views of Ann Arbor!

Questions? Comments?
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Have comments for the editor?
Send your email to leadersandbest@umich.edu or call 734.647.6000.

Want more details on how to make a gift to Michigan?
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