Connecting with the Economy
Dear Friends,

Earlier this summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to help celebrate an economic milestone for the University of Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor.

As part of a delegation of U-M officials, I toured Google’s new downtown offices for its AdWords division. Google announced its plans to open the operation here last year, and has since moved into the office space at the intersection of Division and Liberty streets, just blocks from the heart of Central Campus.

During the visit, I was thrilled to listen as 40 of the organization’s local employees, including Google’s Director of On-Line Sales Grady Burnett (AB ’95), told what they had majored in at U-M. Their academic roots stretch from English literature and the history of art, to business administration, marketing and computer science. Google Co-Founder and President, Products Larry Page (BSECO ’95) is also an alumnus with an obvious appreciation for the value of doing business in the U-M neighborhood.

Google’s move here extends its relationship with the U-M. In 2005, we became the first public university to work with Google to digitize our library collections, offering information seekers around the world extraordinary access to our holdings.

Expected to employ up to 1,000 people in Ann Arbor, Google brought AdWords to the community to capitalize on the human talent at the University of Michigan and the region’s other leading research institutions. The move underscores the major role the U-M plays in advancing the economy, not only in our own backyard, but across our state and around the world.

Last fall, the U-M joined with Michigan State University and Wayne State University to form the University Research Corridor, an alliance to strengthen and diversify our region’s economy. As proof of our collective economic impact, a recent independent analysis revealed that U-M, MSU and WSU helped create 68,803 jobs in the state in 2006, with a net economic benefit of $12.8 billion.

Much of this can be credited to the research support we attract and the important work we produce with it. The University of Michigan is a national leader in research, with more than $820 million in expenditures this past fiscal year dedicated to projects running the gamut from the humanities to advanced engineering. Our results often provide the basis for technology transfer, licensing and business development. This research is critical not only in the discovery or creation of new knowledge, but also in the preparation of our students to be economic contributors.

The Spanish aerospace company Grupo Aernnova recently announced plans to bring 600 new jobs to the Ann Arbor area for its aerospace engineering center. The company reportedly considered 15 sites around the nation, but settled on southeast Michigan due in large part to the strong engineering programs found at the U-M and other area universities.

As you will read in this publication, your philanthropy helps spark such important economic development. Whether in support of programs that sharpen math and science education, endowments that keep the University attractive to top professors who conduct innovative research, or funding for internships that provide students with invaluable work experience, donors connect the University of Michigan with the economy.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
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In June, the DTE Energy Foundation gave Michigan’s knowledge economy a charge by endowing the DTE Energy Professorship of Advanced Energy Research. The Professorship, housed in the College of Engineering, will be closely affiliated with the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute, U-M’s hub for the study of energy technology and policy, and will drive research in areas including carbon-neutral energy sources, storage and conversion, transportation and fuels, and sustainability.

“This grant, one of the largest our Foundation has ever made, underscores DTE Energy’s commitment to leading our state and industry in creating an energy future that is sustainable and that offers reliable, affordable energy,” said Frederick E. Shell, DTE Energy vice president of corporate and government affairs and president of the DTE Energy Foundation.

Gifts like this one demonstrate the power of endowed professorships, which combine recognition of a faculty recipient’s past accomplishments with the resources to support future research. In short, endowed professorships help transform philanthropy into research, and research into innovation, with effects that resonate throughout the global economy.

**Talent on the Move: The Race for Innovation**

Universities are competing for talent like never before. Michigan professors are routinely recruited by peer institutions around the world, and the University has to be proactive in order to hire and retain the best of the best. “Human capital is highly mobile,” notes U-M Provost Teresa Sullivan, “and professors are perhaps the best example of this statement. Top professors become internationally known through their research and publications, and there is great competition for the top scholars—not just from other public universities, but especially from private universities, whose endowments have greatly increased. We are also seeing much more competition from foreign institutions.”

What does it take to catch—and keep—a star? One of the most effective inducements is an endowed position, which provides faculty members with resources that maximize their ability to conduct important research. Provost Sullivan said she would like to see the number of endowed professorships at Michigan grow from its current total of 437 to more than 1,000. “From my perspective, U-M is on the low end in faculty endowment,” she notes. “This means that if a faculty member gets a terrific offer from another school, we have to scramble to try to come up with something comparable.”

Faculty support is one of the pillars of The Michigan Difference campaign, which has already raised gifts to endow 169 new professorships. Twenty of these were created through the President’s Donor Challenge. The Challenge reached this goal in just seven months, a full half year ahead of schedule.
Knowledge is Power

Top research talent provides value to Michigan in at least two ways. First, University research can be a powerful economic engine, employing investigators and staff, training students, and utilizing specialized facilities and equipment. In 2006, the University was ranked the number one public university in the country in research dollars, according to data collected by the National Science Foundation. Most of the research funding the University receives flows right back out into the economy; the U-M expended nearly $823 million in research funds during fiscal year 2007 alone.

But research also generates the knowledge and technology that stimulate longer-term economic growth. The U-M Office of Technology Transfer reports that over just the last six years University researchers have filed 755 patent applications and launched 55 start-ups, resulting in almost $72 million in royalties and equity sales.

This kind of value creation is the latest manifestation of Michigan’s longstanding commitment to the public good. And support for innovative faculty is an important expression of that commitment. But, as Vice President for Research Stephen Forrest (MS ’74 PhD ’79) explains, entrepreneurship doesn’t necessarily come naturally. “Entrepreneurship is not a mainstream activity for most professors,” Forrest notes. “Endowed chairs give them the prestige and freedom to pursue entrepreneurial activities when they might not have been able to do so otherwise… . The funds encourage people to move their science from the lab bench to something more appealing for practical use.”

The DTE Energy Professorship is a great example, fueling alternative energy research that draws on Michigan’s deep knowledge base to generate real economic and social benefits.

The route from lab to market travels by way of technology transfer. Although university researchers have been creating new technologies since the dawn of science, the modern explosion in tech transfer started in 1980, when an important piece of intellectual property legislation, the Bayh-Dole Act, lifted the barriers preventing American scientists from tapping the economic potential of their research. By allowing universities to own and market new technologies originally developed under federal sponsorship, Bayh-Dole released the enormous forces of innovation pent up on the nation’s campuses. The result has been a revolution in information technology, life sciences and alternative energy research, among other areas. This creative outpouring is evident in recent data from the Association of American Universities, which has found that research that used to generate market applications over the course of 20 to 25 years now often does so in just two years. Endowed chairs play an important role in encouraging this kind of innovation at Michigan.

“Industry relations and interactions are so important, and especially in this part of the country,” Vice President Forrest says. “As a catalyst for the economy, tech transfer fits right into the sweet spot of the whole situation.”

Take, for example, the energy research conducted by the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Institute (MMPEI)—a beneficiary, along with the College of Engineering, of the DTE Energy Professorship. The Institute is true-blue Michigan in its synthesis of tradition and innovation. Created in 1948, the Phoenix Project was a product of Michigan’s very first fundraising campaign. It was originally charged with supporting research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy, but that mission has now been broadened to encourage interdisciplinary research that promotes energy security, environmental responsibility and economic prosperity. The effort has garnered national attention, with U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman recently singling out Michigan as one of the nation’s most important partners in new automotive and energy research.

The DTE Energy Professorship of Advanced Energy Research is a major contributor toward the goal of a secure, affordable and sustainable energy future. This newly-endowed professorship exemplifies the best kind of relationship between industry and academia—one that generates knowledge which benefits society as a whole.

Provost Sullivan sees it as proof of the power of endowed professorships in general. “The DTE Energy Professorship of Advanced Energy Research is a good example of how endowments sustain research in critical areas,” she says, “while giving the University the means to recruit top researchers.”

— Jim Reische
Michael Wellman developed a successful e-commerce venture early in his professional career at the U-M. To ensure that subsequent generations of Michigan's junior faculty enjoy similar opportunities to move their ideas out of the lab and into the economy, he endowed the Morris Wellman Faculty Development Assistant Professorship in 2000. It was a unique way for Wellman to demonstrate his gratitude to Michigan. "It seemed fitting," he says, "to channel my gift to faculty early in their career, (when they) may gain special benefit from resources to pursue new ideas not yet well-formed enough to secure sponsored research funding."

The first two recipients of the Wellman Professorship achieved tenure and chose to remain at U-M—a key goal of the University’s drive to create new professorships. Jason Flinn, the third Wellman Professor, is a faculty member in the Division of Computer Science and Engineering.
Jason Flinn, Morris Wellman Faculty Development Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering

His studies focus on distributed computing, a system in which computing problems are solved by dividing them into components that can be distributed across a network of computers. The results from those computers are then reassembled into a complete solution — a process that allows for more efficient problemsolving and more reliable storage. Flinn’s research group has now created a new, distributed file system that manages the digital home by automatically disseminating information from a household’s computer to its consumer electronics devices, including MP3 players, digital cameras and DVRs. The group has also discovered new methods for extending battery life in laptops, cell phones and other mobile computing devices.

“The Wellman chair has made my research team more agile by giving us the ability to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for our research needs,” Flinn said. “On a more personal level, receiving the Wellman chair is a great honor for me. It was a pleasant surprise to receive such encouragement early in my career.”

Virginia R. Young, Cecil J. and Ethel M. Nesbitt Professor of Actuarial Mathematics

As Americans live longer, more and more retirees have to confront the worrisome possibility of outliving their wealth. Virginia Young’s work in mathematics and actuarial science is creating important new techniques for developing wise investment strategies and helping individuals save for a lifetime. Her prize-winning co-authored paper, “Forecasting Social Security Actuarial Assumptions,” proposes new, more accurate methods for predicting the federal government’s Social Security liabilities, which can be used to inform sound public policy, ensuring retirement benefits for all Americans.

“If it weren’t for the Nesbitt chair, I’d still be on the faculty at UW-Madison,” Young said. “Coming to U-M and holding the chair has brought me into closer contact with researchers in financial mathematics, such as my collaborator, Erhan Bayraktar. Our partnership has been extremely productive, and it’s something I would never have experienced if the Nesbitt chair hadn’t brought me to Michigan.”

Steven Goldstein, Henry Ruppenthal Family Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Bioengineering

Through his work on bone formation adaptation and regeneration, Steven Goldstein (MS ’77, PhD ’81) is helping create new therapeutic treatments and diagnostics that can build healthier bones. With a group of U-M colleagues, he has developed an array of surgical instruments and artificial joint replacements that are or will be commercially marketed, offering surgeons new ways to reconstruct bones and joints. His work has also led to a new gene-therapy technique for treating difficult-to-heal ailments: everything from fractures and tendon injuries to diabetic ulcers. His team’s latest experiments use spectroscopic technology to measure not just the quantity but the quality of a patient’s bone mass — a key factor in the early and accurate diagnosis of osteoporosis.

“Government agencies typically have to focus their support on research that is highly likely to produce expected answers,” Goldstein said. “So who backs the high risk-high payoff projects? The funds from the Ruppenthal Chair have allowed me to pursue new ideas by supporting brilliant young scientists-in-training and their research, helping me keep my work moving forward.”

— Compiled by Jim Reische
Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset

With their lead support for The Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, Ann Lurie (HLLD ’03), below, and Samuel Zell (AB ’63, JD ’66, HLLD ’05), above left and below, have played a key role in the education of future innovators at the U-M. The Institute is named for Zell and Robert Lurie (BSEIE ’64, MSE ’66), Ann Lurie’s late husband, pictured above right.

Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset

When it comes to teaching entrepreneurship, the University of Michigan is anything but a start-up.

Indeed, the first courses in entrepreneurship were offered by the Stephen M. Ross School of Business more than eight decades ago, and in 1999, a joint commitment of $10 million from Samuel Zell and Ann Lurie established The Samuel Zell & Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, the fulcrum for entrepreneurial studies at the U-M.

Sustained since its founding through the contributions and counsel of successful entrepreneurs, the Institute today delivers an action-based, interdisciplinary experience designed to prepare future generations of job creators. Its programs reflect the entrepreneurial roots of its namesakes, who met as Michigan students in the 1960s and expanded their friendship into a highly successful entrepreneurial enterprise, encompassing oil, gas, insurance and real estate.

“Those who support us understand that successful economies are built on a robust entrepreneurial community,” said Thomas Kinnear (PhD ’72), the Institute’s executive director and the Eugene Applebaum Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies at the Ross School.
“Those who support us understand that successful economies are built on a robust entrepreneurial community.”
— Thomas Kinnear, Zell Lurie Institute Executive Director

“Our donors are people who have prospered by being entrepreneurial. They understand that entrepreneurship can be taught, and they are looking to a place where their support can make a difference.”

The Institute’s range of entrepreneurial endeavors, from business planning to venture capital analysis and investment to in-field training, enriches a curriculum that features more than 20 entrepreneurial electives. Donor supported programs include:

**DARE TO DREAM GRANTS FOR STUDENT START-UPS.** With leadership support from Arbor Drugs founder and Arbor Investments president Eugene Applebaum, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., Dare to Dream provides coaching, training and financial resources for students interested in launching their own businesses. In 2006–07, the program provided in excess of $107,000 to more than 40 undergraduate and graduate student teams.

**MICHIGAN BUSINESS CHALLENGE.** This Institute-sponsored, campus-wide competition rewards students’ bright ideas for new businesses by presenting the $15,000 Pryor-Hale Award to the student team with the best business plan. Last year, 36 teams competed in the contest, which included four rounds of face-to-face interactions with a panel of judges from the business world. The Challenge evolved from earlier competitions funded by the late Millard H. Pryor Jr. (AB ’55, MBA ’57), of West Hartford, Conn., in honor of his deceased father, Millard H. Pryor (AB ’25, AM ’27), and the estate of the late Clayton Hale (AB ’24), a Business School donor, professor, and Hale Auditorium namesake, whose son, William Hale, serves as a Zell Lurie sponsor.

**ENTREPRENEURIAL CASE WRITING PROGRAM.** With the sponsorship of Paul Brentlinger (AB ’50, MBA ’51), a partner in Cleveland’s Morgenthaler Ventures, this Zell-Lurie Institute program encourages student creation of educational case studies. Ross MBAs may receive independent study credit or compensation through the Institute for researching, developing and writing a case and the supporting teaching notes.

**MARCEL GANI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.** Created in 2000 with funding from Marcel Gani (MBA ’78), chief of staff for Juniper Networks, of Sunnyvale, Calif., the program provides Ross School MBAs with placement and funding resources to participate in 12-week summer internships in start-ups and venture capital firms across the nation. It typically places about 24 students each summer in about 20 businesses. The Program highlights a commitment to in-field experience for Ross students. That focus is also reflected in the School’s popular Multidisciplinary Action Program (MAP), which places student teams within start-up businesses, traditional corporations and public companies world-wide. The seven-week MAP assignments include development of business plans, new product identification and formulation of strategies for market entry.

**WOLVERINE VENTURE FUND.** With contributions from multiple donors, the $3.5 million Wolverine Venture Fund (WVF) was created in 1997 to provide business students with hands-on due-diligence experience and the opportunity to invest in promising start-ups. Approximately 25 students currently play a direct role in the WVF’s operation. Since its inception, the Fund has invested in nine start-ups. Four of these companies have U-M research and technology development roots, including: HandyLab, which creates medical diagnostic testing products; Nanocerox, which produces nanoscale materials used in products ranging from military armor to lighting sensors; Nanobio, a dermatological products producer; and IntraLase, a provider of advanced laser technology for ophthalmological use. The Fund’s first investment, IntraLase, went public in 2004 and returned more than $1 million to the WVF.

**WARREN P. WILLIAMSON III COLLABORATIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE.** This new interdisciplinary program challenges Ross School and College of Engineering students through collaborative, entrepreneurial coursework that provides in-depth exposure to the commercialization process. Its curriculum is designed to deepen students’ appreciation for technological innovation and the best business practices required to bring them to market. The Initiative is funded by Warren “Bud” P. Williamson III (BSEE ’52, MBA ’54), chairman of Skye Management in Loveland, Ohio. “As an engineer and a business school grad, I appreciate the need to bridge the gap between the people who have the technical skills and those with the skills on the business side,” Williamson said. “For years people have been learning this the hard way. I think there is a better way.”

Such programs are but a handful of the ways donors help Michigan educate future innovators to drive markets at home and abroad. The support highlights their belief in the value of the Institute’s mission and the U-M’s ability to be a force for economic growth and innovation.

“I truly believe that in the long run this country will be sustained by the small ideas (of start-ups) rather than by the big conglomerates,” Williamson said. “Support for the Ross School is a good place to start.”

— Paul Gargaro

For additional information on the Zell Lurie Institute, visit www.zli.bus.umich.edu
In programs across the University, donors help equip students with the tools to succeed in the workplace. Philanthropists to the Stephen M. Ross School of Business and the Michigan Law School also provide graduates with the financial flexibility to pursue careers that best fit their professional passions.

Graduates of both schools are well prepared to land lucrative legal or corporate positions in prestigious organizations, yet, for some, school loan obligations can limit their inclination to pursue lower paying jobs in the non-profit and public sectors.

By funding the schools’ loan assistance programs, donors deliver a range of professional possibilities for these new contributors to the economy.

“Through my experience at the U-M Law School’s Child Advocacy Law Clinic, I realized that I needed a masters of social work degree to be equipped to safeguard the best interests of children,” said Jared S. Stein (JD ‘04, MSW ‘05). “But adding debt for an MSW onto my entirely loan-financed law school expenses would have been financial suicide. Were it not for the support of the Law School’s Debt Management Program, which covers a substantial portion of my law school debt, there is no way I would be able to be a public interest professional at Advocates for Children.”

Law’s Debt Management Program, which provides long-term financial resources to a broad range of graduates, was endowed in 2000 through an anonymous gift of $2.5 million. Since then, numerous donors have helped expand the program through both expendable and endowed gifts. Most recently, an expendable gift of $1 million from another anonymous donor established the John W. Reed Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program Fund. Donors who have chosen to support the Law School’s Debt Management Program can take pride in giving to one of the most comprehensive and progressive programs of its kind in the nation.

The Ross School’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), meanwhile, plays an important part in attracting students to Michigan who are interested in public service, while helping meet non-profits’ demands for skilled managers. Ross graduates who have benefited from LRAP work in such organizations as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Nature Conservancy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Global Philanthropy Forum.

Fully funded by donors since its inception in 1997, LRAP recently received an endowment gift of $172,864 from the BBA and MBA classes of 2007. One graduate, who wished to remain anonymous, offered a $30,000 challenge gift to classmates, which resulted in 98 percent participation by graduating MBAs and 58 percent participation by BBAs.

— Gail Flynn
Among the crises facing America’s schools, perhaps the most severe is the worsening shortage of qualified teachers in many parts of the country. The problem is especially acute in subjects such as math and science, where talented students are often lured onto more lucrative and prestigious career paths. This trend poses serious, long-term consequences for U.S. competitiveness in the high-tech global economy.

A $1.25 million contribution from Robert Horwitz (AB ’74) and Catherine Redlich (AB ’71, CERTT EDUC ’71, AM ’73) of Ridgewood, N.J., will help reverse this drift through its support for the inaugural initiative of the new Instructional Development & Education Assessment (IDEA) Institute. A joint project of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the School of Education, the Institute promotes faculty collaboration to address educational challenges in middle school through graduate school.

Its math and science efforts come amid sobering statistics. A 2005 report from the National Science Foundation found that just one-third of U.S. fourth and eighth graders and fewer than 20 percent of 12th graders were proficient in math and science. And American students ranked 29th in math proficiency worldwide, according to a recent study of 34 developed nations by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

“Cathy and I have a deep interest in making math and science curriculums more engaging and accessible to young people,” said Horwitz, “with the dual goal of encouraging more students to major in these areas once they reach college, and to attract more math and science teachers.

“The U.S. is on the brink of losing its international competitiveness due to a lack of these skills in the workforce.”

Chemistry Prof. Brian Coppola and School of Education Associate Dean Joseph Krajcik serve as the Institute’s co-directors. Krajcik said the Institute seeks to enrich the teaching talent pool, which has benefits in the classroom and beyond.

“The idea is to increase the science, technology education, and mathematics pipeline through improved teaching,” said Krajcik. “This provides a real solid opportunity for us to actually make a difference, both in what happens in the classes here at U-M as well as what happens in school systems.

“We want to show people with strong subject matter knowledge that teaching can be a fruitful way to use it. Bringing new science and new mathematical knowledge into schools to motivate kids can be pretty challenging. It is a creative activity and a thoughtful activity, and it can actually do some good for the world.”

Coppola said the IDEA Institute is focused long-term on “creating and implementing innovative, research-based instructional materials and methods; building programs that promote diverse and interdisciplinary approaches to education; and exploring teaching and learning with colleagues in international settings to promote a more global understanding of education.”

Redlich and Horwitz have also made recent campaign contributions totaling $300,000 to the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (see related story on page 4) and $30,000 for a teaching award in LSA’s Department of Chemistry.

— Jeff Mortimer

To help prepare high school students for success in the knowledge economy, the Toyota USA Foundation has shifted into high gear, providing the University of Michigan-Dearborn with the tools to help Detroit area educators strengthen their skills as math teachers. Earlier this summer, the Foundation awarded $200,000 to the High School Beginning Algebra Academy, a joint project of the UM-Dearborn’s Center for Mathematics Education and the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency. The Academy is charged with improving math understanding and instruction among high school teachers in Wayne County, where fewer than 25 percent of high school students each year complete a college preparation sequence in math.

With schools beginning to implement the state’s rigorous new graduation requirements, the Foundation’s gift will equip teachers from the state’s most populous county to teach students the knowledge and skills they need for college and careers.
Shown at the head of his company, Kevin Greiner (MS/MBA ’98), of Decatur, Ga., credits the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise with sparking his success in the energy industry. As president and CEO of Gas South, Greiner manages Georgia’s third largest natural gas supplier, which has 170,000 retail customers and constituents ranging from government regulators to local community groups. “The Erb Institute’s multi-disciplinary approach provided me with a rigorous business and policy education that I could readily apply,” said Greiner, whose company employs approximately 60 full-time and contract employees. “To be successful in this business, you have to cross boundaries and gain the trust of people who often have very different perspectives.” Established in 1996, the Erb Institute’s core educational activity is the dual MS/MBA program between the School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. Fred (BBA ’47) and Barbara Erb, of Birmingham, Mich., and Naples, Fla., have contributed $20 million to the Institute over the years. Greiner serves on its external advisory board.
Funding experience

Without a work history in public policy heading into her master’s program at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Kim Darga (AB ’99, CERTT EDUC ’00, MPP ’04), right, knew that gaining hands-on policy experience was key to enhancing her future job prospects. The former high school social studies teacher, who now works as a project manager in the City of New York’s Department of Housing Preservation & Development, gained that know-how and a jump start on her career with the help of a Meijer Family Fellowship for students with an interest in state and local policy issues. By providing tuition support, the fellowship gave her the financial flexibility to take on two summer internships with the Michigan Environmental Council and Ann Arbor’s City Administrator’s Office. It ultimately enabled her to go after the job of her choice, free from the pressure of repaying significant student loans. “My resume prior to graduate school was all teaching,” said Darga, who has also held economic development positions in upstate New York, New York City, and Dallas. “The Meijer Family Fellowship gave me the opportunity to gain the policy experience I needed to go out and pursue my career and to graduate with significantly reduced debt.” The Meijer Family Fellowship was established in 2002 with a $250,000 gift from Meijer, Inc., of Grand Rapids.

Focused on the environment

They may be enthusiastic coffee house patrons, but it’s doubtful many Michigan students think twice about the future of the global coffee trade. That’s not the case with Heidi Liere, left, one of six 2007 Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute (GESI) Graduate Fellows. She spends her days analyzing how environmentally-sensitive techniques can be applied to keep insect herbivores below damaging levels on coffee plantations. The Guatemala native and Michigan Ph.D. candidate in ecology and evolutionary biology works as part of a research team studying coffee agroecosystems in Chiapas, Mexico. The team is attempting to determine whether the complex relationship between ants, lady-beetles and the green scale, a troublesome pest for coffee growers, could reveal a natural means of pest control. “The Graham fellowship, with matching funds from my department, is giving me the opportunity to focus on this research for two full years, rather than just the summers,” Liere said. “That’s so important.”

Established with a $5.25 million leadership gift from Donald (BSEIE ’55, MSE ’56) and Ingrid Graham (BS DES ’57), of York, Penn., and matching funds from the Provost’s Office, the GESI promotes multidisciplinary research and education throughout the University.

Compiled by Paul Gargaro
Adriana Villanueva (SOM ’08) went into this summer’s internship at Young Detroit Builders with two objectives: assess the inner-city non-profit’s needs and link it with the resources available at the University of Michigan—Dearborn. Launched in 1993, Young Detroit Builders works with economically disadvantaged young adults to help them build successful lives and communities. Its services include preparation for their General Equivalency Diploma and counseling on life and employment skills, including in-field training in the construction trades. Villanueva’s work with the agency was funded through the Masco Foundation. It has committed $25,000 in support of the UM-Dearborn program, which is designed to build productive partnerships between well run area nonprofits and the University. “It was a great experience,” said Villanueva, who also helped bring to bear the resources of the School of Management’s Students in Free Enterprise chapter and partnered with Oakland University to help the Young Detroit Builders participants learn about financial management, job skills and opportunities to further their education. Clockwise are Villanueva (top of the ladder), trainer Derrick Tagger, student David Billings, trainer John Wurtsmith, and students Antoine Boykins, Keli Woodall, Akisha Booth, and Dujuan Pringle.

Mary Walton (MLA ’07), Kara Kilmer (BFA ’07), Jennifer Austin (MLA ’07), and Andy Sell (BFA ’08), pictured from left to right, have prepared for their careers by spending a lot of time in the garden. The four are part of a group of interns from across the University who have worked over the last two years designing, creating and promoting the Gaffield Children’s Garden and the new Sue Reichert Discovery Trail at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Their work has encompassed landscape design, creation of a corresponding learning curriculum, signage and marketing. The interns placed the skills they have learned in the classroom to work in the field, literally. “The hands-on experience I have had here — designing and installing the garden and seeing what ideas work and what don’t has been important,” said Walton, who is pursuing a career in landscape architecture. The opportunity for such action-based learning can be credited to the support of such donors as Thomas (BSEE ’59, BSEM ’59, MSE ’60) and Jeanette Gaffield, of Ann Arbor, whose gift provided the foundation for the children’s garden, and Rudy Reichert Jr. (BS ’43, MD ’46, MDRES ’51), whose contribution to build the discovery trail honors his late wife, Sue Reichert (BS ’49), a docent at the Gardens. Based on the experience of these recent interns, an endowed internship program is being pursued for the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.
Making a Difference

$50 million commitment to Cardiovascular Center’s lasting leadership

A $50 million commitment to the Cardiovascular Center (CVC) will pump critical resources for advanced treatment, research and education into the facility.

Announced in late June—just weeks after the CVC opened its new, 350,000-square-foot, inpatient and outpatient building within the University of Michigan medical campus—the gift promotes a pioneering model for heart care that rewards cooperation and outstanding results in clinical care, research and education. According to the donor, this approach can provide an important example not only for other heart centers, but also for all types of health care facilities.

The first $25 million is being provided over 10 years. The CVC will receive the remaining $25 million when it meets goals agreed upon by the donor and the Center’s leadership. These benchmarks are based on customer satisfaction, collaboration among scientists and physicians, clinical outcomes, research contributions and excellence in education.

“We’re thrilled to receive this landmark gift, which not only recognizes the efforts our Cardiovascular Center team has already made to break down the barriers that can divide health specialties, but gives us strong incentives to continue those efforts,” said Robert Kelch, (MD ’67, MDRES ’70) the U-M’s executive vice president for medical affairs and CEO of the U-M Health System.

Founded in September 2000, the CVC brings together all of the Health System’s specialists in preventing, treating and studying heart disease, blood vessel disorders and stroke—from cardiac surgeons and intensive-care nurses to laboratory scientists, cardiologists and heart-imaging specialists. Its new five-story building provides a single home for much of the Center’s clinical care for adult patients. It includes eight operating rooms, 11 suites for minimally invasive procedures, 48 inpatient beds, including 24 intensive care beds, outpatient clinics, and many amenities.

For further details on the U-M Cardiovascular Center, visit www.umcv.org
Taubman’s $22 million gift launches medical research institute

A $22 million gift to the University of Michigan Health System is making possible a new and extraordinary institute—one with a mission of supporting fundamental research to advance the understanding of the causes, treatment and prevention of a broad range of human diseases.

The A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute, being established in the Medical School, is named for the retail pioneer, whose funding and vision led to its creation. Taubman’s gift creates an endowment whose earnings will fund the Institute and the research of individual Taubman Scholars within the Institute for generations to come.

The first five Taubman Scholars have been chosen from among the Medical School’s top scientists. Each was selected for his or her creativity and research that hold the potential to significantly advance the development of a cure or preventive treatment for a human disease.

Each scientist will receive a three-year grant that will provide $200,000 per year for his or her laboratory team to pursue new knowledge, leaving them free to explore the most promising possibilities. The scholars also will serve as advocates for research, by taking part in U-M efforts to educate the public about the importance of biomedical research, and of public and private support for such research.

At the end of three years, the scholars’ grants may be renewed, and new scholars may be chosen from among the Medical School faculty by an oversight committee chaired by U-M Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs Robert Kelch, (MD ’67, MDRES ’70). Committee members also include James Woolliscroft, M.D. (MDRES ’80), dean of the Medical School; Kim Eagle, M.D., a director of the U-M Cardiovascular Center; Eva Feldman, M.D., who was the first Taubman Scholar chosen; A. Alfred Taubman (HLLD ’91); and Jeffrey Miro (JD ’67), a Michigan-based attorney and adjunct professor at the U-M Law School.

“We are on the doorstep of amazing scientific discoveries that will dramatically improve the health of people around the world,” says Taubman, who attended the University of Michigan and has been one of the institution’s most generous supporters with lifetime giving of more than $60 million. “I am delighted to be able to support the important research of the University’s talented scientists and physicians. I am especially proud that their groundbreaking work is being done right here in Michigan.”

The first five scholars are:

Valerie Castle, M.D. (MDRES ’90), Ravitz Foundation Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases;

Eva Feldman, (Ph.D. ’79, MD ’83), DeJong Professor of Neurology and head of the U-M Program for Neurology Research & Discovery. Her laboratory already has received $7 million from Taubman to fund research on the use of stem cells and other approaches to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease;

David Pinsky, M.D., Ruth Professor of Internal Medicine, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and a director of the U-M Cardiovascular Center;

Yehoash Raphael, Ph.D., Williams Professor of Otolaryngology and a member of U-M’s Kresge Hearing Research Institute;

Max Wicha, M.D., Distinguished Professor of Oncology and founding director of the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

For more information, visit www.med.umich.edu

A. Alfred Taubman
Jeffries drives Law’s planned renovation, expansion; Munger illuminates the Law Quad’s historic beauty

Two multi-million dollar gifts to the University of Michigan Law School are preserving the stature of its grand building and strengthening the foundation for its future facilities expansion.

For the latter, Christopher Jeffries (JD ’74), founder of Millennium Partners, a New York-based real estate development firm, has provided a $5 million gift for the School’s planned building and expansion project.

“Michigan Law is a world-class legal educator, and a school of its stature requires a first-rate environment for learning, teaching, research and clinical practice,” said Jeffries, a New York resident. “The Law School has been instrumental in my career path. I’m delighted to be able to express my gratitude by supporting the building project.”

Dean Evan Caminker says Jeffries’ gift has accelerated the Law School’s building campaign at a critical juncture for the School’s needs.

“Consistent with its status as one of the top law schools in the world, Michigan Law has continued to enroll outstanding students, hire outstanding faculty, and reshape its curriculum so as to maintain its ability to train great leaders of the bar, bench and business for the next generation,” said Caminker. “But we need to upgrade and expand our facilities in order to continue providing a top-notch legal education into the 21st century. Chris Jeffries’ magnificent gift is the most recent indication that our alumni recognize the critical importance of high-quality and updated space to the educational enterprise. Now, with Chris’s partnership, new excitement for the building campaign is palpable.”

News of Jeffries’ generosity follows this summer’s announcement of a $3 million gift to the Law School from Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charles T. Munger, of Los Angeles, to fund lighting improvements within the Law Quadrangle, a campus landmark for more than eight decades.

The gift will help fund lighting upgrades in public areas of the William W. Cook Legal Research Building, including the Reading Room, and in Hutchins Hall, which houses classrooms. The comprehensive lighting project is part of a larger refurbishment of existing space at the School. That refurbishment is slated for completion in 2009 when the School celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Caminker said Munger’s gift demonstrated a unique appreciation for the value of sustaining the Law Quad as an architectural treasure on campus.

“Our beautiful and grand Gothic buildings create one of the most inspiring settings for higher education anywhere in the country, but traditional Gothic architecture often undervalues the importance of interior lighting, and hence leaves its inner beauty underappreciated,” Caminker said. “Thanks to Charlie, the public areas of the Law School will be more cheerful, bright and accessible than at any time in the School’s history.”

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Munger studied mathematics at Michigan in the 1940s. He went on to found the LA law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson.

To learn more about the Law School’s building objectives, visit www.law.umich.edu
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LSI Donors include:

Herbert and Carol Amster, of Ann Arbor;
LSI’s Halima Cherif, of Ann Arbor;
Ralph J. Gerson (JD ’75) and Erica Ward (JD ’75), of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.;
Tom (AB ’74) and Katherine (MS ’94) Goldberg, of Bloomfield Hills;
Ann E. Gormley, Frank Gormley (AB ’84) and Peggy Northcott, all of Birmingham, Mich., in memory of Jack Gormley;
James (BGS ’77) and Kathy Hackett, of Grand Rapids, Mich.;
William (BSEAA ’65, MBA ’67, MS ’68, PhD ’69) and Valerie (ABED ’65, CERTT EDUC ’65, AM ’76) Hall, of Winnetka, Ill.;
The Ludy Family Foundation, of Ann Arbor;
Michele May (BBA ’74) and David Walt (BS ’74), of Boston;
Regent Olivia P. Maynard (MSW ’71) and S. Olof Karlstrom (AB ’58, CERTT EDUC ’59, JD ’64), of Goodrich, Mich.;
Regent Rebecca McGowan and Michael Staebler (JD ’69), of Ann Arbor;
Paul (AB ’74) and Susan Blanch (BSN ’74, PhD ’82) Meister, of North Hampton, N.H.;
The Mosaic Foundation of Rita and Peter Heydon, of Ann Arbor;
The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, of Flint, Mich.;
Regent Emeritus Philip (AB ’60) and Kathy Power, of Ann Arbor;
Theodora Ross and Center Director Sean Morrison, of Ann Arbor;
Swanna and LSI Director Alan Saltiel, of Ann Arbor;
Jonathan M. (BGS ’92) and Stacey (AB ’92) Satovsky, of Port Washington, N.Y.;
Edward and Jane (BFA ’83) Schulak, of Birmingham;
Robert S. and Julia Taubman, of Bloomfield Hills.

Donors bolster stem cell research at LSI

The Center for Stem Cell Biology at the University’s Life Sciences Institute (LSI) has raised nearly $400,000 in private funds to support human embryonic stem cell research currently not eligible for federal grant funding.

“Stem cell research represents one of the most significant opportunities ever for private philanthropy to play a leadership role in medical research and public health,” said Sean Morrison, director of the University of Michigan Center for Stem Cell Biology, who with his wife, Dr. Theodora Ross, is also a donor to the research initiative. “There is near-universal agreement among experts on the potential of stem cell research to transform the future of science and medicine. Fortunately, private philanthropists have stepped in to ensure that critical research continues.”

For more on the stem cell project, visit http://stemcell.umich.edu.

Hartwell rewards U-M for “Top Ten” bio-med research

For the second consecutive year, The Hartwell Foundation, of Memphis, Tenn., has named the University of Michigan one of its Top Ten Centers in Biomedical Research.

The designation honors institutions that excel in biomedical research that shows promise for serving children’s health.

Through its unique and selective funding process, the Foundation provides financial support to stimulate discovery in early-stage biomedical research that it hopes will benefit children.

The Hartwell Foundation inspires such innovation and achievement by offering individual researchers at designated...
institutions an opportunity to realize their professional goals. Last year, the U-M received funding from the Foundation in two categories to support researchers in biomedical investigations.

Victor C. Yang, the Albert B. Prescott Professor of Pharmaceutics in the College of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was selected for a Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research Award of $100,000 a year for three years to support his study, “Synchronized MRI and Drug Therapy Research for Pediatric Brain Tumors.”

Stephanie Kadison, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Michigan Medical School, received a two-year Hartwell Foundation Fellowship with $50,000 to be awarded annually. The fellowship supports investigators in the early stages of their biomedical research careers. Based on this year’s recognition, Michigan will again nominate candidates for biomedical research awards and fellowships.

For further information on The Hartwell Foundation, visit www.thehartwellfoundation.org

Chang Professorship extends generous record at Engineering

Through their recent $2 million gift to establish the T.C. Chang Professorship in Engineering, Wai (MSE ’75) and Glenda (MPH ’75) Chang, of Danville, Calif., have added to their legacy of support for innovative scholarship and research, student access, and first-rate facilities at the College of Engineering.

The Changs, whose son, Christopher, is pursuing an undergraduate degree at the College, earlier provided $1 million to help construct and enhance the Computer Science and Engineering Building. They have also given $250,000 to create the Chang Endowed Scholarship to support outstanding undergraduates in Engineering. Their commitment to the College includes Wai Chang’s service as a member of the Engineering National Advisory Council.

The new professorship brings their Michigan Difference campaign giving to $3.25 million and addresses a key priority for Michigan, said David C. Munson, the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering.

“Endowed professorships help the College of Engineering attract, reward and retain outstanding faculty,” he said. “By establishing the T.C. Chang Professorship in Engineering, Wai and Glenda Chang have affirmed the value of scholarly excellence. The Changs once again have demonstrated their commitment to Michigan Engineering.”

Post-Doctoral Fellow Stephanie Kadison, left, and her research mentor, Associate Prof. Catherine Krull
Nams advance leadership in Korean Studies

A recent $2.3 million gift from Elder Sang-Yong Nam (MCP ’66) and his wife, Moon-Sook, to the Korean Studies Program, combined with $2 million in previous contributions, provides the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) with the resources to upgrade the Program from the current designation to the Center for Korean Studies.

“Because of the Nams’ tremendous generosity, the Center for Korean Studies is positioned to move to the forefront of its field,” said LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald. “Their gifts will enable us to recruit world-class scholars, provide unparalleled learning opportunities, and fund innovative research that will contribute significantly to the depth and breadth of new scholarship on Korea. The Nams’ gift will create a legacy for decades to come.”

Elder Nam was dismayed by the scarcity of Korean literature in the University Library and lack of Korean art in the Museum of Art when he first came to Michigan as a student in 1964. Since that time, he and his family have taken the lead in elevating the study of Korean culture, language and art on campus.

“I wanted to correct this disparity and upgrade the status of my country in the intellectual landscape of Asian studies,” said Elder Nam, president and CEO of Nam Building Management Company in Ann Arbor.

The Nams University-wide support includes scholarships at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the acquisition of 250 works of Korean art for the Museum, and the Library’s purchase of books related to Korea. Sons Andrew (BSEME ’88, MBA ’95) and Anthony (AB ’91) share their parents’ educational vision. As president of the Korean Student Association, Anthony spearheaded a petition campaign that helped launch U-M’s Korean Studies Program in 1995.

Ross gift makes the Big House even better

The Big House will be a little bigger—and the cheering a little louder—thanks to a $5 million gift from Stephen M. Ross (BBA ’62) in support of the Michigan Stadium addition.

The expansion will add 83 suites and 3,200 club seats to the stadium, which has a current capacity of 107,501. The project also will provide new entry and exit points as well as dedicated seating for fans with impaired mobility. In addition, the creation of four corner towers will direct more crowd noise back onto the field, increasing the Wolverines’ home-field advantage.

“Michigan Stadium and game day play an important role in creating a sense of campus community,” said Ross, of New York City. “I’m delighted to be supporting a project that improves the stadium and puts it in a position to serve the Michigan community for future decades.”

Co-chair of The Michigan Difference campaign, Ross is founder, chairman and CEO of The Related Companies, a leading real estate company. His extraordinary generosity to Michigan includes a $100 million gift—the largest in U-M history—to the School of Business, renamed in his honor, as well as a $5 million leadership gift for the Stephen M. Ross Academic Center.
Kellogg Foundation helps SPH build healthy communities

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, of Battle Creek, Mich., has expanded its philanthropic commitment to the University of Michigan with a $2.59 million grant to the School of Public Health (SPH).

The grant enables the University’s new Center for Managing Chronic Disease to play a prominent role in the Foundation’s Food & Fitness Initiative, a nationwide effort to promote policy and system change that ensures safe places for exercise and recreation for children and access to healthy, locally-grown food. The funding will support the Center’s efforts to help nine communities evaluate their success in these areas. The Center also will help track and assess policy changes at the national and state level that promote the goals of the Initiative.

van Sweden commitment encourages architectural and landscape design collaboration

From the Nichols Arboretum to the shady lawns of the Diag, much of the University’s natural beauty is actually the work of human hands. A leadership intention from James A. van Sweden (BARCH ’60), of Washington, D.C., which was estimated at $5 million at the time of commitment, will encourage architectural design that places a continued emphasis on the integration of the natural and built environments.

“I was grateful to Michigan for providing the foundation for the way I think and create, and I wanted to return that gift,” said van Sweden, whose landscape architecture firm, Oehme van Sweden, is acclaimed for its designs inspired by the American frontier.

His planned gift will add to endowed scholarship funds in his name and in the name of his parents, Johanna and Anthony van Sweden, at the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning (TCAUP) and the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), respectively. The bequest also will create two professorships in his name in Architecture and Landscape Architecture at TCAUP and SNRE. The professorships will bridge these often separate disciplines and encourage professional collaboration.

An active member of the Director’s Cabinet for Nichols Arboretum, van Sweden has been a guiding force behind the University Hospital’s new courtyard healing garden—the first step toward a long-term goal of connecting the Arboretum and U-M Medical Center.
Grateful alums go on-line to build Maloy Scholarship

Six years after his death from esophageal cancer, Bernard “Pat” Maloy continues to inspire the students whose lives he touched. Their devotion to Maloy, a former associate professor of sports management, is reflected in this fall’s on-line auction, organized by a committee of former students. Proceeds from the auction will establish a Division of Kinesiology scholarship in Maloy’s name.

“As a mentor, Pat showed me options for my life that I never would have considered,” said Noel Cimmino (BA ’94), who serves as co-chair of the scholarship committee with Maloy’s widow, Nora Maloy (MHSA ’89, DRPH ’00). “This scholarship will provide options for students dealing with cancer and create a legacy for a professor who went to great lengths to support his students.”

The scholarship will support a Kinesiology student who has cancer, or who has been touched by cancer in his or her family. The scholarship committee, which includes former Wolverine football great and Kinesiology student Tyrone Wheatley, plans to award the first scholarship when the endowment reaches $100,000. The ultimate goal is to raise $400,000 through this and subsequent auctions to provide $5,000 yearly scholarships.

The sports memorabilia auction, held at www.umich.cmarket.com from Oct. 15 until Nov. 4, includes such items as a helmet autographed by U-M Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard (AB ’92), of Brecksville, Ohio, and a Super Bowl XXXIX football autographed by former U-M signal-caller and New England Patriots star Tom Brady (BGS ’99), of Boston. A major sponsor, Mitchell & Ness Nostalgia Company, of Philadelphia, will contribute hundreds of other collegiate and professional paraphernalia.

Seigles know good food is great for Business

Mark (BBA ’80) and Robin Seigle, of Elgin, III., know the value of a good meal is often measured by the conversation it inspires.

For Mark Seigle, mealtimes at Michigan nourished many of the friendships he still enjoys today. To help provide a similar experience for future students, the Seigles have committed $1 million to create the Seigle Café in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business’s new building.

“I felt that it was important to recognize the value of the social side of education,” Seigle said. “I believe in the value of balancing the curriculum with the friendships and acquaintances that form during the students’ time in the Business School. Personally, I know that some of my strongest friendships were the ones that I began 30 years ago at Michigan.”

An active member of the University’s Partners in Leadership National Committee, Mark Seigle served as president and co-owner of Chicago-based Seigle’s, Inc., a leading building supply company, before its recent sale.
Many people have heard of Chiang Kai-shek, the legendary Chinese military and political leader, but few know of his connection to Ann Arbor. While he was making an enormous impact in the Far East, the Chinese Nationalist president looked west to two Michigan physicians for specialized medical care. For one of these doctors, Cheng-Yang Chang (MDRES ’67), the high-profile assignment would prove an auspicious beginning to a distinguished medical career.

To commemorate their father’s remarkable service in medicine and in part answer the call of the President’s Donor Challenge for professorships, Dr. Theodore Chang (MD ’91, MDRES ’96), a urologist in Albany, N.Y., and Hamilton Chang (BGS ’89), a Chicago investment banker, have made a gift to the Medical School to endow a $2 million professorship named the Cheng-Yang Chang Professorship of Pediatric Urology.

“We want to honor our parents, Dr. Cheng-Yang Chang and Shirley Chang (MBA ’66, MPH ’75),” said Hamilton Chang, “and acknowledge that much of what we have in our lives today is a result of our experiences at Michigan.”

Dr. Cheng-Yang Chang came to the U-M in 1964 for a urology residency at the request of Dr. Reed Nesbit. The two met in Taiwan when Dr. Nesbit, a young U-M surgeon and chairman of Urology, was brought over to treat Chiang Kai-shek’s urologic condition. Dr. Chang stayed on in Ann Arbor as a urology instructor before returning to Taiwan in 1968 to establish the Urological Training Program at the National Defense Medical Center, and to serve as Chiang Kai-shek’s urologist. In 1971, he came back to Michigan to join the urology faculty and later developed U-M’s Pediatric Urology section, which has made a critical difference for many children and their families. He went on to practice in Flint with his wife, who served as business manager.

The Changs’ U-M ties extend beyond medicine and reflect a family history in the arts. In April 2006, Dr. Cheng-Yang Chang presented the University of Michigan Museum of Art with a $1 million gift to support the construction of a new wing, and with many valued paintings by his father, artist Ku-nien Chang, who is noted for his landscape and figurative works. “The Shirley Chang Gallery of Chinese Art,” named in honor of Dr. Chang’s wife, who died in January 2006, will be one of five Asian art galleries to be located in the Museum’s new wing. The Museum will organize a major international touring exhibition dedicated to the art of Ku-nien Chang for 2010.

**Bryer Foundation supports disease research at UM-Flint**

Bess Hurand, of Flint, and her husband, Arthur, are giving medical research a shot in the arm with a $500,000 gift from the Ben F. Bryer Foundation. The gift establishes the Dr. Ben F. Bryer Medical Research Fund at UM-Flint. It honors the wishes of Foundation trustee Bess Hurand’s late brother, an accomplished surgeon, scientist, educator and author. The Fund supports medical and biomedical research into disease prevention and control with an emphasis on cancer. The Foundation earlier provided UM-Flint with $60,000 to establish the Ben F. Bryer Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to nursing students based on merit and financial need.
When President Mary Sue Coleman issued her Donor Challenge last fall to generate support for endowed professorships and financial aid for undergraduates, the response was overwhelming. Twenty new professors were funded in just seven months, while donor gifts for need-based student aid were at $18.5 million, and rising, through September (see related story next page).

This success inspired President Coleman to launch the President’s Donor Challenge: Phase II in September as a means of generating more financial aid for graduate and professional students on the Ann Arbor campus. The Challenge highlights Michigan’s mission to continue attracting top graduate scholars who will be tomorrow’s professors, researchers, doctors, lawyers, teachers and other professionals. To do this, the University must have the resources to provide financial access to its acclaimed graduate and professional programs.

Key elements of the Phase II Challenge include: a 1-for-2 President’s match for expendable or endowment gifts up to $1 million per donor; a $50,000 minimum gift requirement to establish a new endowment; and a five-year time limit on pledge payments. The Phase II challenge will conclude once $40 million has been committed. Through the President’s match, gifts totaling $40 million would produce $60 million in new support for graduate and professional students.

Brehm Helps Get It Rolling

With a $1 million gift to endow a new Scholarship Fund in the Medical School, William K. Brehm (BS ’50, MS ’52), of McLean, Va., has made a lead-off commitment for the President’s Donor Challenge: Phase II.

Brehm said he sees this opportunity to support Michigan graduate students as a logical extension of two earlier endowments he established for U-M undergraduates. His special interest has been to support outstanding young men and women who attended his alma mater, Fordson High School, in Dearborn, Mich. The first of his undergraduate plans is merit-based, while the second is need-based and matched dollar for dollar through the President’s Phase I Challenge. Brehm said he and his wife, Delores (Dec), have a deep interest in medical research and are now pleased to find this means to support outstanding Fordson graduates who have succeeded as U-M undergraduates and been accepted for enrollment in the Medical School. With the President’s matching funds from the Phase I and Phase II Challenges, the total of the Brehms’ undergraduate and graduate scholarship endowments will be $4.5 million.

Delores and William Brehm
U-M Donors prove up to the
Challenge for undergraduate assistance

Donors continue to rise to President Coleman’s Challenge for increased financial support for undergraduates.

Through August, nearly 5,800 supporters had contributed $18.5 million to be matched dollar for dollar by the President’s Donor Challenge for need-based aid on the Ann Arbor campus. Such philanthropy plays a key role in keeping the University accessible to promising students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Recent financial aid gifts matched through the Challenge include:

- A $405,000 contribution from Latricia Turner (AB ’77), of Atherton, Calif., to establish the Turner-McConnell Family Scholarship Fund in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA). The Fund will support transfer students from junior and community colleges in the state of Michigan who have financial need. The commitment complements an earlier gift from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation that also benefits community college transfers. Turner, a former community college transfer student, and her husband, Thomas McConnell, previously gave LSA $200,000 to endow The Latricia Turner Fund, which also provides financial aid for community or junior college transfers.
- A $300,000 commitment from Stanford Lipsey (AB ’48) to the Office of Student Publications to support students who work on The Michigan Daily student newspaper, the Michiganensian yearbook, and the Gargoyle humor magazine. In 2005, Lipsey made a $3 million gift to renovate the Student Publications Building. To honor this generosity, the recently re-opened campus landmark has been re-named the Stanford Lipsey Student Publications Building.
- A $250,000 gift from former Michigan football standout and current St. Louis Rams player, James B. Hall (AB ’99), of Franklin, Mich., to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in support of the Michigan Athletics Degree Completion Program. The program provides aid to student-athletes who have exhausted their athletic eligibility and require financial assistance to complete their studies.

The President’s Donor Challenge for undergraduate financial aid runs through Dec. 31, 2007.

Two Great Ways to Optimize Giving to Michigan

Giving to Michigan is more cost-effective than ever thanks to two recent changes in the way donors can contribute.

The Charitable IRA Rollover through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) enables donors, through the end of this year, to make IRA gifts to charity and exclude these contributions from their gross income. Through September, 228 donors had capitalized on this opportunity, making gifts to Michigan valued at just over $5 million. The PPA requires that donors be at least 70 1/2 years of age and that their transfers go directly from their IRAs to a qualified charity. Gifts cannot exceed $100,000 per taxpayer per year and must be outright, meaning that a donor cannot transfer funds to a pooled income fund or to establish a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust (CRT).

The Michigan Endowment Return Strategy (MERS) was established following a recent government ruling that removes tax barriers and allows the University to invest a CRT alongside endowment funds within its highly diversified, long-term portfolio. The program offers to enhance donors’ returns and increase the impact of their generosity to the University. Michigan has one of the nation’s top performing college or university endowments, achieving a 14 percent annualized rate of return over the last decade. The U-M is among the first public universities to receive the government ruling and joins such leading private institutions as Harvard, Stanford, Notre Dame and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in offering this opportunity for donors.

CRTs provide donors or their designated beneficiaries with a regular distribution based on a percentage of the trust’s value for a specified time period, usually the life of the beneficiary. After the trust ends, its assets go to Michigan to be used according to the donor’s wishes. The U-M serves as trustee for 129 CRTs with a market value of nearly $76 million.

To learn more about the charitable IRA rollover or MERS, contact the U-M Gift Planning Office toll-free at 866-233-6661, or on the Web at umich.plannedgifts.org.
Dear Friends,

Throughout this magazine, you have read several examples of the impact of philanthropy on all aspects of the University of Michigan. While the purpose of these gifts varies, they all play an important role in supporting student achievement.

Scholarship gifts from donors like you help bring the best students to campus where they can experience first-rate faculty, facilities and programs, including those funded through gifts to the U-M. Over the years, President Coleman has been a high-profile champion of maintaining students’ access to Michigan, regardless of their financial circumstances. Late last year, she issued the President’s Donor Challenge for faculty support and need-based financial aid for undergraduates. Your overwhelming response inspired the September launch of Phase II of her Challenge—a commitment to match $1 for every $2 contributed on gifts of up to $1 million for graduate or professional students. It will continue until $40 million in gifts have been received.

President Coleman announced last month she would donate her recent raise for the Phase II Challenge. The gift adds to the $500,000 President Coleman and her husband, Ken Coleman, have already committed to The Michigan Difference campaign.

Phase II is part of a continuum of student support at Michigan. Whether a gift assists a freshman in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts or a doctoral candidate in the College of Engineering, contributions to financial aid mean Michigan can continue to attract outstanding scholars—scholars whose achievements here underscore the University’s leadership in so many areas.

In conversations with many of you, I have been delighted that you share the University’s appreciation for the importance of scholarships. It’s amazing to note that roughly one-third of the U-M’s 3,175 endowments for merit- or need-based aid were generated during The Michigan Difference campaign. Your commitment to this priority continues to grow.

The first phase of the President’s Challenge for undergraduates has already raised approximately $18.5 million in new gifts through September that will generate $37 million in need-based aid through the President’s dollar-for-dollar match. This phase of the Challenge concludes in December. On the faculty front, we began The Michigan Difference with 268 professorships and have since added 169, bringing the University’s total to 437 endowed professorships. Earlier this year, President Coleman’s Challenge to endow 20 new, full professorships hit its goal in just seven months, roughly half a year ahead of schedule.

This level of participation reflects the increasing number of you who are interested in leveraging your generosity today for an even brighter future for the U-M. That bodes well for the Donor Challenge and for our students.

Sincerely,

Jerry May
LIBRARY EXHIBIT HONORS BO, THE ULTIMATE ‘MICHIGAN MAN’

The University of Michigan loved Bo Schembechler, and the Library was no exception.

For many, Schembechler, (HLLD ’05) who died last fall, was first among Michigan’s “Leaders and Best.” The legendary football coach believed wholeheartedly in — and helped sustain as a donor and volunteer — the academic and research activities of the U-M, including the Library.

This powerful legacy is now celebrated through a large, first-floor display at the Hatcher Graduate Library. Open to the public, “Bo Schembechler: A Michigan Man,” showcases his unique contributions through photographs, quotes, film clips and other visuals. An Oct. 26 dinner reception at the Library gave approximately 100 Michigan supporters a unique opportunity to share stories about Bo and tour the exhibit, which runs through Dec. 7.
Carnegie Hall will cast its national spotlight on one of the University of Michigan’s most brilliant jewels on Feb. 28, 2008, when it hosts the University Symphony Orchestra that will perform Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 and a new work by U-M composer Evan Chambers (MMUS ’89, AMUSD ’93). Mark your calendars and join the U-M in Manhattan as it celebrates the incredible talents of these student-musicians under the direction of Prof. Kenneth Kiesler, above, in one of the world’s finest performance venues. Tickets go on sale Dec. 28, at the Carnegie Hall ticket office at www.carnegiehall.org, or (212) 247-7800. Questions? Contact Carrie Throm, assistant dean for development and external relations at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, cthrom@umich.edu.