Transformative Actions

Sending ripples across our region, state, and world

Historic Taubman gift accelerates medical research

Collections attract scholars from around the globe
Changing the way the world views our region

Dear Friends,

What images come to mind when you think of the state of Michigan? Sparkling waters, hulking factories, high-tech labs, abandoned houses? In our rich tradition of leadership, the University of Michigan is changing the world and the way people view our region.

Our academic excellence, the basis for any impact we can have, is stronger than ever. Ninety-five of our programs or departments — more than at Yale, MIT or Princeton — have been ranked in the top 10 by U.S. News & World Report.

Government agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, are betting on our science. The U-M is the largest academic research institution in the country, with spending growing 12 percent, to $1.14 billion, last year. I can think of few other institutions in the state that saw a 12 percent increase in activity.

The University Research Corridor, composed of the U-M, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, had a $14.8 billion economic impact in the state in 2009, generating twice as much licensing revenue as North Carolina’s Research Triangle.

The U-M’s impact on the state includes the health system and the new C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women’s Hospital, to be dedicated in November. The largest construction project in the state, it is one of the only hospitals in the country where the care is seamless for infants from before they are born, through delivery and into childhood.

Donors, too, know the U-M is a sound investment, as evidenced by A. Alfred Taubman’s remarkable $100 million commitment to support life-changing medical science research.

The examples are numerous and powerful. Throughout this issue of Leaders & Best, you will find stories of how the U-M is changing the world. It is a transformation supported by your investment as donors — one that makes the Michigan impact unique for our students, faculty and staff, and for the world around us.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
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Questions…comments?
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The Class of ’31E Endowed Scholarship has flourished for three decades as a testament to the bonds of Depression-era Michigan students and their commitment to helping future generations of College of Engineering undergraduates.

Inspiration for their scholarship came in 1978 at the Class of ’31E’s 47th reunion. Chuck Dybvig (BSEAA ’31) and his wife, Dorothy, had recently established a scholarship in the School of Art & Design in honor of their son, Ned, a student there who had been killed in Vietnam. Chuck suggested that his Engineering classmates consider providing similar support in Engineering. The class accepted the challenge and committed to raise $50,000 for student aid by their 50th reunion. Organized by Class President Paul S. Bigby (BSEME ’31), the group called their campaign “Fifty for Fifty.” Within three years, however, ’31E had doubled its goal, capitalizing on classmate G. Lawton Johnson’s (BSEME ’31) commitment to match its $50,000 in gifts. The result was a 1981 contribution of $108,000 to establish the Class of ’31E Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“Fifty-five for Fifty-five.” Spurred by Johnson’s personal generosity and agreement to once again match his classmates’ gifts, ’31E responded, presenting the College with $112,000 in 1986 for their scholarship fund. While all but one member of the class has passed away, the legacy of ’31E’s giving has inspired subsequent generations, whose continued contributions have helped raise the value of the scholarship to an estimated $5.5 million today. Over the years, the scholarship fund has supported 149 engineering students, including 20 current scholars, who in 2011 received an average award of $11,625.

McFarren credits the scholarship’s success and the class’s solidarity to the efforts of her father and such classmates as Johnson, who worked hard to keep the group connected. “This group stayed together as a community, and that community has been extended through their descendants, who continue to support it through their time and energy,” said McFarren, who has not only made her own bequest for the scholarship, but serves as an active volunteer member of the ’31E Committee, which organizes annual gatherings for current and past recipients as well as scholarship donors. The group also offers input on recipient selections to the College of Engineering’s Scholarship Committee.

Because the Class of 1931 came of age during the Depression, McFarren said, its members were acutely aware of the financial pressure on students. Many of them had to work their way through school, so they were motivated to provide the best engineering students with opportunities to focus full-time on their studies and extracurricular activities. The class’s philanthropic mindset can be traced to its first-ever gift to Michigan — graduation gowns, which they purchased for their own use and then donated to the College for more affordable rental to future students.

Such commitment isn’t lost on Class of ’31E Scholar Ashley Sterritt Pollock (BSEIO ’11), an
Pollock, the granddaughter of the late Laurence Einfeldt (BSEME ’31), said membership in the 1931E Student Society has been a great resource for friendship and fellowship during her Michigan years. Members receive pins, wear special graduation stoles, and gather informally and formally throughout the year with other ’31E Student Society members and graduates.

“We’ve formed a bond, a connection through the Class of ’31. It really makes you feel like you’re part of something, part of a family.”

—Ashley Sterritt Pollock

‘31E Scholarship
Fast Facts

Established: 1981

Fund value: Approximately $5.5 million

Students served: 149, including 20 current scholars

Eligibility: Freshmen with a 3.5 GPA and 24 U-M credits, at maximum, may apply.

Exceptions: Descendants of ‘31E class members may apply as incoming freshmen and, to remain eligible, must maintain a 3.5 GPA during their freshman year.

Commemorative Awards

Classmates voted to recognize commemorative gifts from the ’31E Scholarship’s leading donors:

Emil (BSEEE ’31) and Elsie Anderson
Steele (BSEM ’32, BSECE ’32) and Mildred Bailey
Kenneth (BSEME ’31, MS ’33) and Esther Benton
Paul (BSEME ’31) and Grace Bigby
Charles (BSEAA ’31) and Dorothy Dybvig
Laurence (BSEME ’31) and Grace Einfeldt
G. Lawton (BSEME ’31) and Louise G. [ABED ’31] Johnson
Clarence (BSEECE ’31) and Ruth Larson
Chet (BSEE ’31) and Jessie Vielmetti
Howard (BSECH ’31) and Evelyn Waldenmyer
Janine Johnson Weins (BSEM ’62), daughter of G. Lawton and Louise G. Johnson
Allen and Betty [Beezer] Gabroy, in honor of Joseph E. Beezer (BSEE ’31)
Making the case for the U-M in Lansing and beyond

U-M’s Vice President for Government Relations talks about the work of advocating for the University

Q What is the mission of Government Relations at Michigan?

This office focuses on external constituents—broadly speaking, the public. More narrowly, it involves policymakers and legislators at the local, state and federal levels. Another constituency is the thought leaders, the community leaders, the civic leaders of this state. We work with Ann Arbor City Council members, with members of the state legislature, and at the federal level, with our colleagues in the higher education community and members of our Congressional delegation. At all levels, we carry a message about the value of the University to the state and nation, the opportunities we create for our students and faculty to excel, and our commitment to the transformation of the Michigan economy.

In addition to a Lansing office, the U-M also has a Washington, D.C., office. Tell us about that.

In 1990, in a move that was unique at the time because there weren’t many models for it, then-President Jim Duderstadt established a Washington office to create a more permanent U-M presence in the nation’s capital: to advance the issues that we care about deeply, to collaborate more effectively with other organizations concerned with higher education issues and to establish a robust relationship with our Michigan Congressional delegation.

Do you detect a different climate in Lansing since the November elections?

There is a difference on many levels. The legislature has 148 members—38 in the Senate and 110 in the House—and more than 90 of them have had two years or less of service in the state legislature. It may very well be the largest influx of new and somewhat inexperienced lawmakers in a long time. But they all want to leave their mark.

What does that mean for the U-M?

The challenge is trying to convey to the legislators, in a relatively short period of time, the importance of an institution like the U-M to communities across the state. Prior to 1998, when term limits took full effect in Michigan, many legislators had served 10, 20—some, 30—years. They had a deep understanding of, and a deep familiarity with, higher education. Frankly, because of term limits, the ability to have that kind of deep knowledge, deep curiosity, and then familiarity, is tested.
What are the U-M messages that resonate most with state lawmakers at this time?

Our leader, President Mary Sue Coleman, has been a champion for the promise and the potential of what the University can and should be doing to help the economic transformation of the state. In my discussions with legislators now, I’m talking more about the very specific ways that we are engaged as a partner in that transformation. It’s so important for our legislators to understand that our $1.14 billion in research expenditures are a significant contributor to the state’s economic vitality. Research employs people. It turns out terrific talent. And then there are the related activities: licensing ideas, patenting activity, taking ideas into the marketplace with new business startups. These are all of interest to state legislators. They expect the places where research activity is occurring at such a high level to generate a robust economic footprint. We are also pressing the legislators to grasp the amount of work that has been done, and continues to be done, to cut expenditures from our budget and maintain the academic excellence of the University.

Does it help to have a Wolverine, Rick Snyder, as our new governor?

It’s wonderful to have a Wolverine as our governor! Not since Gov. Williams have we had a governor with a U-M degree. I certainly believe that Gov. Snyder’s (BGS ‘77, MBA ‘79, JD ‘82) familiarity with the University, in very substantive ways, is a plus. We also hope that because of that deep familiarity, he is very comfortable contacting people on campus who can be helpful to him as he’s thinking about the very important decisions that he and his team will be making over the next four years, including re-investments in higher education.

What’s the main difference in the way we position ourselves with the state, versus the federal, lawmakers and agencies?

From the state, the University receives a direct appropriation. We also need to respond to issues that arise with respect to the stewardship of the state’s support of us, and specifically, how we are educating students and creating economic opportunity. In the federal environment, we use the same fact deck, but no specific line in a federal budget has the U-M attached to it. As a very engaged university in federal research, we must articulate to our federal policy makers the importance of a robust national research institution.

What do you say to Lansing’s lawmakers about the decline in state support for higher education?

Most lawmakers today are concerned about the cost of higher education and how that cost can be managed, especially for families that need assistance to send their children to college. The worry isn’t specific to the U-M. We continue to point to the direct correlation between the decline in state support and tuition increases and to press the case for adequate state investment.

What strategies has the U-M used for managing that decline?

At the UM–Ann Arbor, the state support to our general fund, which supports the academic mission of the institution, is now 21.7 percent, down from around 36 percent when I began at Michigan in 1995. That shift has put a sharp focus on the need to manage costs, find efficiencies and re-allocate our resources to account for that dramatic decline. All of us at the U-M have been doing this, largely out of the public eye. [Note: The U-M now offers a website on this topic, at www.vpcomm.umich.edu/michiganmodel —Ed.]

Does the U-M’s fundraising success ever work against us, particularly in discussions related to state funding?

It does occasionally enter the conversations, again, among individuals who are likely new and have not yet had the chance to learn about what we do, why we do it, the restrictions on the endowment, and the meaning of the fundraising success that we enjoy. What I convey is that our donors are confident that we will use their resources wisely. By the same token, the resources that the state provides to us, even as they have diminished, are incredibly important to the University’s academic well-being. We want to build the same kind of confidence among legislators and the public that we are using those resources wisely.

How do you characterize the town–gown relationship between the U-M and Ann Arbor?

We’ve worked hard at that. Jim Kosteva (Director of Community Relations) in my office is a former state legislator. He was hired, just a few months before I was, to tend to our community relations. Together we understand the importance of maintaining very open, candid—sometimes difficult—conversations and negotiations with our partners in the city, the county and elsewhere. As Jim likes to say, it is a marriage where divorce is not an option!

As a student at Michigan, you studied political science and received a teaching certificate. How did you wind up in the political arena and not the classroom?

I graduated in ‘73 and was on track to be a civics teacher. Early in my junior year, I saw a poster advertising a summer internship program in Washington. That experience was my introduction to a career in politics that lasted 20 years and eventually led me back to the University of Michigan.
A hands-on education in nonprofit management
Gary (BBA COB ’63) and Joanne Wagerson’s philanthropy gives UM-Dearborn business students opportunities to serve and learn with Detroit area nonprofits.
www.giving.umich.edu/cultivating-leaders

New library makes visual sense of complex data
At the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library’s new Stephen S. Clark Library for Maps, Government Information and Data Services, technology offers users novel ways to display information.
www.giving.umich.edu/research

U-M film program gets a boost from Hollywood’s finest
The Benedek family helps U-M students script bright futures at the North Quad.
www.giving.umich.edu/student-experience

Peter (AB ’70) and Barbara Benedek of Los Angeles support the U-M through their family foundation.
Making ripples throughout the world

Dear Friends:

Every corner of the University of Michigan has benefited from some donor’s generosity. You probably know that donors make gifts for scholarships to help students pay for a great education, for programs to offer students life-changing experiences abroad, for faculty research to deepen our understanding of our world and for buildings to create the spaces that make all this possible. But did you know that donors’ gifts also support peony gardens, rare medical books, archaeology exhibits, Korean ceramics, bonsai trees, 19th-century dental drills, mummy coffins and much, much more?

Why do our donors make these gifts? And what difference does a collection of peonies, or rare books, or art, or historical manuscripts make?

The answer to both questions is the same: because through them, the University of Michigan can provide the resources and opportunities to transform individual lives and to have an impact on the community, the state of Michigan and even the world. It does so when a scholar comes to one of our libraries to do research and writes a book that sheds light on a detail of history that had not been known before; when a researcher from another university comes to our papyrus collection, because this is the one place she can pursue the topic she’s working on; when stem cell research conducted here leads to a clinical trial, and provides hope for patients with diabetes; when a student who has been encouraged to think big comes up with a way for people to transport drinking water more easily across long distances.

People come to the U-M to study, to learn, to conduct research and to confer with brilliant colleagues. In turn, what they accomplish here educates, transforms, enlivens, revolutionizes and improves the world around us. Sometimes the answers lead to new technology, a new drug, a new insight on history, a new computer app. Sometimes the answers lead to better questions.

What looks like just a dead insect to one person becomes a source of DNA research for another. What seems to be an out-of-date map turns out to provide insight into a pivotal political conflict from long ago.

The U-M’s second president, Henry Phillip Tappan (1852–1863), began the transformation of the University from the classical model to a broader scientific curriculum, creating a library, laboratories and an art gallery. Donors responded to his vision and request for help by providing support in the 1850s for the U-M’s Detroit Observatory, which still stands today. More than 150 years later, the University continues to provide the resources for scholars and students to find the answers that will change our world. And as they did then, our donors are stepping up to make it possible.

For that, we remain extremely grateful.

Sincerely,

Jerry May
Vice President for Development

In memoriam

In April, our longtime friend, alumnus and supporter Elder Sang-Yong Nam (MCP ‘66) passed away. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Moon-Sook Nam, and their family. We are indebted to Elder Nam for his dedication, his generosity, and the enduring legacy of his continual efforts to elevate the University to the highest levels of accomplishment.
A gift of $56 million from A. Alfred Taubman (HLLD '91) to the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute, announced on April 21 before the Board of Regents, brings his support of innovative medical science at the University of Michigan to a total of $100 million.

The final gift of Taubman’s $100 million pledge will be added to the endowment that funds the Taubman Institute’s efforts to find better treatments and cures for a wide variety of human diseases. In recognition of this tremendous support, the Regents approved on April 21 re-naming the Biomedical Science Research Building on the medical campus the A. Alfred Taubman Biomedical Science Research Building.

“This is one of the most transformative days in the life of the University,” said President Mary Sue Coleman. “Alfred Taubman instinctively sees how this level of investment can make huge advances in science and research. As a scientist, I particularly appreciate the freedom his philanthropy will provide researchers as they push the boundaries of medical science because of funding not available from other sources.”

“The University of Michigan receives tremendous support from the NIH, National Science Foundation and other agencies. But there is truly no public agency in a position to fund the type of work that Mr. Taubman’s gift will now accelerate,” Coleman said.

“This is a very special day for me,” said Taubman. “I’m making the largest commitment I’ve ever made to any institution, but more importantly, I’ve never been as excited about a donation’s potential to have an impact on the lives and well-being of people in this nation and around the world.”

“It is my family’s honor to be a part of the U-M family and to contribute to the work of so many brilliant people,” Taubman
added. “Our goal is to create a legacy of excellence in medical research at the University of Michigan.”

Taubman’s gift is added to an endowment whose earnings will fund the Taubman Institute and the research of scientists named as Taubman Scholars within the institute for generations to come. These are leading faculty members who are both laboratory scientists and physicians with active clinical practices, which makes the Taubman Institute one of the most unusual medical research organizations in the United States.

Already these gifts have supported the work of numerous U-M scientists, with the goal of turning laboratory research into clinical treatments. Through Taubman Institute support, five human clinical trials have been launched targeting cancer and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The Taubman Institute is also home to the only laboratory producing embryonic stem cell lines in the state. In late March, its scientists announced the creation of its first two embryonic stem cell lines carrying the genes responsible for inherited diseases.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D., executive vice president for medical affairs and chief executive officer of the Health System, praised Taubman for his vision in supporting research that will change the face of biomedical science.

“Around the world, Mr. Taubman is renowned for moving merchandise, moving money and moving markets, but here at the U-M, he is renowned for moving minds,” says Pescovitz. “His extraordinary generosity will make a difference in perpetuity.” The Taubman Institute is part of the Medical School, one of the major components of the Health System.

Fifteen U-M scientists already are being supported through the Taubman Institute in highly promising biomedical research focused on a range of diseases. The research funding they receive as Taubman Scholars allows them the time, freedom and resources they need to explore new frontiers of science and to conduct high-risk, high-reward research that other funding sources often won’t support.

One of those scientists is the institute’s director, Eva Feldman (PHD ’79, MD ’83), the Russell N. DeJong Professor of Neurology, who is leading a human clinical trial of a stem cell therapy for ALS. She also is working to adapt that stem cell therapy to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

“Scientists like Eva need to be able to follow their scientific instincts, and I’m glad to be able to provide them with funds that give them that opportunity,” said Taubman.

Feldman said the unrestricted funding that Taubman provides scientists is priceless and gives them true freedom to follow innovative approaches to developing treatments for disease.

“What we’ve been able to achieve because of Mr. Taubman’s belief and support is remarkable,” Feldman said.

About 20 years ago, Taubman lost a good friend to ALS. And that memory has motivated him to support ALS research at the U-M Medical School. But the research of the Taubman Scholars can be on any disease that affects humankind, from breast cancer and obesity to rare genetic conditions.

James O. Woolliscroft (MD RES ’80), dean of the Medical School and the Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine, said Taubman’s support is critical to identifying fruitful lines of inquiry that can reveal what has not been understood before.

“This additional funding provided to Taubman physician-scientists enables them to pursue creative, high-risk and potentially high-return avenues of inquiry that might otherwise go unfunded by traditional government sources,” said Woolliscroft. “Mr. Taubman’s gift illustrates the power of philanthropy to support research that can address enormous deficits in our understanding of medical science and human health.”

For more information about the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute at the U-M Medical School, visit www.taubmaninstitute.org
The world turns to Michigan and its vast collections of art, memoirs, historical documents, scientific implements and natural specimens in an ongoing quest for new understanding.

Donors deserve much of the credit.

On the following pages, a smattering of Michigan’s treasures highlights the scope and significance of the U-M’s extraordinary holdings — gems that continue to draw researchers, authors, artists and the merely curious to campus for answers and inspiration.

For more information about these and other U-M collections, and to learn more about some of the images on these pages, please visit www.giving.umich.edu/collections
Treasure Trove

Michigan's deep roots in research can be traced to the corner of Ann and Observatory Streets, home of the Detroit Observatory (pictured, at left), the U-M's first dedicated scientific research laboratory. The Bentley Historical Library's only three-dimensional archive, the Observatory has delighted stargazers for 157 years. Major Detroit donors responded to U-M President Henry Phillip Tappan's efforts to transform Michigan into one of the nation’s first research universities by supporting construction of the facility. The Observatory — the state’s first — stands as the U-M's second oldest extant building, after the president’s house, and has been the site of 21 asteroid and two comet discoveries. Home to the U-M’s first scholarly journal, *Astronomical Notices*, the Observatory was restored in 1998 with donor funding. Its original astronomical instruments remain intact and operational, including its meridian and refracting telescopes, once among the largest in the world.

Learn more about the Detroit Observatory’s public activities at www.bentley.umich.edu/observatory/activities.php

An Easterly perspective

The William L. Clements Library offers modern photo historians a look at the remarkable works of one of the nation’s pre-eminent daguerreotype photographers. The Clements, regarded worldwide for its extraordinary colonial and early American holdings and its Thomas Easterly daguerreotypes, provides a peerless glimpse of this 19th-century art form — the first practical form of photography. Composed primarily of family portraits and landscapes, particularly a series of stunning Niagara Falls images, the Easterly collection found a home at the Clements through the generosity of patron Alice Dodge Wallace of Boulder, Colo., in a succession of cash and in-kind gifts beginning in 1997 with the donation of her family papers. Easterly continued to make daguerreotypes long after the advent of paper-based photography in the Civil War era because he considered the process, based on an amalgam of silver and mercury, to produce images of extraordinary resolution.

Explore the Clements Library’s collections at www.clements.umich.edu/explore.php

Star-gazing

Michigan’s deep roots in research can be traced to the corner of Ann and Observatory Streets, home of the Detroit Observatory (pictured, at left), the U-M’s first dedicated scientific research laboratory. The Bentley Historical Library’s only three-dimensional archive, the Observatory has delighted stargazers for 157 years. Major Detroit donors responded to U-M President Henry Phillip Tappan’s efforts to transform Michigan into one of the nation’s first research universities by supporting construction of the facility. The Observatory — the state’s first — stands as the U-M’s second oldest extant building, after the president’s house, and has been the site of 21 asteroid and two comet discoveries. Home to the U-M’s first scholarly journal, *Astronomical Notices*, the Observatory was restored in 1998 with donor funding. Its original astronomical instruments remain intact and operational, including its meridian and refracting telescopes, once among the largest in the world.

Learn more about the Detroit Observatory’s public activities at www.bentley.umich.edu/observatory/activities.php
Korea’s enduring art

The 250 works spanning nearly two millennia make the University of Michigan Museum of Art’s Hasenkamp-Nam Collection of Korean Art one of the finest in the nation. Displayed in the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery in the Maxine and Stuart Frankel and the Frankel Family Wing, funded through a leadership gift from the Maxine (AB ’66 DRBN) and Stuart (BBA ’61) Frankel Foundation, the collection is particularly rich in ceramics, Korea’s defining art form. The pieces provide an extraordinary survey of the techniques that have made Korean ceramics among the world’s most beautiful and the collection a popular attraction for UMMA patrons, artists and art historians. Sought by museums nationwide, the collection was provided to Michigan through a gift/purchase agreement from Bruce and Inta Hasenkamp of Hillsborough, Calif., with financial support from longtime U-M friends the late Elder Sang-Yong Nam (MCP ’66) and his wife, Moon-Sook Nam, of Ann Arbor.

See more of the Korean collection and select images of UMMA’s 19,000-piece collection at www.umma.umich.edu

Bug’s life

The Museum of Zoology’s Insect Division is home to one of the world’s most extensive collections of insects. Featuring nearly 1 million specimens of crickets, grasshoppers, katydids and related groups, the collection is second in size in the Western Hemisphere only to that of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. In the years ahead, the collection will be cared for and expanded with proceeds from the Theodore H. Hubbell Endowment for Systematic Research in Orthoptera, established in 2010 by an anonymous donor who studied under the late Professor Hubbell (1897–1989), director of the research museum and its longtime curator of insects.

Read more about the Museum of Zoology’s extraordinary collections at www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu
The late Regent Lucius L. Hubbard’s 1923 gift of 120 rare maps lets today’s scholars glimpse the worldview people held in the 16th through 19th centuries. As part of the Hatcher Graduate Library’s Map Library, the Hubbard Collection of Early Maps showcases the output of the period’s key mapmakers yet represents a mere fraction of the Map Library’s 370,000 maps and 10,000 atlases and reference works — all told, one of North America’s largest academic map collections. Among additional books on geography, travel and the sciences is Hubbard’s imaginary voyages collection, including the works of Jonathan Swift and every rare edition of Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe. And in Hatcher’s Special Collections Library, rare works range from a Galilean manuscript to archives about Orson Welles and Robert Altman.

Learn more at www.lib.umich.edu/map-library or www.lib.umich.edu/special-collections-library

Extraordinary worldviews

An early June trip to the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden serves as a dazzling annual celebration of summer’s approach for thousands of visitors. Donated in 1922 by Dr. W.E. Upjohn and opened to the public in 1927, today’s garden features many of the original plants and contains 262 varieties arranged in 27 beds by season and color. In an effort to cultivate an even brighter future for the garden, donors including Ann Arbor’s Porter Family Foundation, Philip (AB ’60) and Kathy Power of Ann Arbor; Sally (MSW ’87) and Ian Bund of Ann Arbor and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust are leading a multi-year renovation, the Peony Garden Initiative. The initiative aims to transform the garden into an internationally recognized reference collection that will serve as a conservation model for other cultivar collections and as an enduring destination for peony fans.

For further details on the historic peony collection, visit www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/see/peony

Full bloom
There’s an enormous new reason to visit the Exhibit Museum of Natural History: the 50-foot skeleton of Basilosaurus isis, an extinct whale that lived 37 million years ago. Suspended above the museum’s second floor gallery, the leviathan reigns over the museum’s newly renovated whale evolution exhibit, “Back to the Sea,” which reveals how whales evolved from land-based mammals to sea creatures. In 1987 a team led by Philip Gingerich, the Ermine Cowles Case Collegiate Professor of Paleontology and director of the U-M Museum of Paleontology, discovered the fossil in Wadi Hitan, a section of the Egyptian desert known as the “valley of the whales.” To help defray the cost of displaying the skeleton and completing the update of “Back to the Sea,” the Exhibit Museum launched a “Buy a Bone” campaign in late 2010. Through January donors had contributed $26,755 toward the $40,000 goal.

Discover why the Exhibit Museum remains a popular destination for scientists young and old at www.lsa.umich.edu/exhibitmuseum

Flora to go

Neatly filed in rows of lockers within a cavernous, 16,000-square-foot warehouse south of Central Campus, the University of Michigan Herbarium’s collection of 1.7 million plant specimens serves as a resource for scientists worldwide. The Herbarium contains 96,000 types of algae, 280,000 fungus samples, 57,000 lichens and hundreds of thousands of land plants. It is a lending library for botanists and collectors to perform measurements, dissections and even DNA analysis. Specimens date back to the early 19th century, including the original, leather-bound folios of Michigan pioneer Douglass Houghton and the esteemed botanist, U-M Regent and physician Zina Pitcher. The Mellon Foundation recently provided the Herbarium with a $200,000 grant to digitize 20,000 specimens of critical importance for research to make them available through the U-M Digital Library and the Global Plant Initiatives websites, www.herbarium.lsa.umich.edu/databases.html and www.plants.jstor.org, respectively.

Uncover more about the Herbarium at www.herbarium.lsa.umich.edu
Charting Dentistry’s Progress

With antique tools dating from the 18th century, the Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry illustrates advances in dental technology and techniques. Its 15,000-piece collection of drills, extraction instruments, X-ray equipment, photographs and more distinguishes it from the handful of museums worldwide dedicated to the dental profession. A gift from Gordon H. Sindecuse (DDS ’21) created the museum, which opened in 1922 in the Dental School’s W. K. Kellogg Institute Building. The museum and its visitors continue to benefit from the support of private collectors such as Ronald Berris (DDS ’74), who loaned portions of his private dental equipment and office paraphernalia collection to the museum for its newest, interpretive exhibit, “Inside the Dental Practice, 1860–1940.” Other objects in this exhibit were donated by Neil Bueker (DDS ’93), Irving Sorscher (AB ’62, DDS ’66), and the estates of Stanley M. Kirby (DDS 1902) and Bion L. Bates (DDS 1905).

Learn more about the Sindecuse Museum at www.dent.umich.edu/sindecuse

The empty wood coffin of the Egyptian priest Djehutymose (684–525 BC) serves as an open book on the culture and customs of the ancient Nile Valley civilization. Its ornate images offer details of Djehutymose’s lineage, give clues about the afterlife and expand what scholars know about hieroglyphs. This cornerstone of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology’s Dynastic Egypt collection was the 1931 bequest of collector Albert M. Todd of Kalamazoo. Adjunct assistant professor of Egyptology Marjorie M. Fisher (PhD ’98) funded the custom-made case, which stands in the William E. Upjohn Exhibit Wing, built through the leadership philanthropy of the late Edwin (AB ’33) and Mary Meader and named for Mary’s grandfather.

Friend “Mummy Djehutymose” on Facebook, or see more about the Kelsey’s 105,000 artifacts and 25,000 photographs at wwwlsa.umich.edu/kelsey
Making a Difference

$20 million gift jump-starts renovation at the Lawyers Club

Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charlie Munger will improve law students’ housing

One of the largest gifts ever made to Michigan Law will help revitalize living spaces within the 86-year-old student-housing portion of U-M’s iconic Law Quadrangle.

A $20 million gift from Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charles T. Munger (HLLD LAW ’10) will pay for the majority of a renovation project inside the Lawyers Club housing complex. The remaining $19 million of the estimated $39 million cost to complete the work will come from central university investment proceeds and the Lawyers Club, which is run by a separately incorporated, self-sustaining nonprofit organization.

The project will bring badly needed upgrades that will transform student rooms and other living areas inside the buildings while preserving the historic Collegiate Gothic exteriors that make them an integral part of a law campus recognized around the world for its beauty. Taken in combination with the soon-to-be-completed $102 million project to build the new academic building on the corner of State and Monroe Streets along with the breathtaking Robert B. Aikens Commons, the Lawyers Club project will enhance significantly the student experience.

Munger’s generosity stems from his long history as a University friend and advisor. As an undergraduate mathematics student at the U-M in the 1940s, Munger appreciated the Law Quad’s beauty. He went on to graduate from Harvard Law School in 1948 and founded the Los Angeles law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson. He became Vice Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway in 1978.

Munger never forgot about Michigan, or its Law Quad. In fact, this latest gift extends Munger’s philanthropic relationship with the Law School, which began in 2007, with a uniquely practical $3 million gift for lighting improvements in public areas of the Law Quadrangle. Now complete, that project has turned the formerly dim interiors of Hutchins Hall and the landmark Reading Room into showcases of Collegiate Gothic grandeur.

But Munger’s relationship with Michigan has always been more than simply philanthropic. He has lectured at various U-M schools and has advised the University on its investments.

Like the gift for lighting, Munger’s new gift is designed to improve fundamentally the student experience. While the buildings were described in 1930 as possessing “every modern convenience which has become known to architects and engineers,” in those days such conveniences included luxuries...
like running water and showers — in all-male communal bathrooms. Planners are approaching the renovation project with the idea of taking the buildings into the future, while retaining their strong connection to the Law School’s storied past.

In the two dormitory buildings — the Lawyers Club dorm and the east wing of the John P. Cook dorm building, both on South University Avenue — the work will include extensive interior renovations, technology upgrades, new roofs, fire safety features and energy performance measures targeted to exceed national energy efficiency standards by more than 30 percent. In addition, the project will replace the roof and upgrade fire safety features in the Lawyers Club Lounge and dining hall, located on South State Street.

“Charlie Munger has a powerful vision of world-class facilities that will match a world-class law school at the University of Michigan. The Law Quad is an icon of U-M’s excellence in legal education, and its prominence is now ensured for future generations because of Charlie’s generosity,” said U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. “I am particularly pleased because this gift directly benefits the living-learning experience for our law students.”

At the March 17 meeting of the Regents, they approved the naming of the renovated residence portion of the Lawyers Club as “The Charles T. Munger Residences in the Lawyers Club” in honor of the gift.

“Taken together, this group of construction projects represents by far the most dramatic improvement in the student environment since the first part of the Law Quadrangle was dedicated in 1925,” said Law School Dean Evan Caminker. “Our new academic building and Commons areas will enable us to provide contemporary educational and community space, while the residence renovations will increase comfort and convenience for law students who wish to live in the Quad. We’re extremely grateful to Charlie Munger for his foresight and generosity in revitalizing the distinctive Lawyers Club.”

The Lawyers Club and residences are two components of the Law Quad, built with a visionary gift from William Wilson Cook, which also includes the William W. Cook Legal Research Library and Hutchins Hall. Together, the Collegiate Gothic buildings of the Quad and its dramatic courtyard have become an integral part of the Michigan Law experience for generations of students.

Construction is expected to begin in early summer 2012 with a goal of completion by fall 2013. The University will appoint Hartman-Cox Architects in association with SmithGroup for the project.
International gift undergirds Law School building expansion

An illustrious Law School alumnus has expressed his longstanding affection for his alma mater through a $1 million commitment for the School’s building expansion and renovation project.

Under the leadership of Masayuki Oku (LLM ’75), head of the Tokyo-headquartered Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), the firm last fall made a $500,000 gift to the project, following an equal commitment in 2008. The Law School will name a seminar room within its new academic building in honor of the firm.

“As president of SMBC, I am pleased (and as an alumnus, very proud) that SMBC is able to support the Law School with a total donation of $1 million for the construction project,” wrote Oku in a letter to Law Dean Evan Caminker. “It is my hope that the new facilities will enhance Michigan Law School’s international prominence even further.”

The Law School’s ongoing construction includes adding instructional space in the venerable Law Quad for the first time since the School’s main classroom building opened in 1933. In addition to the new four-story academic building, to be located across Monroe Street to the south of the Quad, the project will feature the Robert D. Aikens Commons, named for leadership donors Robert (JD ’54) and Ann (BFA ’02) Aikens and built adjacent to the School’s existing buildings.

Yoichiro Yamakawa (MCL ’69), a lawyer with Koga & Partners in Tokyo who sits on SMBC’s board of directors and on Dean Caminker’s advisory council, also played a key role in procuring the firm’s gift. Last October, Oku, Yamakawa and other SMBC officials viewed the construction firsthand. During their campus visit, Oku—whose scholarly work at the U-M focused on international tax law—renewed his connection with Professor James J. White (JD ’62). Oku had studied with White and contributed to his book on U.S. banking laws.

The Law School’s ties to SMBC are deep and longstanding. Oku is the highest ranking of several Michigan Law alumni who have served with the firm, which previously provided generous support for students at the Law School.

Learn more about donor support for Law’s expansion and renovation at www.giving.umich.edu/law-quad

Law School alumni Yoichiro Yamakawa (left) and Masayuki Oku (center), who led the way for a $1 million gift to the Law School, survey the construction last fall with Dean Evan Caminker.
Putting a charitable gift annuity to good use, starting now

Rebecca Horvath (BMUS ’56, CERTT EDUC ’56, CERTT EDUC ’61, AM ’62, PhD ’80) wanted to give back to the College of Engineering.

Horvath appreciates the excellent education that her children, Susan Horvath Ferreira (BSEIO ’86, MSE ’88) and John Horvath (BSEE ’88), received there. And she admires how the work of engineers is, as she says, “continually tested against reality.” One way a donor can give back is through a charitable gift annuity (CGA). In exchange for the donor’s contribution, the University agrees to make fixed payments for life to a recipient, or annuitant, that the donor designates. The donor then receives a tax benefit for the generosity.

The Horvath family has made good use of CGAs. In 2004, Rebecca Horvath and her late husband, William J. Horvath, set up a deferred charitable annuity gift to benefit the School of Education ($130,000) and the School of Music, Theatre & Dance ($130,000). The Ann Arbor residents then set up a second CGA of $300,000 in 2007 for the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum to support the Gaffield Children’s Garden and the Centennial Shrub Collection.

When establishing the $200,000 CGA for the College of Engineering in 2010, however, Horvath said she wanted money to be available for scholarships right away. So she named the College the annuitant for the first five years, thereby giving it an additional $60,000.

The Horvaths’ gifts over the years show the power of philanthropy across the entire University and highlight a family’s gratitude to the U-M. “My family and I have benefited from all of those areas of the University of Michigan, and I just wanted to give something back to them.”

—Rebecca Horvath

The Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center (above) became known as the College of Engineering’s “front door” when it opened in 1996. In appreciation of the great education the College provided for her two children, alumna Rebecca Horvath (below, with her late husband, William) established a charitable gift annuity that benefits the College in more ways than one.

Read more about the many ways to support Michigan at www.giving.umich.edu/guide
The active and energetic Jerry Isler hadn’t set out to make a major gift to the U-M, but life doesn’t always go according to plan.

When Isler, a resident of Farmington Hills, Mich., developed a painful neuromuscular disease affecting his legs, he sought treatment from Dr. Zach London (MD RES ’05, MD FEL ’06), a U-M neuromuscular neurologist. The care that Isler received at Michigan prompted him to write to London, “Due to your concern for my well-being, the University of Michigan has provided me with the finest medical care anyone could hope for.”

It also prompted Isler and his wife, Gussie, to establish the Jerry Isler Neuromuscular Fund in late 2009 to support U-M research and education related to neuromuscular disorders. London drew on the fund to support his creation of Nerve Whiz, a free educational diagnostic application for the iPhone (and soon for the Android).

The app serves as a diagnostic tool for medical students and doctors. Users indicate areas of muscle weakness or sensory loss on a picture of a limb. The app then generates a list of the most likely parts of the nervous system to be involved, complete with diagrams of the anatomy and suggestions about how to differentiate between potential sources of problems. It also provides diagrams of related lesions and descriptions of their distinguishing clinical features.

“What Nerve Whiz, anyone who can do a physical exam can learn to think like a neurologist,” says London, noting the app has been downloaded more than 25,000 times.

“This philanthropy has been the most satisfying thing we’ve done,” Jerry Isler said, “and it was totally unexpected.”

Learn more about Nerve Whiz at www.med.umich.edu/neurology/nerve-whiz.htm
Honoring his sons, donor supports faculty excellence at the Ross School

“The undergraduate program at the Ross School of Business has intensity like no other,” said Jeffrey Cappo.

An Ann Arbor resident who started out selling cars at Ann Arbor Toyota, Cappo now owns the Morristown, Tennessee-based Victory Automotive Group, 17 car dealerships located across Tennessee, Michigan, Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina.

Cappo admired the Ross School’s emphasis on experiential learning and its positive influence on his two sons. He was inspired to commit $2 million to the school to establish the Cappo Family Professorship of Business Administration, making the gift in honor of his sons, Eric Cappo (BBA ‘08) and Michael Cappo (BBA ‘10).

“Jeff’s generosity and vision in establishing the Cappo chaired professorship enables us to attract, retain and honor the kind of faculty we need to be among the best business programs in the world,” said Ross School Dean Robert Dolan. “It enhances our ability to teach great students and create intellectual capital that impacts management practice.”

With the cutbacks in government funding, Cappo said he believes gifts like his are critical to retaining the school’s reputation for excellence, particularly for its faculty. The Ross School is one of only four business schools to crack the Top 10 MBA programs in the nation all 12 times that BusinessWeek has conducted its biennial rankings, never ranking lower than eighth.

That level of leadership, Cappo said, was immediately apparent to his children.

“One of my sons told me how during orientation, the speaker said to the students, ‘Turn to your left. That person is smarter than you. Turn to your right. That person will work harder,’” Cappo said. “It’s an example of the way they get the students’ attention and accelerate their interest level. That’s what’s great about Michigan.”

In addition to this recent commitment to the Ross School, Cappo has given generously to Michigan athletics, including support for the stadium renovation and endowed scholarships.

To learn more about the Stephen M. Ross School of Business’s undergraduate program, visit www.bus.umich.edu/admissions/bba/whyross.htm
Making a Difference

Authors donate royalties to advance survey methodology

Survey methodology — the analysis of sources of error in surveys, including the bias and variability that affect data quality — has long been a field of study, but typically as an addendum to such concentrations as sociology or statistics.

Six experts associated with the Institute for Social Research (ISR) are looking to heighten survey methodology’s stature as a distinct academic discipline by supporting graduate students focusing on this important area.

The six co-authored the respected textbook *Survey Methodology* and have donated the estimated $60,000 that they have accumulated in royalties thus far, through the book’s first two editions, to benefit student education and research. The need for specialization in this field is critical, they say, because it generates data that ultimately touches all aspects of life: personal, social and political. And institutions — whether governmental, corporate or academic — rely on that data.

Solid survey methodology “leads to good data, and good data leads to sound policy decisions,” says author and donor Jim Lepkowski (MPH ’76, PhD ’80), a research professor with ISR’s Survey Research Center and director of its Program in Survey Methodology.

Royalties from the textbook’s first edition support the Charles Cannell Fund at ISR for research on the interaction between interviewers and respondents. Royalties from the second edition support the ISR’s Rensis Likert Fund for research-related travel.

Cannell Award recipient Ashley Bowers, a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in Survey Methodology, studies the effect of job satisfaction on job performance and turnover among telephone survey interviewers. She’s using the money to pay the interviewers and supervisors who are participating in her research project and to pay for travel to collect data in call centers.

Bowers, who did a stint as a telephone interviewer in graduate school, says her work “is a chance not only to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of surveys, but also to enhance the lives of our interviewers, who have given so much to our field.”

In addition to Lepkowski, the *Survey Methodology* co-authors and ISR donors include:

- Robert M. Groves (AM ’73, AM ’73, PhD ’75), director, U.S. Census Bureau;
- Floyd J. Fowler, Jr. (AM ’62, PhD ’66), senior research fellow, Center for Survey Research, University of Massachusetts – Boston;
- Mick P. Couper (AM ’89), research professor, ISR’s Survey Research Center;
- Eleanor Singer, research professor emerita, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan;
- Roger Tourangeau, research professor, ISR’s Survey Research Center, and director and research professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland.

Learn more about ISR’s Program in Survey Methodology at [www.psm.isr.umich.edu](http://www.psm.isr.umich.edu)
New SNRE fund will strengthen grad-level work in sustainability

What has been a defining experience for graduate students at the School of Natural Resources and Environment for more than 25 years has just entered a new phase in its development.

The group master’s project spans multiple semesters, involves interdisciplinary teams, and combines diverse knowledge and experiences, from natural and social sciences to landscape architecture. And it holds the potential to serve as a national model of graduate work in sustainability, says the school’s Visiting Committee, an alumni advisory board to Dean Rosina M. Bierbaum.

In December the Committee launched a fundraising effort to support the growth and enhancement of the master’s project experience. A 2-for-1 match, the Visiting Committee Master’s Project Challenge targets the more than 800 alumni who have worked on a group master’s project, out of the more than 7,100 worldwide since the school’s 1903 origins as a department.

With clients ranging from monasteries to foreign governments, students in the group master’s project address the gamut of environmental challenges, from ecotourism and sustainable energy to life cycle assessments and species preservation. Working with a faculty adviser, each team produces a scientific report that is both interdisciplinary in focus and broad in appeal. The projects frequently lead to substantive improvements for clients, and several project reports have been published as books.

Dean Bierbaum and the Committee members joined the campaign, which was conceived by members Peter C. Mertz (BS ’74, MBA ’81) and Mark Zankel (MS ’94). The campaign is enlisting current students, as well as using social media, annual giving and the SNRE website, to reach its alumni fundraising goal of $50,000.

Currently, SNRE provides limited funding per student to finance projects, and clients are asked to contribute when possible. The fundraising campaign aims to give students more resources to take on more complex projects, regardless of problem size, client funding or geographic location. “Since many clients are looking for pro bono support precisely because they don’t have funding, the burden on students to carry out great projects and produce Michigan-caliber science and analysis is becoming greater each year,” Mertz said. “As members of the Visiting Committee, we can help to reduce that burden. Through our leadership in financial commitments to capitalize the Master’s Project Challenge fund, we hope to inspire other SNRE alumni, foundations and corporations to support master’s projects.”

For more information about the campaign, visit www.snre.umich.edu/giving

One team this year created educational modules to help local officials within Great Lakes coastal communities prepare for climate change, thus protecting dune life.
Band backers support global touring tradition

When the late William D. Revelli, U-M director of bands from 1935 to 1971, took the University Symphony Band members on tour to Russia and the Middle East in 1961, he was planting a seed that would grow into a tree, and, 50 years later, bear unexpected fruit.

Alumni of that tour have established the Global Tour Fund so that future music students can be enriched by touring experiences, just as they were. The U-M Symphony Band’s tour of China this May — which includes a closing concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on May 29, 2011 (with tickets available at www.music.umich.edu/laconcert) — is one example of the kind of touring this fund will make possible for band members. In the past, U-M ensembles have played at Carnegie Hall, La Scala in Milan, the Basilica di Massenzio in Rome and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow.

William S. “Bud” Ronsaville (AB ’63), of Washington, D.C., is an alumnuus of the Symphony Band’s inaugural 1961 tour, and his enduring belief in “the power of the ensemble” has inspired him, along with his wife, Donna (BS ’62), to support the Global Tour Fund. “The 1961 Symphony Band Tour was the most valuable experience of my young life,” Ronsaville said. “What else would you expect from a Michigan education? Every student should have this opportunity, and I’m happy to contribute to this goal.”

At the Walt Disney Concert Hall (above) on May 29, the LA Phil presents the U-M Symphony Band as the Band makes its way home from a 2011 China tour.

Alumni of the 1961 tour, who have met regularly since graduating, will celebrate their 50th reunion this fall, when they’ll be inducted — as a group, fittingly — into the School of Music, Theatre & Dance’s Hall of Fame.

The Ronsavilles’ gift, and others to the Global Tour Fund, all come with an extra boost — matching funds from President Mary Sue Coleman’s Donor Challenge for the Student Global Experience, which supplies $1 for every $2 committed in support of U-M students who are working or learning abroad, or who come from outside the U.S. to study at the University. With the help of numerous cash donations and bequest commitments, the Global Tour Fund’s value has grown to more than $375,000. And because the Donor Challenge for the Student Global Experience has been extended beyond its original deadline, the matching opportunity for contributions to the Global Tour Fund likewise continues.

Alumni of the 1961 tour, who have met regularly since graduating, will celebrate their 50th reunion this fall, when they’ll be inducted — as a group, fittingly — into the School of Music, Theatre & Dance’s Hall of Fame.

Read more about the Global Tour Fund at www.music.umich.edu/china/globaltouringfund.htm

Learn more about the Donor Challenge for the Student Global Experience at www.giving.umich.edu/presidents-challenge

U-M Director of Bands William D. Revelli (below, at left) began the touring tradition in 1961 in the Soviet Union.
Did You Know?

The next time you’re cheering the Wolverines in the Big House or enjoying the treasures of the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), take a moment to appreciate your surroundings. They’re award-winning.

Designed by Allied Works Architecture, UMMA’s donor-funded renovation and expansion earned the 2011 American Institute of Architects Honor Award for Architecture, the profession’s highest honor. The $41.9 million initiative, including the restoration of its original Beaux-Arts building and a new 53,000-square-foot addition, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel and the Frankel Family Wing, doubled the space available for collections display, exhibitions, public programs and educational exploration.

Across campus, donors supported the Michigan Stadium renovation, designed by HNTB Inc., that received McGraw-Hill Construction’s 2010 Best of the Best Award in the Sports/Recreation category. The $226 million project added 81 suites, 3,000+ club seats and a new press facility. It widened aisles and added seating for fans with disabilities. Barton Malow Inc. oversaw the construction.

“The variety of architectural gems on the Ann Arbor campus — from the Law Quad and Hill Auditorium to the Ross School of Business — sets the U-M apart. It is extremely satisfying to receive recognition for great architecture, which provides such wonderful spaces.” — Timothy Slottow, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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FROM THE GREAT WALL TO DISNEY HALL

You are invited to attend the homecoming performance of the U-M Symphony Band as it returns from its groundbreaking tour of China. Presented by the LA Phil, the band will perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on Sunday, May 29. Visit www.music.umich.edu/laconcert for more information and to purchase tickets.