LEADERS & BEST
GIVING AT MICHIGAN
SPRING 2018

BLUE PLANET
Celebrating U-M’s impact on our state, nation, and world
A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARK SCHLISSEL

I call Michigan ‘Collaboration U’ because so many different units work together to solve problems. We have the advantage of 97 graduate departments rated in the top 10 in the country. Putting all this brain power and excitement together is going to help us find a cure for cancer. It will make people’s lives better, and that’s the most important thing.”

— Richard Rogel (BBA ’70, LLD Hon ’09), Victors for Michigan campaign co-chair

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As president of the University of Michigan, I am often asked, “What is the value of a public research university like U-M?” My answer typically has multiple parts. First, U-M’s foundational mission includes research, teaching, and service. The latter ensures that our discoveries, innovations, and expertise are geared toward the betterment of our society. Second, our university prepares incredibly talented students to participate in that society, to leverage the skills they acquire at U-M and make meaningful contributions in an increasingly complex world. Most importantly, through these efforts, our university improves the quality of life—not just for our graduates, but for individuals and communities everywhere.

These tenets are at the heart of a great university. We are a place that promotes peace, equity, and empowerment. At Michigan, students work alongside world-class faculty to meet the needs of today and rise to the challenges of tomorrow. Our impact can be seen almost anywhere you look. Michigan is in the books we read, in the hospitals and clinics that heal, and in the ambitions of startup companies around the world. From Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn, the impact of our university reaches into the very distant regions of our planet and beyond.

Today, we can further extend our impact thanks to initiatives like our Teach-Out Series from the Office of Academic Innovation. Teach-Outs are free, global community learning events that encourage interactions among participants and faculty experts to address pressing issues from multiple perspectives. Topics have included free speech, opioid abuse, climate change, and more. Creating this kind of innovative learning opportunity is just one more way that U-M aims to make a difference in people’s lives and communities.

Creating this kind of innovative learning opportunity is just one more way that U-M aims to make a difference in people’s lives and communities. In this issue of Leaders & Best, you can see even more examples of U-M’s local and global impact—and read about the dedicated donors and volunteers who make that work possible. You can learn about U-M’s newest school and how it’s meeting the complex challenges facing our environment. You’ll see how collaborative partnerships at U-M are expanding the quality of teaching across our state and nation. And you can read about how some of our most committed donors are accelerating U-M’s efforts to address monumental health issues such as cancer by bringing to bear the breadth, depth, and excellence of Michigan Medicine.

These are just a few examples of how U-M addresses the needs of modern society by preparing future leaders and doing groundbreaking research. Within them, we see the value of a great public research university like Michigan, bolstered by our supporters and our commitment to be relentless in pursuit of the public good.

Like you, I firmly believe in the critical importance of ensuring that our shared work can continue. For your part in helping our university meet its mission, thank you—and Go Blue!

Sincerely,

MARK SCHLISSEL
PRESIDENT
Jonathan “Peck” Overpeck is a world-renowned climate scientist with over 200 published works, including coauthorship of a Nobel Prize-winning report on climate change. He joins the University of Michigan as the inaugural Samuel A. Graham Dean of U-M’s new School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS).

Peck recently hosted Leaders & Best for a conversation about what it takes to lead U-M through a major expansion of its environment and sustainability initiatives.

### WHAT IS SEAS AND HOW HAS ITS IDENTITY EVOLVED TO REFLECT THE NEEDS OF THE DAY?

The School for Environment and Sustainability is here to make the world a more environmentally sound, sustainable, and just place. The vision for this new school came from faculty working together to recommend a new focus for environment and sustainability initiatives at U-M. One of the big innovations of SEAS is that it’s a cross-campus school. It’s one of the first such experiments that I know of in the country. We’re not only a school with very rigorous academic programs, leading research, and global engagement; we’re also charged with reaching across all of campus to act as a catalyst for achieving more, both in terms of academic prowess and in our university’s impact in society.

Our school has its roots in forestry. The very first courses in forestry in the United States were taught at the University of Michigan. The progression since then has never really lost sight of those roots in the natural environment that we live in. But it’s now a much more comprehensive school with a much more comprehensive focus. That reflects the fact that our natural environment and the people on this planet are interacting in ways that create a lot of challenges. Those challenges now expand to include environmental justice, climate, food and water, energy, and so much more. SEAS won’t be leaving its roots behind, but will integrate them in with a broader perspective that will have more impact when it comes to serving society.

### HOW CAN SEAS LEVERAGE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY BREADTH AND DEPTH OF U-M TO CREATE REAL-WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

Our goal is to make U-M the best university in the world when it comes to environment and sustainability. The only way you do that is to recognize the excellence that has made its way into every nook and cranny of this great university. At SEAS, that takes shape in so many partnerships across campus. Over in the College of Engineering, we have world-class faculty working on sustainable systems, climate change, weather, water, and so much more. In LSA, just about every department is contributing to a more vibrant and sustainable world.

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### WHAT IS U-M'S NEW SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (SEAS)?

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Our list of partners within U-M just goes on and on, and I can’t stress enough the importance of these partnerships across campus. Every school, college, and unit at U-M plays a role. As I said, our goal is to be the best. We’re only going to achieve that by bringing everybody together and making the sum better than the individual parts. That’s what SEAS is charged with doing: to be a catalyst, to be an empowerer. We not only need to help get our university to the very top of environmental research, but to have more impact in society than any other university in the world.

### HOW IS DONOR AND ALUMNI SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT CENTRAL TO SEAS’ MISSION?

The donor partnerships with the University of Michigan are nothing less than mind-blowing, especially for someone who came from another university. Our alumni, donors, and friends have such a remarkable spirit for making the University of Michigan a better place. I can’t help but look around this campus and note all the wonderful things that donors are doing in terms of infrastructure, programmatic support, and supporting our professors and students.

We have so many efforts around campus focused on the Great Lakes region. What I want to do is coalesce these programs, big and small, into a more organized effort that will ensure that the Great Lakes only get greater. We want to achieve something that future generations will look back and say, “The University of Michigan and its partners were there to ensure that we were in it for the long haul, and thank-goodness for that.” We’ve also started growing our international programs, because some of our biggest problems are global. This means finding partners like our alumni and others from around the globe. We have one program called Sustainability Without Borders, which works in Africa, Latin America, and Puerto Rico to enhance the way people live in those countries, particularly people who don’t have a lot of power or wealth. We’re trying to bring greater equality to this world, as well as get people out of poverty.

### WHAT SORT OF PARTNERSHIPS CAN SEAS ESTABLISH OUTSIDE OF THE U-M COMMUNITY?

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There are so many partners helping us do these things right now. Don (BSE IO ’55, MSE ’56, DEng Hon ’09) and Ingrid (BSDes ’57) Graham are just terrific supporters of the school, and terrific supporters of the University of Michigan’s enterprise, more generally. The Graham Sustainability Institute is already allowing us to do so much more than what a typical university can do in terms of moving the needle, in terms of getting things done in society. Likewise, the Erb Family Foundation, in creating the Erb Institute, a partnership between the Ross School of Business and SEAS, is another example where we have a uniquely powerful program with world-leading synergy. It’s amazing what we can accomplish in terms of helping business partners understand how they can create a more sustainable and just world.

I’d also like to mention the Wege Foundation. They have been wonderful in their support of the Center for Sustainable Systems. It’s a wonderful partnership between SEAS and the College of Engineering. Peter C. Mertz (BS ’74, MBA ’81) has also been visionary in his support of our students. I cannot overstate the critical impact that he’s had for our master’s students, and how important that is to the success of those programs. Really, it would be so difficult to acknowledge all of the partners who provide life-changing support to our students, not to mention the vision and expertise they provide for our programs. We have so many wonderful collaborators who are making U-M a better place.

WHERE DOES SEAS NEED THE MOST HELP IN MEETING ITS GOALS?

We’re always looking for continued support for our students. That will always remain a top priority for SEAS. My goal as dean right now is to double the support available to them. It’s also critical to me that we fund programs. When it comes to our new goal of really engaging in society and focusing on partnerships off campus, we can’t afford to drop the ball because we’ve run out of funding or we’ve had a gap in funding. My goal is to find partners who can ensure the long-term sustainability of our research, education, and engagement programs.

Another area that’s critical for our students is in the area of communications and engagement. One of the real strengths of the University of Michigan is our alumni. They’re out there fighting the fight for the environment and sustainability, and we need to be giving them a stronger quiver of tools to utilize in their careers—tools that will last. Many places now are focusing on communication and how to communicate knowledge more effectively. What we want to do is go beyond communication to engagement. How do you actually build trust? Because ultimately I think it’s those trusted partnerships and relationships that will help us depoliticize environmental issues. If we can accomplish that, we can have much more impact in ensuring an environmentally sound, sustainable, and just world.

SEAS’ IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD

SEAS’ impact extends from the state of Michigan to around the world. Here are a few examples of how SEAS faculty and students are meeting the needs of today and tomorrow.

INDIA
Assistant Professor Meha Jain interviews farmers in Bihar, India, about how warming temperatures are negatively affecting wheat yields and whether farmers are making changes to adapt their production to heat stress.

PERU
Erb student Bob Kraynak (MBA ’18, MS ’18) works in a Shared-X pineapple field. Students worked with farmers to improve yields and create a shared-value model for sustainable agriculture.

NEPAL
Professor Jim Diana and Assistant Professor of Practice Jose Alfaro (PhD ’14) listen as members of a women’s co-op in Nepal explain how fishery interventions have benefited their group.

LIBERIA
SEAS students Nathan Chesterman (BS ’14, SEAS Class of 2019) and Tae Lim (MS ’14, MSE ’17) work alongside local girls on a solar powered drip irrigation system at Jungle Farm, Liberia.

CHINA
SEAS students address high levels of arsenic in groundwater by creating biosand filters for water decontamination in a rural community in Pingyao, China.

To support SEAS today, visit myumi.ch/lbSupportSEAS.
For more SEAS impact stories, visit myumi.ch/lbSEASimpact.
As the conclusion of the Victors for Michigan campaign draws near, I’m pleased to relay more exciting news regarding our shared progress. Your momentum hasn’t slowed in the campaign’s final year. Together, more than 375,000 victors—with gifts averaging $2,200 each—have contributed upwards of $4.77 billion to this university. That includes over $1 billion to support our students through fellowships and scholarships. Your combined efforts continue to make an already world-leading university even more outstanding, impactful, and accessible.

I’m continually impressed by the remarkable individuals who ensure this campaign’s progress. Each of you is driven in some way by your own experience, your passions, and your vision. I recently had the chance to meet U-M alumni Keith Black (BS ’78, MD ’81, MedRes ’87) and Carol Bennett (MedRes ’83).

Keith was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, the son of a teacher and a principal at a racially-segregated school. His family later moved to Cleveland, and as a teenager, he joined an apprentice program at Case Western that fostered his passion for science.

Keith eventually came to Michigan, completing his B.S., M.D., and residency at U-M. Today, Keith is a renowned brain surgeon at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He’s been featured in TIME and Esquire magazines, and he even published an autobiography, Brain Surgeon. Carol is a urologist, also an alumna of U-M as a medical resident. Keith and Carol were recently moved by the early interventions of U-M’s new program, Wolverine Pathways. They saw the chance to provide students in need with opportunities like Keith had in his youth.

Keith and Carol made their first major U-M gift to Wolverine Pathways in 2015—also the first major gift for the program. Since then, major gifts from Jim (BSA ’88) and Maureen Lico, Stephanie (AB ’92) and Glenn Salzman, and Alex Tolchinsky (MBA ’89) have elevated the program to new and exciting heights. The funds are already supporting outreach to middle and high school students in Detroit, Southfield, and Ypsilanti. This fall, U-M welcomes the first cohort of Wolverine Pathways students to the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses. Approximately 93 percent of students who participated in the program were admitted to U-M.

These donors were driven by their vision for a better future. The outstanding program they chose to support is just one of many that have been made possible by your ongoing support during this campaign. In 29 years of service to the University of Michigan, I have never seen a more remarkable effort than the one at hand. Your passion is inspiring. Your generosity is unrivaled. When I retire at our campaign’s conclusion, I know that I’ll be able to take my leave from university life with a smile. But until then—and as always—there is still much work to be done. Our world still needs victors. Thank you for your part in ensuring that we never lose sight of our goals.

Sincerely,

JERRY A. MAY
VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Students participate in the Wolverine Pathways kickoff event at the Michigan Union in 2016. Students who complete the cost-free program and who are admitted to U-M receive a full-tuition scholarship for four years.

Visit myumi.ch/lbWolverinePathways to see the impact of the Wolverine Pathways program.

“Your passion is inspiring. Your generosity is unrivaled.”
Following graduation, Irma went on to work on several of the very first programmable computers. Her passion for an emerging technology made her a pioneer in a blossoming field and, despite facing the same obstacles in the workplace that she faced at U-M, Irma’s steadfast determination bloomed into hard-earned success. She would eventually become the first female vice president of Honeywell, a Fortune 100 company and global leader in technology and manufacturing.

In 1996, Irma established the Irma M. Wyman Scholarship Fund at CEW+ (formerly the Center for the Education of Women) at U-M. More than two decades later, the fund has provided generous support to nearly 40 recipients in pursuit of degrees in engineering, computer science, and related fields at U-M. “Since my life had been transformed by a scholarship, I knew exactly what the impact of that was on a person. And being female, I wanted to assist other women who were perhaps getting into the same kinds of challenges that I was,” she said.

At school, it quickly became apparent that she was up against the odds of her time and place in the world. For a young woman with her aspirations, discrimination was a common fact of life. Incredulous professors told her that her grades were irrelevant, they wouldn’t pass her because women simply shouldn’t be engineers. Her mother even received a letter from the dean of women expressing profound disapproval of Irma’s choice of major. But Irma was equipped with the force of character that makes it impossible for a person to yield in the face of adversity. More than that, her detractors only motivated her to succeed. “I felt that if I gave up, I would be rewarding all these people who said I couldn’t do it, I shouldn’t do it,” she said.

“I grew up being told that I would never go to college, that I shouldn’t get my hopes up, that there would be no possibility of me doing that.”

Nevertheless, she persisted. The late Irma M. Wyman (BSE Math ’49, TeachCert ’49, DEng Hon ’07) arrived at the University of Michigan in the waning years of World War II. Her parents, a working-class couple from Detroit, hesitated to send her to Ann Arbor. They expected her to graduate high school, work for a few years, and then marry. But with most young men off to war and rare opportunities for young women on the table, a Regents Scholarship offer from U-M sealed the deal. Irma enrolled in the College of Engineering, making her one of only seven women in her residence hall, “living as leanly as I could and working as much as I could, wherever I could.”

Irma passed away peacefully in 2015 at the age of 87, but her remarkable legacy remains on the Ann Arbor campus. Before her passing, she worked closely with CEW+ to establish a bequest adding over $2.5 million to her scholarship fund. “That scholarship has been the best investment I’ve ever made,” she said. “The returns have been so rich and satisfying to me, to the scholars, and to the university.”

At CEW+, Irma’s support has made a world of difference. “It is difficult to put into words just how much Irma has contributed to CEW+,” says CEW+ director Tiffany Mara (MS ’98, PhD ’06). “Supporting generations of future scholars, this gift ensures that with each passing year we move toward a more diverse STEM workforce. The ripple effect of Irma’s legacy will be felt by many and offer a sustaining boost of confidence to draw from as scholars set out to engage in the challenging work of changing the world for the better.”

Today, Irma’s legacy at U-M is reflected in the accomplishments of dozens of students pursuing their dreams in STEM fields. “It’s a fascinating world out there,” she once said. “If your gifts and talents fit into the engineering world, there’s a lot you can do. You can really help humanity and do good things for people.”

“I learned of CEW+ at a time when I was facing both financial and personal challenges that would not have allowed me to complete my studies,” she says. “Through CEW+, I received counseling and support, later applying for the Irma Wyman Scholarship. I received the scholarship during my final year of study and the funds lessened the burden of my tuition needs.” Okullo says the support she received was the push she needed to complete her degree and continue making an impact around the world.

Dolorence Okullo (MHI ’17) is one of many remarkable students who have benefited from Irma’s commitment to assisting young women in STEM fields. Okullo is a recent graduate of the Health Informatics master’s program at UM’s School of Information (UMSI). Her work supports patient-centered information systems that promote standardization around the globe. In recognition of her work managing health information for AIDS patients and blood banks in Uganda, Okullo was awarded the Center for Global Health Director’s Global Health Strategy Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her experience eventually brought her to UMSI, where support from CEW+ and Irma’s scholarship made a world of difference in meeting her goals.

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That scholarship has been the best investment I’ve ever made.”

— Irma M. Wyman

For more information about how to include U-M in your will or trust, visit myumi.ch/lbGiftLegacy or call 734-615-2022.
Jandernoas Support Grand Rapids Schools

Great teachers aren’t born, they’re taught. That’s the mantra of TeachingWorks, a national organization based at U-M’s School of Education (SOE). In classrooms across the nation, TeachingWorks is helping advance the quality and preparedness of teachers.

In March, the Jandernoas committed to a $4.3 million gift, the bulk of which will be used to expand TeachingWorks’ Grand Rapids Mathematics Collaborative (GRMC). In addition to supporting the School of Education, the Jandernoas’ gift will establish a need-based scholarship at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business and expand fellowships at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, continuing the Jandernoas’ support for teaching and learning in the classroom.

In Grand Rapids, the GRMC is focusing on preparing the next generation of mathematics teachers, particularly in mathematics education. With this gift, the Jandernoas wish to better prepare Michigan teachers and enhance students’ math capabilities. In the course of their professional and charitable lives, they recognized troubling deficiencies in mathematics readiness among children in West Michigan.

"Just at the time when the current workforce needs better math skills, our high school graduates have significantly less math understanding and proficiency," Mike Jandernoa said. "We must help these students in math now so they can have successful jobs in the future."

TeachingWorks is especially focused on advancing equity and social justice by opening opportunities for marginalized students to experience equitable instruction, build positive learning identities, and find academic success. For this project, TeachingWorks is collaborating with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Kent Intermediate School District, and Grand Valley State University to jointly design a program of training, development, and support to improve mathematics teaching in grades three through eight. Following the first year of the planned five-year project, collaborators will expand partnerships to meet the needs that are determined in the initial stages of the work.

Those partnerships have been critical to the program’s early success, says Deborah Loewenberg Ball. Ball serves as the William H. Payne Collegiate Professor of Education, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and the director of TeachingWorks.

“Our partners in this collaboration are developing a deeper understanding of skillful teaching, particularly the ways in which teaching with care can intervene on inequities faced by children from marginalized communities,” she said. “They have been consistently enthusiastic about applying the approaches to teaching we work on together to their instruction, and many of them are already observing improvements in their students’ learning and participation. We are so moved by the ways our partners have become ambassadors for this work within their own contexts.”

The Jandernoas have been crucial allies in building partnerships and extending the pipeline of quality teachers, in Michigan and across the nation. “Without the guidance and support from wonderful friends like the Jandernoas, TeachingWorks simply wouldn’t exist today—and neither would the important work we are currently doing in 26 states to transform how teachers are prepared for our nation’s most important profession,” Ball said. “Their commitment to our collaboration in Grand Rapids will help inspire a deeper dedication to skillful teaching throughout West Michigan and beyond.”

When you add it all up, the work of U-M faculty, community stakeholders, and dedicated donors like the Jandernoas is a major factor in SOE’s broad success, said Dean Elizabeth Birr Moje.

“Donors bring much more than their generous financial support to our community. They bring their vision of a better world through education,” she said. “It is exciting to partner with the Jandernoas and all of our donors because everyone involved is deeply invested in and passionate about the outcome of the work.”

“The most important role of education is to create just societies by creating equitable opportunities for all children to learn at the highest levels.”

— Elizabeth Birr Moje, Dean of the School of Education

To learn more about how you can support the School of Education, visit myumi.ch/IbSupportSOE.

Visit myumi.ch/IbTeachingWorks to learn more about TeachingWorks.
CATALYZING CURES

Rogels’ historic $150 million gift is the largest ever to Michigan Medicine

Richard (BBA ’70, LLD Hon ’09) and Susan Rogel are on a mission to boost innovative cancer research and develop the next generation of cancer pioneers. In March, a $150 million commitment to the University of Michigan established the Rogel Cancer Center with the hope that U-M can do just that. The gift is the largest ever to Michigan Medicine and one of the largest in U-M’s history.

This transformational gift will enable Michigan Medicine to draw on its collaborative research culture to drive cancer care forward. It will help attract and support outstanding cancer researchers from around the world, including the most promising fellows and trainees, making the University of Michigan a premier center fostering the development of new leaders in cancer research and care.

The couple has a personal motivation to invest in cancer research. Richard Rogel, co-chair of the Victors for Michigan National Campaign Leadership Board, lost his father to pancreatic cancer. He hopes new research underway at U-M will result in earlier diagnoses and better treatments for this and other types of cancer. Both of Susan Rogel’s parents died of cancer long ago. Her 50-year-old daughter, Ilene, died five years ago from an aggressive form of lung cancer. With few treatments available to help Ilene, “it made us want to do more to help with the fight against cancer,” says Richard Rogel. “It’s as simple as that.”

“Because of Rich and Susan’s gift, we are as likely as any place in the world to make the breakthroughs that truly make the difference in cancer treatment.”

President Mark Schlissel

To see more on the impact of the Rogels’ gift, visit myumi.ch/lbRogelGift.

“I call Michigan ‘Collaboration U’ because so many different units work together to solve problems,” Rogel says. “We have the advantage of 97 graduate departments rated in the top 10 in the country. Putting all this brain power and excitement together is going to help us find a cure for cancer. It will make people’s lives better, and that’s the most important thing.”

Rogel also chairs the Michigan Medicine Victors for Michigan campaign and the Victors for Michigan Global Student Support Committee that has raised more than $1 billion. In addition, Rogel serves on numerous other boards across the university, including as co-chair of both the Development Advisory Board for the University of Michigan-Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute, and the Leadership and Development Council for the Joint Institute for Translational and Clinical Research between Michigan Medicine and Peking University Health Science Center.

Previously, he chaired the U-M Michigan Difference campaign, received U-M’s inaugural David B. Hermelin Award for Fundraising Volunteer Leadership in 2004, and received the national Ernest T. Stewart Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in 2011.

Susan Rogel serves on the Steering Committee of the Victors for Michigan National Campaign Leadership Board, the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women’s Hospital National Campaign Leadership Council, and the U-M Depression Center Campaign Council. She has also served on the Alumni Association Campaign Committee.
UNPACKING THE ROGELS’ GIFT

“Susan and Rich Rogel are great visionaries about the evolution of cancer research at the University of Michigan. Their incredible support will enable us to facilitate robust and comprehensive programs and opportunities for our faculty, staff, and fellows,” says Marshall Runge, executive vice president for medical affairs at U-M.

So what does a $150 million gift make possible?

“This generous gift brings major new opportunities for our cancer center to dramatically increase the pace of generating important advances in the cancer field,” says Eric R.Fearon, the Emanuel N. Maisel Professor of Oncology and director of the Rogel Cancer Center. The Rogels’ gift has six key components, all geared toward assisting patients, physicians, and researchers at the Rogel Cancer Center, he says. “We will be able to develop and apply selected discoveries for new approaches to reduce the burden of cancer and improve quality of life for cancer patients and survivors, as well as assist in building the careers of the next generation of cancer researchers and clinicians.”

1. PIONEERING CANCER RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Provide competitive grants to collaborative research teams developing new approaches and technologies to advance early cancer detection, monitoring, and treatment.

2. SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Offer scholarships to enable medical students and other predoctoral trainees to develop the skills and knowledge they need to make lasting contributions to the health of individuals and populations, including those with cancer.

3. COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS

Establish a signature program that brings international luminaries in the cancer field to U-M for six to 12 months. They will develop new projects that will continue after they leave, creating a collaborative network focused on advancing and applying cancer knowledge.

4. CUTTING-EDGE SCIENTISTS

Provide support to retain or recruit dynamic researchers to pursue high-risk, high-reward projects.

5. SCIENTIFIC FREEDOM

Create a suite of endowed professorships in cancer research, tied to research funds that will convey U-M’s commitment to discovery and innovation.

6. PROMISING NEW RESEARCHERS

Support the development of independent research careers for a cohort of highly motivated, advanced postdoctoral cancer research scientists whose work shows signs of great promise.

Visit myumi.ch/lbcCancerCenter to learn more about how you can support the Rogel Cancer Center.
“When I found out I was pregnant as a freshman, I was terrified,” said Nicolina Evola (AB ’18). A student in U-M’s College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the time, she wondered how she would earn her degree while caring for her child.

CEW+ (formerly the Center for the Education of Women) stepped in to offer Nicolina the Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship, established by the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation. The scholarship is one of many offered by the CEW+ Scholarship Program to women and nontraditional students whose education has been interrupted.

For Nicolina, CEW+ is “the reason I stayed at Michigan.” Financial, academic, and personal support from donors, peers, and mentors at the center gave Nicolina the confidence to pursue her degree while raising her son. “I realized how much support I had to move forward, never once feeling guilty or pressured to sacrifice my career in order to take care of my child,” Nicolina said.

As a mother, Nicolina has experienced the life-changing impact of donors who support students from unique backgrounds and experiences. “Meeting some of the non-traditional students that I’ve met through the CEW+ has been really inspiring,” she said. “There are students that have so many challenges in their lives, and they still go to school.”

The support she received as an undergraduate has inspired her to continue serving others. Nicolina plans to earn a graduate degree in public health, pursuing her passion to help fellow student mothers continue their education.

“It will be important for me to give back to the university and CEW+, because I want to feel like I’m part of an institution and group of people that cares about people reaching their goals.”

Learn more about Nicolina at myumi.ch/lbNicolina.

To support CEW+ today, visit myumi.ch/lbCEWfund.

NICOLINA EVOLA

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1 :: STUDENT SUPPORT
Guarantee that a diverse group of the world’s brightest students will be able to study at Michigan. Providing sufficient financial support is the Victors for Michigan campaign’s highest priority.

PRIORITY 2 :: ENGAGED LEARNING
Transform the U-M education by extending academic excellence from the classroom into real-world experiences that develop students’ global purview and a creative, entrepreneurial mindset.

PRIORITY 3 :: BOLD IDEAS
Serve the public good by collaborating on bold new ideas to solve the world’s most challenging problems.

To bring into focus the Victors for Michigan campaign’s top priority—student support—Leaders & Best provides a closer look at members of the U-M community whose personal stories of effort and determination illustrate the value of providing this needed support.
Homeless for some time as a teen, Toree Baldwin (School of Kinesiology Class of 2020) had not spent more than nine months in the same place since age 12, until she received a scholarship to the University of Michigan. In high school, her growing passion for engineering, research, and medicine piqued her interest in U-M’s College of Engineering and School of Kinesiology. But when it came time to apply, Toree was concerned about affording the application fee, let alone getting in or the costs of attending.

*Toree was awarded a Blavin Scholarship, made possible by generous support from Paul (BBA ’86) and Amy Blavin. The Blavin Scholars Program and Scholarship supports students formerly in foster care or homeless. Beyond financial support, Blavin Scholars are paired with mentors who help foster a positive environment at U-M by helping them to build life skills beyond the classroom, such as filing taxes or buying a car.

“It’s not just a check that I got one time for filling out an essay,” Toree said. “It’s something that, because of my background and my past, I have an opportunity to really make the most of my experience here.”

Having spent most of her life in a “survivor mentality,” constantly wondering where she would eat and sleep each night, Toree can now finally prioritize her academic success as she strives to join the intraoperative neuromonitoring program in the School of Kinesiology.

The support Toree received has already inspired her to pay it forward as a community volunteer and by serving as an example to other foster kids or homeless youth through the Blavin Scholars Program community outreach initiative.

“You’re able to tell these kids, ‘I got into college and you can too,’” Toree said. “You realize you are now in a place where you can give back. This is the feeling that I always thought college would have.”

Learn more about Toree at myumi.ch/lbToree.

To support the Blavin Scholars Program today, visit myumi.ch/lbBlavinFund.

CARL BUCHANON II

Raised in a family of track athletes, Carl Buchanon II (BS ’11, School of Dentistry Class of 2019) followed in their footsteps as a hurdler and two-time captain on the U-M Men’s Track & Field team. Knowing that “athletics weren’t going to be forever,” Carl earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Passionate about helping people, Carl decided to apply to dental school, but wondered how he would afford one of the most expensive graduate programs. “I love using my hands, I am very creative, and I love speaking to people,” Carl said. “Dentistry seemed like the perfect balance.”

Carl earned multiple scholarships to U-M, including an endowed scholarship established by the late Norman H. Mette, who left U-M after one semester because he couldn’t afford to continue. Since 1987, scholarships from the Norman H. Mette Foundation have supported over 80 dental students and almost 200 medical students.

Carl hopes to carry on Mette’s legacy by improving access to affordable care and spreading awareness about proactive dental health. Beyond his clinical work, he strives to be a positive influence in his own community through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

“I had a lot of mentors growing up, so I felt like I needed to be able to do that for the children in this community,” Carl said. “I’ve been able to grow because of [my little brother] and I hope he’s been able to grow because of me as well.” That’s exactly the kind of student Mette wanted in his scholars.

Donors have helped Carl clear his final hurdle to becoming a dentist, and he hasn’t forgotten the lessons he learned as an athlete about team building and service.

“I really believe in the quote ‘lift as you climb.’ When others are willing to sacrifice their money to be able to finance your education, it’s only right that when you’re in a place to financially sustain others, that you lift them up,” Carl said.

Learn more about Carl at myumi.ch/lbCarl.

To support the Dentistry Scholarship Fund today, visit myumi.ch/lbDentistryFund.
As of May 1, more than 375,000 donors have given more than $4.77 billion to the Victors for Michigan campaign.

There are still many more opportunities to make an impact through the campaign finish in 2018: $180 million is needed to reach the goals of every school, college, and unit.

**NEWEST MEMBERS**

**Philip & Kathy Power**

**STEERING COMMITTEE**


The Powers are ardent supporters of programs across U-M, giving to the Museum of Art, Ford School of Public Policy, Office of Student Publications, University Musical Society, and CEW+ (formerly the Center for the Education of Women), among other areas.

Active university volunteers, they join the Victors for Michigan National Campaign Leadership Board as members of the Steering Committee.

Preserving Inuit Art, Partnering for Policy

The Power Family Program for Inuit Art at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), established by a transformative gift from Phil and Kathy Power, will position UMMA as a national leader in the curation, exhibition, and understanding of Inuit art.

The gift includes a $2 million endowment and the Power family’s renowned collection of Inuit art, numbering more than 200 stone sculptures and prints and valued at more than $2.5 million.

"Over the years, our family built a collection of Inuit art that ranks among the best in the world," Phil Power said. “Kathy and I decided to gift it to UMMA so as many people as possible could experience it, and understand how Inuit people understand and cope with their harsh Arctic environment—now under dire threat from climate change."

UMMA Director Christina Olsen remarked that the collection is one the most important of its kind in the world. "The Powers’ total campaign giving to well over $5 million.

The gift includes a $2 million endowment and the Power family’s renowned collection of Inuit art, numbering more than 200 stone sculptures and prints and valued at more than $2.5 million. Their gift—the largest donation to UMMA in the Victors for Michigan campaign—brings the Powers’ total campaign giving to well over $3 million.

"Over the years, our family built a collection of Inuit art that ranks among the best in the world," Phil Power said. “Kathy and I decided to gift it to UMMA so as many people as possible could experience it, and understand how Inuit people understand and cope with their harsh Arctic environment—now under dire threat from climate change."

UMMA Director Christina Olsen remarked that the collection is one of the most important of its kind in the country, and "will serve as a platform for UMMA to develop a broad program of engaged learning around the artwork of the Canadian Arctic and related issues."

In April, the Power Foundation donated $1.5 million to the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy for a new program that encourages partnerships between U-M faculty and students, and people and organizations outside the university who are actively working on—and have the capacity for changing—public policy. The new, university-wide program, the Program in Practical Policy Engagement, will be housed within the Ford School.

"Phil and Kathy Power’s generosity will enable us to partner with outside organizations to create learning opportunities for our students and research needs for faculty that are relevant and impactful," noted Michael Power, the Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of the Ford School of Public Policy.

"(This gift) is a direct extension of the obligations of a public university such as the U-M to improve our society," Phil Power said.
Hacking for Health

Sanjay Gupta (BS ’90, MD ’93, LHD Hon ’12), a renowned neurosurgeon and chief medical correspondent for CNN, understands firsthand the power of accurate and efficient communication in the wake of a health care event like a disease outbreak. That’s why he and his wife, Rebecca Olson Gupta, partnered with U-M’s Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation (IHPI) to host The Gupta Family Hackathon for Health Communication on March 23-25.

The hackathon, supported by a gift from the Gupta family, brought together teams of experts, community professionals, and students from U-M and other universities for a weekend of rapid innovation. Newly formed teams “hacked” solutions to specific health communication issues surrounding pregnancy, medical documentation, and more. Winners in four different categories were awarded a $500 prize as well as the opportunity to further develop their ideas with mentors from IHPI.

One winner, Virtual Visit, focused on creating virtual reality representations of health care facilities and procedures, reducing patients’ anxiety by helping them to understand their care environment and experience in procedures.

For more information or to learn more about the hackathon, visit myumi.ch/IbG GuptaHackathon.