Making a World of Difference
‘I come from a middle-class Michigan family. My parents are divorced and I have five siblings. Sending me to college was a big accomplishment for my family, so when it came to extra activities, my options were rather limited, especially something as expensive as studying and living in Europe. I work a part-time job here at the University but it’s hardly enough to pay the bills.

‘After getting support from several of my extended family members, I was able to go to Munich this past summer. The trip was amazing and it helped my German skills tremendously. This trip would not have been possible without the support from the Sturm family. … The Sturm support gave me the opportunity to see one of my dreams become a reality.’

Breanna Turcsanyi, a University junior majoring in German and mathematics

ABOUT THE COVER: The world is a very small place if you’re 30,000 nautical miles away. This spectacular view of Earth was photographed in July 1971 by the crew of Apollo 15, comprised entirely of U-M alumni: Col. David R. Scott (‘49–’50, Hon ScD ’71), Maj. Alfred M. Worden (MSE ’63, Hon ScD ’71) and Col. James B. Irwin (MSE ’57, Hon ScD ’71). The United States (particularly Florida), Central America and part of Canada can be seen at the left side of the picture, with South America at lower center.

(PhOTO COURTESY OF NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER)

Many readers asked about the identity of the dancer on the cover of the Winter 2005 issue of Leaders & Best. She is Melissa Charice Norwood, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 2003 from the School of Music’s Department of Dance. She is currently pursuing a master of arts in teaching degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her parents are Dr. John E. (PhD ’76) and Marilyn (AB ’74, ED CERTT ’74) Norwood of Saginaw, Mich.
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Dear Friends,

Thirteen years ago this spring, William M. Davidson (BBA ‘47, HLLD ‘01) made a $30 million leadership gift to the Campaign for Michigan. At the time, the gift was the largest ever made to our University. Bill Davidson’s vision was to establish a center that would assist firms in emerging market economies by connecting them with Michigan faculty and students. The firms would be exposed to leading-edge thinking and smart, high-energy students, while U-M faculty and students would be exposed to interesting business and policy issues.

Bill Davidson’s vision and generosity have had a global impact. In the 13 years since his gift, the William Davidson Institute (WDI) has become a center of excellence for work on and in emerging market economies. Housed at Michigan’s Ross School of Business, the Institute has built an outstanding record of achievement in each of its four focus areas.

- The Institute’s research on business and policy issues in emerging and transition economies is widely cited, and its conferences in countries as diverse as China, India, Russia, and Vietnam are attended by leading academics and policymakers.
- The Institute runs 15-20 executive education programs each year, educating more than 500 managers and policymakers from developing countries. The United States Agency for International Development has contracted with WDI to provide training as part of its Middle East Partnership Initiative. Institute-sponsored Robert M. Teeter scholarships are used to support participation by high-potential individuals from government and the non-profit sector.
- The Institute provides advisory services to governments and development agencies around the world. In recent years, WDI has performed advisory work in countries such as Bosnia, Kenya, Morocco, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
- Finally, WDI supports many initiatives that promote international activities at the University. These include sponsoring research and student projects, hosting visiting scholars, supporting seminars and speaker series, and sponsoring summer internships. In the past 13 years, more than 1,800 MBA students have participated in more than 450 international projects.

This is a record of which we can all be proud. All of this was made possible by Bill Davidson’s vision and support.

And now, in the heart of The Michigan Difference campaign, dozens of additional donors have stepped forward to support student and faculty outreach through travel, research, fellowships, internships and visiting professorships. With your support, students and faculty are honing their language skills, exploring different cultures and enhancing the education of others.

Just as the William Davidson Institute has grown and flourished — and continues to move forward with generous support from Bill Davidson — these new gifts will heighten global awareness among our students and faculty. One important objective of our campaign is “Prepare leaders for the local and global community.” The tremendous support from all our donors who make international opportunities possible is helping us realize that goal. And that means Michigan is making a world of difference.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman

Preparing leaders for the world around us
Fifty-three years ago, young Bill Brehm sat quietly as a doctor warned him about the young woman to whom he had just become engaged. Delores “Dee” Sonderquist, a diabetic, wouldn’t live long, the doctor said. She would be unable to have children, and complications of the disease would be devastating.

Today, with his arm around Dee Sonderquist Brehm in their McLean, Va., home, Bill Brehm (BS ’50, MS ’52), smiled at the memory. “We want to prove him wrong,” he said.

The University announced in December that the Brehms had donated $44 million, the University’s second-largest contribution and the U-M Health System’s largest. “Bill and Dee said, ‘Why not go for the brass ring?’” Dr. Allen S. Lichter (BS ’68, MD ’72), dean of the Medical School, said. “‘Why not create a center whose goal is to cure this disease, or at least advance us closer to the day when the disease will be eradicated?’”

The money will be used to build the $30 million Brehm Center for Type 1 Diabetes Research, create a Michigan Comprehensive Diabetes Center to coordinate all the University’s research activity on Type 1 diabetes and hire eight faculty members. It will be, Bill Brehm said, “a multifaceted, frontal assault” on the disease that has afflicted his wife for decades.

The Brehms’ gift was something of a surprise because the couple is not well known within local philanthropy circles. Bill Brehm, a former Pentagon official who came to the Washington area in the 1960s, was chairman of the board of SRA International Inc., a technology government contractor, from 1980 until he retired in 2003. When the company went public in 2002, he made millions.

Before the couple settled on the University of Michigan as the recipient of their gift—even before they had so much to give—Bill Brehm spent almost five years talking to scientists across the country about diabetes research.

That is vintage Brehm, say those who know him. “Bill is a very thoughtful, analytical person,” said Ernst Volgenau, SRA’s founder and chief executive. “This is a continuation and expansion of what he has done for a number of years.”

For the Brehms, their fortune is an opportunity that comes to a lucky few—and they don’t want to blow it. “We’ve got this, and we need to put it to work, and we’re not going to write a will and do it,” Bill Brehm said. “We want to do it while we’re alive.”

In Type 1 diabetes, which affects about 1 million people nationwide, the body does not produce insulin to control blood sugar. The disease, once known as juvenile diabetes, requires daily insulin injections and usually develops in children and young adults.

Over time, diabetes can damage the eyes, heart, kidneys, nervous system and skin. On average, the life expectancy of an individual with Type 1 diabetes is shortened by 15 years, according to the Juvenile Diabetes Association.
But when Dee Sonderquist’s illness was diagnosed in 1949, the prognosis was more grim. Diabetics almost always died young. Amputation of limbs and blindness were common. Testing one’s blood sugar, essential to managing the disease, required a cumbersome and often inaccurate urine analysis. Blood test results took three days, when what was needed was an immediate reading.

When she found out why she was losing weight and had an insatiable thirst, Dee was a dark-haired sophomore at Eastern Michigan University and had just begun dating Bill Brehm, a shy University of Michigan mathematics student. One of their first dates, they recall, took place in Dee’s hospital room at U-M.

Bill was undeterred by the diagnosis. He fell in love with the special-ed major with the silvery laugh, and they were married in 1952. Dee had two successful pregnancies, and the couple’s children, Eric and Lisa, are now in their forties. Dee Brehm, now 74, smiled as she remembered her husband’s frantic middle-of-the-night drives to the hospital when her blood sugar levels plunged or soared, threatening to bring on a coma or seizures.

“I wouldn’t be alive if it weren’t for him,” she said, nodding at her husband.Remarkably, she has had few major complications from the disease.

Like many diabetics, she checks her blood sugar as many as 10 times a day and gives herself at least four insulin injections a day. She eats carefully, exercises regularly, watches her weight and says she is one of only 70 living diabetics identified by the Boston-based Joslin Diabetes Center who have survived more than 50 years with the disease without major complications. She said she has agreed to participate in the Center’s study of longtime diabetics.

Through the years, Bill Brehm studied the disease and became frustrated at what he called the Balkanized way research is carried out without enough coordination among disparate research centers. As an executive who made his career analyzing and managing information systems, he found it maddening.

“There’s a lot of great scientists out there doing great work,” he said. “The challenge we see is that they tend to work independently.”

SRA’s success allowed him to act on his frustration. “Lightning struck us,” he said. “I don’t know if there is any other way to say it.”

The Brehms donated $15 million to the Fuller Theological Seminary, on whose board Bill Brehm had served for years, to establish the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts, which aims to teach artists more about theology and clergy members more about the arts. They say the idea came out of their church attendance and their desire to better integrate the arts into worship services.

For diabetes research, Brehm, 75, concluded that the University’s scientists would be the most likely to work cohesively to find a cure. The Brehms spent years hammering out with school officials the details and the amount of the donation.

“Philanthropy starts with an idea, not with money,” Bill Brehm said.

But having the means to make such a gift is “a joy,” Dee Brehm said.

Her husband disagreed.

“For me, this philanthropy is work—and by the way, it is very hard work,” he said. “Anyone who thinks it isn’t, that you just write checks—if that’s all you’re doing, you’re not involved, and you’re not exchanging ideas.”

Around her neck, Dee Brehm wears a gold medallion her husband gave her. It says, “50 Special Years.” And “12-16-99”—the 50th anniversary of Dee’s survival with diabetes. They’re betting $44 million that someday, sooner rather than later, no diabetic will need such a talisman.

—Jacqueline L. Salmon

The gift is the largest dedicated to Judaic studies at any university, and the largest ever to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA). The Institute will reside within U-M’s existing Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

The new Institute will annually bring 14 of the world’s leading scholars from a variety of disciplines to Ann Arbor for an academic year to collaborate in advancing scholarly research on the history, culture, literature and religion of the Jews from antiquity to the present. It will be one of only a handful of such institutes in the world. The gift is expected to establish the Institute as the largest of its kind and enable it to develop into one of the most prestigious.

The gift from Samuel and Jean (AB ’36) Frankel represents the latest chapter in the family’s long history of involvement with Judaic studies at U-M. Noting their 1988 collaboration with the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation that provided a $2 million gift to establish the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Samuel Frankel says that today’s gift continues this tradition of support.

“We have worked in close partnership with the University of Michigan to build an outstanding Center for Judaic Studies,” says Frankel. “Our partnership created the vision for the Institute, which will take the existing Center and the field of study to a new level. We are tremendously fortunate to have the means to make it a reality.”

President Mary Sue Coleman says she is grateful not only for the Frankel family’s generosity in supporting numerous programs throughout the University over many years, but also for the transformative role they are playing in The Michigan Difference. In addition to providing their own gifts, Sam and Jean’s son Stanley (AB ’63, MBA ’64) is a vice chair, and their daughter-in-law Maxine (AB ’66 Dearborn) is a co-chair of the $2.5 billion campaign.

“The University is delighted and grateful for the latest wonderful gift from this quietly generous couple, Jean and Sam Frankel,” Coleman says. “While they have been long-time supporters of the University in a wide variety of areas, this gift is particularly fitting because it will enhance the study of Jewish culture and civilization, a lifetime commitment of this outstanding philanthropic family.”

LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald says he is pleased that the Frankels are continuing to build upon their pioneering efforts in the College, begun more than a decade ago with the establishment of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

“We are extremely grateful for the Frankels’ vision and generosity,” McDonald says. “This new, extraordinary gift will firmly establish U-M as the nation’s preeminent center for scholarly research in Jewish studies. In so doing, it will add greatly to LSA’s already strong reputation among America’s elite liberal arts colleges as a leader in innovative, interdisciplinary teaching and research.”

Dr. Todd Endelman, professor of history and director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, sees the gift as a unique opportunity.

“While almost every other program in the country has the resources to bring one or possibly two visiting Jewish studies professors to campus for a semester or even a year, we will soon have the ability to host 14 scholars for an entire academic year — every year — to share, debate and test ideas in ways that will advance knowledge in the many fields making up Jewish studies,” Endelman says. “The energy and excitement that we expect will be kindled will be felt far beyond the University of Michigan.”

Beyond their generous support for Judaic Studies, the extended Frankel family — including sons Stanley, Bruce (BBA ’67), and Stuart (BBA ’61) and respective spouses Judy, who attended U-M from 1962-1964, Dale (BA ’68, MA ’69) and Maxine, as well as their daughter Jo Elyn and her husband George Nyman — has supported numerous other U-M fundraising priorities.
DeVere and Zita Sturm live on a 120-acre Michigan farm homesteaded by DeVere’s great-grandfather, August Sturm, a German immigrant.
He was a young man from Michigan's rural Thumb, exploring Germany to learn more about his family's heritage. She was living near the Bavarian town of Neuburg, nestled alongside the Danube. Their paths crossed at “The Jäger Ball” amidst hunters and their wives reveling at Fasching, the German Mardi Gras.

“We danced,” he begins.

“And that was the end of the story,” she says.

DeVere and Zita Sturm finish each other’s sentences with the ease that comes with decades of marriage.

“The proposal was, ‘Come to the United States, look it over, see if you can live there. If we still love each other, we’ll get married,’” he says.

“I looked and I stayed,” she says.

For one month of courting and nearly 42 years of matrimony, they have loved one another and the country that brought them together. Now, their German roots, DeVere’s time at the University, and the fact that three of their four children studied German at the U-M have inspired the Sturms to help students visit the country that united them.

The Sturm Family Endowment supports undergraduates in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures traveling to Germany for the summer to learn the language and absorb the culture.

DeVere grew up speaking German, the native tongue of his immigrant mother, Albertina, but his skills faded as he grew older. As a newlywed with a German wife, he fell back on the language, and the children that soon came learned both German and English. But as each child moved further along in school, less and less German was spoken at home. By the time their youngest, Benjamin, was beginning to talk, English was all he learned.

That changed in 1996 when Ben came to Michigan—where his father graduated in 1958, his sister Eva in 1987, and sister Julia in 1992. As an undergraduate, Ben sought out the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures for an internship. He ended up studying and working in Germany for eight months.

“He was a changed person. It was such a positive change from such a shy person,” Zita says. “It was such a priceless thing.”

Benjamin (BSE EP '00, MSE '03) eventually studied German for six semesters. “My experience was top-notch,” he says. He is now working on his Michigan doctorate in nuclear engineering and radiological sciences.

Since the day they were married, the Sturms have lived in Pigeon, a small farming community where DeVere was born and raised. There is one stoplight in town. The tallest building is the Pigeon Cooperative Elevator, which processes the wheat, beans and corn grown in fields like those owned by the Sturms.

More people inhabit U-M's South Quad than all of Pigeon.

“We're family people in a small town,” DeVere says. “I would find it very difficult to live in a city, all confined.”

He and Zita live in a comfortable bungalow built in 1939 by his grandfather. His great-grandfather, a German immigrant, homesteaded the land. Adjacent to their house is a 100-year-old barn, the centerpiece of the 120-acre farm that sits along Sturm Road.

Two miles down the road is Huron Casting, Inc., a foundry DeVere helped establish nearly 30 years ago and which today employs 400.

“I had always, in the back of my mind, been looking for someplace within the University to give some money,” he says. “I’ve done well, and with what this program has done for my children, here was a nice opportunity.”

Nice, indeed. Dr. Frederick Amrine, chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, could hardly believe the timing of the Sturms’ generosity. Amrine (AB ’74) had seen fewer and fewer students choose to spend their junior year in Germany, a traditional path taken by majors and minors. Heavy academic loads, safety concerns and costs were preventing all but a “distressingly small” number of students from visiting Germany.

The Department shifted gears, encouraging students to spend smaller but still valuable chunks of time abroad. Faculty pushed summer internships and language courses, and programs to study abroad lasted one semester rather than two.
Donors say ‘Ja!’ to supporting Germanic Languages

With more than 200 majors, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures is one of the most popular language programs offered by the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. In fact, rave reviews from students led LSA Student Government to give the program its 2004 Departmental Excellence Award, an honor the Department also received in 2002.

Once in Germany, students typically send colorful postcards to Pigeon, thanking the Sturms for their support and sharing tales of their experiences. “They are just the most fun,” says Zita.

Saving all the cards in a folder, DeVere has a favorite. It came from a young woman in Munich. Her handwriting was neat, punctuated with the smiley faces and exclamation points of youth.

*While in Munich, I fell in love for the first time. So … with that said, thank you once again, and by the end of this semester I will already have my German minor! (And my German boyfriend will be visiting the U.S.)*

It’s a German love story the Sturms know very well.

— Kim Clarke

_Once in Germany, students typically send colorful postcards to Pigeon, thanking the Sturms for their support and sharing tales of their experiences. “They are just the most fun,” says Zita._

U-M students studying in Germany regularly send postcards to the Sturms to thank them for supporting their travels.
• S. Olof Karlstrom (AB ’58, CERTT ED ’59, JD ’64) and his wife, Regent Olivia P. Maynard (MSW ’71), have made a challenge gift to support the Scandinavian Studies Program. Funds raised will support the teaching of Swedish. The couple, of Goodrich, Mich., also supports the Signe Karlstrom Memorial Event in honor of Karlstrom’s mother. The event brings Swedish speakers and performers to campus.

• Internships in Germany are the destination for undergraduates who receive Weiss-Partin Awards from the German Studies Program. Robert R. Levine (AB ’77) and his wife, Susan, established the Hermann F. Weiss/Charles A. Partin Endowed Fund in honor of Weiss, professor emeritus of German with whom Robert Levine studied, and Partin, who was his high school German teacher. Levine is the former executive vice president of Sallie Mae, which matched his gift. The Levines live in Grand Rapids, Mich.

• Deutschland comes to Ann Arbor via the Max Kade German Residence, a University residential community specifically for students of German. Supported by the Max Kade Foundation, Inc., of New York City, the Residence is open to undergraduates and graduate students who are learning German and want to immerse themselves in the language. The Foundation, the Department’s largest supporter, also helps fund residents’ travel to Berlin, Munich and Vienna. The Deutsches Haus, which accommodates 36 students, is in the Baits II Housing complex on North Campus.

• A donor whose first language was Dutch supports a popular undergraduate course about Anne Frank. Laura U. Schwartz (AB ’83), of Port Washington, N.Y., has established The Anne Frank Fund for the Dutch and Flemish Studies Program. Her grandparents survived the Holocaust by hiding in a small room in Amsterdam. Schwartz, who lived in Holland as a toddler, will provide discretionary support for the course, “Anne Frank in the Past and Present,” a foundation of the Dutch Studies Program.

• An alumnus who majored in German provides scholarship support to students who follow a similar academic path. George J. Valenta (AB ’55, MS ’60, CERTT ED ’60), of Ann Arbor, set up an endowment to assist juniors or seniors majoring in German. The students also must live in the Max Kade German Residence. Along with majoring in German, Valenta minored in French and Russian and later became fluent in Spanish and Italian.

• German Professor Marilyn Sibley Fries spent many years studying in Berlin, and now students in the German Studies Program can experience her favorite city with a scholarship named in her honor. Dr. Fries was a much-loved teacher who died of cancer at age 49 in 1995. Her mother, Elizabeth M.S. Parry of Alfred, N.Y., along with family and friends, established the Marilyn Sibley Fries Memorial Scholarship. The Fries Scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students.

• What should have been the happiest day of her life ended tragically when U-M senior Arati Sharangpani died in a commuter plane crash in January 1997. Sharangpani, who was planning to graduate with degrees in German and political science, was returning from a successful job interview in Cincinnati with Procter and Gamble when her flight crashed, killing all 29 aboard. To honor their daughter, Anand and Dipti Sharangpani of Plymouth, Mich., established the Arati Sharangpani Memorial Award, which draws the support of friends and family. The fund supports German undergraduates studying in Tübingen or Freiburg.

• For nearly 20 years, Dr. Valentine C. Hubbs oversaw the University’s Academic Year in Freiburg program. Today, German students can travel to Germany on a Valentine C. Hubbs Memorial Scholarship, made possible by Hubbs’ widow, Elizabeth Hubbs of Ann Arbor, along with friends, colleagues and alumni. Valentine Hubbs was chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures from 1970-76, and directed the Freiburg program from 1966 until his death in 1985.

• Students of Dutch language and literature can spend their summers studying in Zeist, the Netherlands, because of a retired language professor who loved his native tongue. Martijn Zwart, a Dutch scholar from Rotterdam who lived in Park Forest, Ill., until his death last year, established the Martijn Zwart Scholarship Fund to support the Dutch and Flemish Studies Program. Zwart taught Dutch at universities throughout the Midwest. His fund supports both undergraduate and graduate students, who can attend a language course supported by the Dutch Language Union. Zwart and his partner, Dr. Ethel M. Grene of Wilmette, Ill., also gave the U-M the copyright to their book, Dutch Poetry in Translation: Kaleidoscope, and related CD set, which the Department sells to support the Zwart Fund.

• Mechthild Medzihradsky loved nothing more than lining up an overseas job for a student in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, where she was the internship coordinator. Upon her death in 2001, her colleagues established a scholarship fund in her name. Today, the Mechthild Medzihradsky Scholarship Fund supports undergraduates doing summer internships in German-speaking countries. Medzihradsky was a 19-year member of the Department.

— Kim Clarke
hen Ron Weiser (BBA ’66) became U.S. ambassador to the Slovak Republic in November 2001, his life changed.

It wasn’t just that he now lived abroad with his wife Eileen (MMUS ’75) and young son Daniel. He also gave up his posts as chairman and CEO of McKinley Associates, the Ann Arbor development company he had founded 33 years earlier, and he stepped away from a slate of public service activities that might have exhausted men half his age. He’d served as chairman of a number of arts and education organizations, had chaired Michigan for George W. Bush’s presidential campaign, and had donated much time and money to U-M.

Now, as ambassador, Weiser’s public service became a full-time job. And for more than three years he threw himself into it with the same intensity that built McKinley into a billion-dollar-plus business.

The Weisers have since returned from Slovakia, but their interest in that country hasn’t waned. In 2004, they donated $250,000 to the University’s Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) to establish a fund called The Ronald and Eileen Weiser Slovakia-University of Michigan Collaboration. The “Collaboration” serves two purposes: to fund U-M students’ travel to and research in Slovakia, and to support scholarly exchanges between U-M and Slovakian faculty.

Before going to Slovakia, the Weisers would not have imagined making this particular gift. But they built a strong connection to the country.

“There’s no such thing as relationships between countries,” says Ron Weiser. “There are relationships between people in countries. … These relationships are important to the U.S. not just for communication, but for security, fighting terrorism, and building democratic institutions.”

Strengthening these relationships was at the core of his work as ambassador. It is also the core of the Collaboration.

The Weisers arrived in Bratislava very soon after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. They entered a drastically changed security situation, one that required the new ambassador and his family to be accompanied by bodyguards virtually everywhere; they had, he says, “no privacy.”

Weiser received a death threat, along with other security alarms, but the Weisers’ and Slovaks’ relationship worked. By the time he left, Weiser made official visits to every one of the country’s 138 cities and towns. Meanwhile, when the Slovaks learned that Weiser’s father had been born just across the border in what was then Austria-Hungary—a fact Weiser himself hadn’t known until then—“the Slovaks took me in as one of their own.”

Moreover, he says, “the Slovaks are incredibly supportive of the United States. They were one of eight countries with troops in Iraq when the war started.”

Their experience of Soviet domination, he adds, gave them “a real appreciation of freedom and democracy.”

Emerging from that experience into free-market democracy has challenged Slovakia. The country has had to build democratic institutions and business opportunities. It strove for many years to join NATO, which finally assented in 2004 with Weiser’s strong support.

“As ambassador,” says Weiser, “you can make things happen.”

From the start, the Weisers were eager to do so. Weiser knew then-Michigan Gov. John Engler (HLLD ’93), and together the two men helped create a “nation/state partnership” with Slovakia. That partnership, in keeping with Weiser’s goal of
‘There’s no such thing as relationships between countries. There are relationships between people in countries.’

– Ron Weiser, former U.S. ambassador to Slovakia
building relationships, brought together Slovak and Michigan experts from a range of fields including government, business and education. There were exchanges of legislators. Non-governmental organizations traded ideas.

Eileen Lappin Weiser, meanwhile, dove headlong into activities of her own. She continued serving on Michigan’s State Board of Education, to which she had been elected several years earlier, and she remained so committed to the work that she frequently commuted to Michigan for meetings and appointments. In 2003, she was appointed by President Bush to the National Assessment Governing Board and returned for all of its meeting. In Slovakia, she helped launch “Get Out The Vote” programs aimed at women, and encouraged women to run for office.

Looking back, Ron Weiser seems both grateful for and proud of his work. Slovakia, he says, “was an incredible fit for me given my skill set and the needs to be met.” His ability to build relationships, and to push economic and democratic reform made Slovakia “a perfect match.”

It wasn’t just Weiser who thought so. In 2002, Slovak President Rudolf Schuster called Weiser “an excellent ambassador” with a “very good knowledge of the country.” It’s no surprise then that Weiser has returned home feeling he achieved the goals he’d set himself.

But it’s also no surprise that both Weisers wanted to continue their involvement with the country—and especially to expand relationships between Slovakia and the United States. The Weiser Slovakia-University of Michigan Collaboration is designed to do just that.

Weiser notes that the University already has strong ties to eastern Europe. The Davidson Institute, housed at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, fosters developing economies. The University also has strong ties to Poland, the Balkans (please see related stories on pages 20 and 24), and Slovenia, and its programs in the region’s history and culture are second to none. It seemed only natural to build on those strengths.

Already, the Weiser Collaboration has awarded grants to seven undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing studies in Slovakia. Ron Weiser is even more excited about gifts to professors and visiting scholars. If you bring a whole group of visiting professionals to the University, “you can end up affecting a lot of people,” he says.

Two U-M scholars, both physicians, are headed for Slovakia this year, when three Slovak scholars will travel to campus to conduct research.

Beyond programs for Slovakia and eastern Europe, Weiser believes U-M has a role to play in the world at large. “The University is in a unique position, because of the breadth of its student body, to have influence not only in the U.S. but on an international basis.”

That matters all the more “given the direction of the world we’re in now. The University can help achieve the goals of this country and … of building democracy worldwide.”

As for the Weisers themselves, Ron has left his business and intends to devote himself full time to public service, while Eileen remains committed to education. What Weiser says of his time in Slovakia could be a motto for all his service activities: “It was a great opportunity. People don’t get opportunities like that very often.”

— John Lofy
Near the end of her life, when cancer made it difficult for Frances Frazier to get around and accomplish everyday tasks, she would fashion a sling from a towel to hoist her legs into bed at night.

It made her happy to retain her independence for another day. “She was proud of that,” says Dr. Mary Jo Kietzman Gifford, a friend and colleague in the English Department at the University of Michigan-Flint. “That was the kind of person she was.”

Frazier lived a modest life. When she was a child, her mother ran a boarding house and her father worked in an auto plant. She did not graduate from college. She worked as a secretary at the UM-Flint campus for more than 30 years and lived in the same house—the one where her mother had taken in boarders—from childhood until entering a hospice at age 68.

Even so, Frazier amassed savings of $700,000—which she bequeathed to UM-Flint. The gift established an endowment to cover travel costs for students who have the opportunity, but not the means, to attend state, national and international conferences.

Frazier knew firsthand the barriers facing many of the students from working-class backgrounds who attend UM-Flint. “The gift is tremendous,” says Gifford, an associate professor of English. “Fran never traveled to exotic places, but she wanted to give the students that opportunity. They need to know they have opportunities, and this gift gives them that.”

Her bequest, and the fact that Frazier had that much to give, stunned her friends and co-workers. “Fran lived frugally,” Gifford says. “She lived in her parents’ house. She didn’t care about material things.”

Fran Frazier attended Flint Junior College and earned a scholarship to the University of Chicago, where she studied literature and painting. She returned home without completing her degree, and went to work at UM-Flint in 1969. She was a secretary in the Theatre and Political Science departments before transferring to the English Department, where she spent 22 years.

Friends describe her as quirky and idiosyncratic, passionate about literature, and a Gilbert & Sullivan devotee. She loved long-distance biking, knitting and playing Scrabble. At work, she was warm and congenial, a mother figure to many colleagues and an empathetic counselor to students.

“She was lively and sociable at work, and very private in her personal life,” Gifford says. “She didn’t let a lot of people in her life.”

Gifford remembers joining the faculty in 1996 and meeting the department secretary who joyfully introduced her to Gilbert & Sullivan. “She loved seeing someone experience that for the first time,” Gifford says. “She always read and she always went to the theater. She spent her free time learning.”

Frazier, who died in November 2001, often advised students to seize educational and job opportunities. The Frances Ann Frazier Student Travel Scholarship will help them do that for generations to come. 

— David Wilkins
A few simple statistics underscore what motivates Elder Sang-Yong Nam.

Until recently, only about 100 books of the 660,000 volumes in the University’s Asia Library were Korean. A year ago, there were nearly 3,630 Asian art holdings in the U-M Museum of Art, but fewer than 45 represented Korea. The Korean Studies Program is a fraction of the size of the Center for Chinese Studies or the Center for Japanese Studies.

“I felt it was my mission to correct this disparity,” Nam (MCP ’66) says. “My goal is to make the U-M Korean Studies Program one of the best among American universities.”

Nam has been adamant about his mission, chairing the Program’s supporting committee since 1990—five years before the University formally created the Korean Studies Program (KSP) in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Nam and his wife, Moon-Sook, have pledged more than $2.5 million to strengthen the University’s connection with their homeland—gifts that came 40 years after Sang-Yong arrived in Ann Arbor at age 30 with $4 in his pocket.

The Nam’s gifts are earmarked for:

• Endowing the Elder Sang-Yong Nam and Mrs. Moon-Sook Nam Professorship in the Korean Studies Program.

• Creating a student and faculty exchange program between Chung-Ang University in Seoul and U-M’s A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. The gift also will fund scholarships for architecture and urban planning students from Korean institutions. Last year, Chung-Ang University awarded Sang-Yong Nam an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering.

• Acquiring an extensive collection of Korean art for the U-M Museum of Art. The collection, assembled by Bruce and...
Inta Hasenkamp of California, is composed of nearly 250 works of Korean art, including paintings, bronzes, furniture and a magnificent assemblage of ceramics spanning 2,000 years. The collection has made its debut and is on display at the Museum until July 24.

- Increasing the number of books relating to Korean studies from the current 16,600 volumes to a minimum 100,000 volumes within 10 years.

“Elder Nam has been a tireless supporter of Korean studies even before the KSP was established,” says Director Meredith Woo-Cumings. “He was convinced that the University of Michigan’s world-famous program in Asia studies could not be complete so long as it had a gaping hole in its coverage of northeast Asia.

“Now he has made a critical commitment to ensure that Korean studies will become a permanent and indispensable part of the University’s intellectual landscape.”

Sang-Yong Nam was born in 1934, the second of eight children in a middle-class family in Chung-Nam province in South Korea. Nam’s father was the head of a construction company when, during the Korean War, he was captured by the North Korean military.

Sang-Yong was 17. To this day, his family has no knowledge of their father’s fate. “From then on, we had a hard life. “During the war, I experienced hunger, poverty, hardship. But we survived.”

An uncle helped the two eldest Nam children acquire an education, and those two brothers, in turn, supported their younger siblings. Nam earned a bachelor’s degree in architectural engineering from Seoul National University in 1957 and worked for United States Operations Mission to Korea, part of the Agency for International Development, which was helping to rebuild Korea.

In 1964, Nam applied to the U-M’s graduate program in city planning. “I was thrilled when I found out that I was accepted. From that day on, I was a Michigan man,” he says.

He married Moon-Sook Hong in 1965 and she joined him in Ann Arbor. After earning his master’s degree in 1966, Sang-Yong took a job with the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission. Moon-Sook worked as a registered nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

“We lived on one paycheck and saved one, and bought a house within two years,” Sang-Yong says. In 1974, the Nams bought a 20-unit apartment complex; more properties followed. By 1979, Sang-Yong left his job as a senior city planner and in 1980 launched the Nam Building Management Co., which today owns 50 buildings throughout Washtenaw County.

In 2002, Nam received a Distinguished Service Award from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and the Merit Award from the Architectural Institute of Korea. Two years later, the Republic of Korea awarded Nam the Order of Civil Merit, Mogryeon Medal, that nation’s equivalent to the Medal of Freedom.

The Nams’ two sons, Andrew (BSE ME ’88, MBA ’95) and Anthony (AB ’91), and five grandchildren all have names that begin with the letter “A” — to represent Ann Arbor, America, and the academic excellence inherent in the University of Michigan.

“I love the University of Michigan and I love this town,” Nam says. “I asked my two sons to attend the University so that, if I cannot achieve my goals for it, they will do so.”

— David Wilkins

‘My goal is to make the U-M Korean Studies Program one of the best among American universities’

— Sang-Yong Nam
In the last decade, hundreds of students from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business MBA program have participated in 119 such hands-on projects with Israeli startup companies, thanks to the generosity of Stanley (AB ’63, MBA ’64) and Judith Frankel, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Stanley Frankel is a vice chair of The Michigan Difference. The couple recently pledged $3 million to fund the Israel projects for another 10 years; in the past decade, 538 students benefited from the Frankels’ support.

Neel Chokshi, of Livonia, Mich., was among 58 students who worked with Israeli firms in the spring of 2004. He says the timing of the seven-week project, following the completion of core courses for his MBA, was perfect. “You get to apply everything you learned in a real-world setting,” he says.

The benefit goes both ways: young companies receive consulting expertise, while U-M business students gain international work experience. “It was my first taste of working in business internationally, which is an opportunity you don’t get very often,” says Katherine Emrich, of Denver, who worked alongside Chokshi. Their project involved teaming with Chasma Corp., a biotech firm developing ways to deliver drugs in pill form that previously could only be injected, such as insulin.

All the Israeli companies aim to succeed in technology markets such as software development and biotechnology. Working in teams, U-M students meet with their

Imagine flying halfway around the world to help a fledgling company in a small country to sell its product internationally—while still in school.

Business students
gain real-world
lessons with

Israeli firms
Israeli clients, conduct market analyses, and develop strategies. (Since 2001, client meetings have been held in Europe due to unrest in Israel.)

Dr. Salvatore Pacella (MDRES ’01), of Ann Arbor, used his experience as a plastic surgeon in his team’s research, interviewing European colleagues about the potential of a device for curtailing infection among patients in intensive care. Research also involved talking with potential consumers.

“We saw what people go through who have to have kidney dialysis,” says Dong Uk Kim, of San Jose, Calif. “That was very eye-opening.”

Driving the students is the knowledge that their conclusions are important to the Israeli firms’ next steps—and potential success.

“In courses, it’s only a grade that’s on the line,” says Christopher Hwang, of Torrance, Calif. “With this, there’s a lot at stake. It forced me to put in 110 percent every single day.”

— Rebecca Freligh

Dr. M.S. Krishnan is the Michael R. and Mary Kay Hallman Fellow at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, where he is co-director of a new research center in Bangalore, India. A professor of business information technology, Krishnan is supported by a faculty fund endowed by Michael (BBA ’66, MBA ’67) and Mary Kay Hallman, of Redmond, Wash., to strengthen research and teaching in electronic business and new economies. Scholars at the India Research Center study managerial issues and emerging practices in leveraging global resources and accessing new markets.

Students in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts will have support for their global studies thanks to Beverly Lannquist Hamilton (AB ’68), who has established the International Learning Fund. Funds will be used to support students’ interests in learning about other cultures and languages. Hamilton, of Avon, Conn., is a member of the President’s Advisory Group, the Investment Advisory Committee, and the LS&A Dean’s Advisory Council.

Armenian history and culture is the focus of the Robert and Rose Parsigian Fund, established by Jeffery K. (AB ’79) and Mary M. Parsigian to honor his parents. The fund will provide four years of scholarship support for a student grounded in the history of the southwest Asian country and dedicated to enhancing Armenian culture. The Parsigians live in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Doctors educated in Croatia will have the opportunity to expand their training with a University fellowship established to honor Dr. Josip Matovinovic, professor emeritus of internal medicine. Natalie Matovinovic of Ann Arbor is endowing a clinical medical fellowship in memory of her husband, who died in 1998. He was a professor emeritus of internal medicine. The fellowship will support a medical graduate of the University of Zagreb in post-graduate clinical training in any medical specialty at U-M.

Dr. James A. Levinsohn, associate dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, teaches and conducts research in South Africa and Botswana as the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Economics. His work focuses on the impact of globalization on firms and households. J. Ira (BBA ’59) and Nicki Harris, of Palm Beach, Fla., are honorary co-chairs of The Michigan Difference. J. Ira Harris also serves on the President’s Advisory Group and the Investment Advisory Committee.
For the poor young man raised in a Taiwanese fishing village, his first glimpse of the University of Michigan campus was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The youngest of 13 children, Chin-Un "Kimma" Chang (MHA ’65) was determined to find a life beyond fishing and oyster farming; despite his family’s opposition, he successfully sought a college education. Working in a Taipei hospital after graduation from National Taiwan University opened Chang’s eyes to hospital management as a career. He came to Ann Arbor for a master’s degree in health administration with $10 in his pocket and a scant knowledge of English, marveling at the grandeur of the University buildings. At the School of Public Health, Chang found a friend and mentor in John R. Griffith, the Andrew Pattullo Collegiate Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy. Their relationship led Chang to establish a scholarship fund in Griffith’s name in 1993.

“I feel this is the very least I can do to show my appreciation,” says Chang, today the president of the Taiwanese Hospital Association.

He is also actively working to pull together other Michigan alumni in Taiwan to show their support for the University. With his U-M grounding, Chang has had a transformative influence on hospital management and health care in Taiwan. He was the first non-physician to manage a hospital in Taiwan. He started an academic program for hospital administrators, set up intensive care and burn units in Taiwanese hospitals, helped develop software for hospitals, and founded two professional associations. Among Chang’s recent challenges was containing the epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

He is now taking his skills to China. In Taiwan, Chang expanded one hospital from 120 beds to 2,000 beds and built a new 4,000-bed facility; he is now building hospitals in China for Taiwanese corporations, with one completed and three in the planning stages.

“My goal was to make Taiwan one of the leading health care countries in Asia,” says Chang, “and it all began by building modern hospitals.”

Attributing his pioneering career to his Michigan training, Chang continues to show his gratitude with gifts of time and money. He is giving $100,000 to support the School of Public Health’s new building; he serves on the Dean’s Advisory Committee at the School; and he is reaching out to the many U-M alumni in Taiwan.

“I will do what I can to help with the development of an alumni association in Taiwan,” he says, “and hopefully it will grow in due time.”

- Rebecca Freligh
An alumna and volunteer with the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning has established an international travel fund to support graduate students. **Susan C. Longo (BBA '68)**, of Evanston, Ill., has established the Jason M. Longo Endowment Fund in honor of her son, who earned U-M bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture. The Longo Fund will support the special costs that urban design graduate students face with research, independent study and travel. A certified public accountant, Longo is principal of a firm that provides consulting services to CPA practices. She is a member of the Taubman College’s Campaign Advisory Committee.

Archaeological digs in Egypt are benefiting from support from the **Friends of Near Eastern Studies**. Graduate students in the Department of Near Eastern Studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, are researching an ancient cemetery in Abydos, Egypt, with funds from the Friends. **Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher (PhD ’98)** adjunct assistant professor of Egyptology, founded the group.

A longtime supporter of graduate education at Michigan, **Marshall M. Weinberg (AB ’50)** provides critical fellowships to students involved with the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research. Weinberg’s two awards—an international research fellowship for international graduate students and a summer research fellowship for American graduate students—allow young scholars to conduct field research in population studies. This year’s Weinberg Fellows will work in India and Ukraine; last year’s recipient carried out research in South Africa. Weinberg, of New York City, is a vice chair of The Michigan Difference.

Continuing education for University-trained demographers in developing countries is available through scholarships at the Institute for Social Research. Numerous donors support the Albert Hermalin Scholars Fund, which offers critical post-doctoral funds to alumni of ISR’s Population Studies Center. The first Hermalin scholar studied demographic changes and children’s schooling in Brazil. The Fund honors Hermalin, a professor emeritus of sociology and research scientist emeritus who retired in 1997. He mentored many doctoral students.
Proud of their heritage, and determined after World War II to liberate their country from communism, many of these Poles made 1960s-era Ann Arbor a focal point of the Polish opposition. Several legendary Polish-American faculty and staff members, including Andrew S. Ehrenkreutz, Włodzimierz Holsztyński, Marian Krzyżowski and Piotr Michałowski, formed a “Studium,” a forum for the study and reform of Poland. The group made and maintained strong ties with the burgeoning Solidarity labor movement.

In 1973, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great Polish astronomer, members of the area Polish community established the Nicolas Copernicus Endowment to fund a professorship of Polish studies; it soon became a critical part of the University’s thriving, long-term relationship with Poland.

Copernicus Endowment supporter Josef Blass, right, with Solidarity activist Adam Michnik.
International study is a key component of a new curriculum at the School of Art & Design, and a travel fund will provide annual support for students. Jing Wang, a professor of Chinese language and culture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is establishing the Candy R. Wei Memorial International Travel Fund with a bequest. The fund honors her daughter Candy, a sophomore in the School of Art & Design, who died in 2001. International travel was “an unfulfilled dream” for Candy, according to her mother. To learn more about Candy, please visit www.candywei.org.

Dr. Josef Blass (AM ’69, PhD ’71), a member of the advisory council at U-M’s Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) who retains close ties to his native Poland, says the University has “enormous prestige in Eastern Europe. … It is the leading center for East European studies.” Poland’s President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Blass says, has referred to U-M as “my university in the United States.”

Housed in CREES, the Copernicus Endowment has brought a veritable who’s who of Polish luminaries to the University. Jacek Kuroń, founder of Solidarity, stunned an audience in the 1980s with his prediction that the Soviet Union would fall. In 1999, the Endowment played a role in marking the 10th anniversary of the “Round Table Conference” between Solidarity and the Polish government that paved the way to a peaceful end of communism. About 25 of the conference’s original attendees came to the University, including President Kwaśniewski and Solidarity activist Adam Michnik.

That same year, Blass received one of Poland’s highest civilian honors, the Knight’s Cross of Merit, for his support of Polish initiatives at the University and for his leadership in advising Polish institutions during the country’s move to democracy. Four U-M faculty and staff members received Poland’s Gold Cross of Merit at the same ceremony.

The conference bore fruit beyond the relationships it established. Soon after, CREES created a study-abroad program in Krakow that continues to thrive.

Meanwhile, the University’s community of Polish scholars is expanding its ties with the country, and to the Copernicus Endowment itself, which has grown to $600,000. The Endowment is helping to fund a new fellowship for graduate students, providing $15,000 a year for the study of Polish history and culture.

— John Lofy
Daughter of a member of Ceylon’s first Parliament, wife of an ambassador, community volunteer—Weerasinghe has held a lifelong seat in the public arena. What’s more, she thrives on it.

It is this dedication to others that inspired Menakka Bailey (MPH ’78) to establish the Christobel Kotelawala Weerasinghe Endowed Fund to honor her mother’s work in promoting international understanding and communication. Established at the Center for the Education of Women (CEW), the Fund was first used in February when CEW partnered with the Law School’s International Law Workshop series to bring Dr. Ayelet Shachar, a Canadian legal scholar, to campus to speak on religion and gender.

“I knew that the Center’s commitments to advancing knowledge of women’s lives and to promoting cross-cultural dialogue would reflect my mother’s values and my own,” says Bailey, a member of CEW’s Leadership Council, “and I am pleased to ensure that its capacity to do both is strengthened.”
Alumna Menakka Bailey, left, with her mother, Christobel Weerasinghe, and daughter, Dyanthe McDougal, of San Francisco.

Bailey’s gift is intended to support CEW programs with an international component, says CEW Director Carol Hollenshead (AB ’71, AM ’83).

“This endowment allows CEW to realize a long-held dream, to have funds and energy specifically focused on international gender issues, and to be able to do so in the name of a remarkable woman,” says Hollenshead. “We are thrilled to partner with Menakka in our shared vision of advancing international understanding and dialogue.”

CEW has likewise made an impact on Bailey. Educated as an anthropologist, she came to Ann Arbor in 1972 and was approached by CEW co-founder Jean Campbell and others to become involved as a volunteer.

“I felt very lucky to be taken up by them,” says Bailey, of Ann Arbor. “Then, there were not that many women on campus and not that many people of color.”

Her involvement in recent years includes reviewing scholarship applications, serving on the CEW Leadership Council and now, through her gift, enhancing CEW’s international focus.

“I think the world needs to be smaller,” Bailey says. “People need to learn to understand differences, and the way to do that is through education.”

Though a product of a small country, Weerasinghe has always had a world view. Growing up in a political family, she knew leaders such as Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Lord Mountbatten. Her married life brought her to the United States for 18 years, where her husband, Oliver Weerasinghe, worked first for the United Nations, then served as Sri Lanka’s ambassador to the United States.

Christobel Weerasinghe became an ambassador without portfolio, fostering cross-cultural understanding by hosting a children’s radio program in New York and creating a series of children’s records on Asian cultures. She was an alternate representative to the U.N. World Federation and, at its request, she also spoke to women’s clubs throughout the United States.

Widowed for 25 years, Weerasinghe developed a strong, independent life focused on education and international relations.

“I think the culture produces women of tremendous endurance,” says Bailey, “but she herself is unique.”

- Rebecca Freligh
The most interesting fact about Dr. Robert Donia (AM ’74, PhD ’76) is not that he had a fabulously successful career with Merrill-Lynch and retired at age 53. More interesting, and much more unusual, is that even in his side career as a scholar, he’s achieved more than most people accomplish in their entire lives.

Donia came to the University in 1972 directly from military service in Vietnam. He entered the graduate program in history, not knowing exactly what he would study. He quickly came under the influence of a faculty member with strong expertise in southeast Europe. Dr. John Fine, a specialist in the former Yugoslavia, became Donia’s mentor. On the way to earning his doctorate, Donia often visited the Balkans, especially Bosnia. But stable academic jobs were hard to come by, so upon graduation Donia went to work for Merrill-Lynch, eventually managing offices in California and Texas.

He maintained his interest and ties to his old field, however. During the 1990s’ war in Bosnia, Donia and Fine made several visits to besieged Sarajevo. Donia says that he learned in Vietnam that “you could live in a war zone if you didn’t do anything foolish,” and that “immense suffering is visited on civilians in wartime.” He wanted to help.

One important opportunity arose when the war ended. Thanks to his scholarly credentials, Donia became an expert witness during war-crimes trials at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

Donia, of LaJolla, Calif., also wanted to bolster understanding between the United States and the Balkans, and he...
Dr. Joan Kessler (AB ’67, CERTT ED ’67, PhD ’73) is returning a favor. As a U-M graduate student, she received a fellowship from the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. She has now established the Joan B. Kessler Fund to support outstanding women graduate students. The 2004 recipient of the Kessler Award, a doctoral candidate in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, used her funds to travel to Mexico for field research on coffee farms. Kessler, of Los Angeles, is a member of the Rackham Dean’s Advisory Board.

A member of one of the University’s most generous families is supporting students who wish to travel as part of their Judaic studies. Judith Frankel, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has established the Stanley Frankel Summer Fellowship in honor of her husband. The fellowships benefit students affiliated with the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Students may use their fellowships to travel to Israel, Europe or Latin America for dissertation research, language training, archaeological digs, workshops or reconstruction projects in troubled communities. Stanley Frankel (AB ’63, MBA ’64) is a vice chair of The Michigan Difference.

Donors to the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership help send future leaders of Jewish organizations to communities around the world. Key supporters are William and Audrey Farber of Franklin, Mich. Last year Drachler students visited Buenos Aries, Argentina, where they met with Jewish professionals at a variety of agencies. In 2003, students traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, to interact with Jewish social service agencies. The Drachler Program, based in the School of Social Work, is for graduate students who plan to work for Jewish community organizations; students earn both a master’s degree in social work and a certificate in Jewish communal service and Judaic studies. The Drachler Program also supports students traveling to Israel.

Bob (JD ’54) and Ann S. (BFA ’02) Aikens are taking School of Art & Design faculty to the world. The couple has pledged to support international travel for faculty as part of the School’s new emphasis on global programming. The couple, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., are active University volunteers: Ann serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council for the School of Art & Design, and Bob belongs to the Law School Committee of Visitors and the Dean’s Advisory Committee of the School of Management at UM-Dearborn.
Donors supportive of community service help send students to work sites around the country and around the world. SERVE, a student-run unit of the Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, sponsors Alternative Spring Break and the World Service Team. Along with volunteering in communities throughout the United States, Alternative Spring Break teams have worked in Juarez, Mexico, aiding immigrants and refugees on the United States/Mexican border, and in a Toronto shelter for refugee women and children. Students themselves raise money for the World Service Team, which spent the summer of 2004 helping to build a school at an orphanage near Phnom Phen, Cambodia. Among those helping to fund the Cambodia trip (above) were Robert (AB ’68, JD ’71) and Jan (AB ’69) Ginsberg of Pepper Pike, Ohio; Robert’s father is the namesake of the Ginsberg Center. This summer, students will travel to the Ashanti region of Ghana to help construct an educational and residential building for young women.

A summer of study in London awaits students of the interdisciplinary Organizational Studies Program. Former U-M student David J. Barger of New York City has established the JetBlue Airways London School of Economics Fund that sends up to six Organizational Studies students to the prestigious British institution. Barger is president and chief operating officer of JetBlue. He also serves on the Organizational Studies Leadership Committee.

One of the University’s oldest fellowship programs continues to draw the support of those who benefited from it. As a U-M graduate student from Japan, Dr. Keiko Beppu (AM ’67, EdD ’73) was supported by a Barbour Scholarship—a program she is now assisting with a gift of $100,000. Regent Levi Lewis Barbour established the Barbour Scholarships in 1914 to assist women students from Asian countries. Today, the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies awards eight to 10 Barbour Scholarships annually to women graduate students. Beppu is president of Matsuyama Shinonome College, a women’s college in Matsuyama, Japan.

Business executives from around the globe will come to campus to teach business students with the support of a leading expert on business ethics. Dr. Noel M. Tichy, director of the Global Leadership Program at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, is endowing the Global Corporate Citizenship Fund. Among the Fund’s features will be inviting leaders of global public corporations to the University to lecture and lead workshops about corporate citizenship. Tichy is contributing at least $400,000 to the fund by donating his salary over several years.
Dear Friends,

My second job in higher education administration took me to the castles and coastline of southern England. As dean of students for New England College (NEC), a small liberal arts institution based in New Hampshire, I was asked to oversee a branch campus in Sussex and happily accepted. Not only did I interact with American students on their first visits overseas, but also with young people from throughout Europe who were interested in NEC and what it had to offer.

And while I’m certain the students I worked with had a tremendous experience studying in the shadow of Arundel Castle, it was a time I have never forgotten and always evoke when the discussion turns to international opportunities for young people. There is simply no experience like learning and living in another culture. It adds immeasurably to all the wonderful opportunities that come with a college education.

So I fully appreciate the passion you as donors feel about helping Michigan students and faculty see the world.

Ever since Judson D. Collins, a member of U-M’s first graduating class in 1845, traveled to China as a Methodist missionary, our students and faculty have sought out other nations and cultures. The University’s international presence was solidified by legendary President James B. Angell’s role as this country’s minister to China and later to Turkey in the late 1800s. During the 20th century, as the world grew smaller through revolutions in communications and transportation, the University increasingly widened the worldviews of students and faculty with new programs for overseas study, international research and cross-cultural projects.

As donors, your generosity is genuinely making a world of difference. Your support sends students and faculty to dozens of countries. By establishing travel endowments and internationally oriented scholarships and fellowships, you are creating a generation of ambassadors for the University of Michigan. You are enhancing the lives of our students, who in turn add immensely to our campus—and communities—upon returning from their myriad experiences around the world.

As an undergraduate at Hope College in Holland, Mich., I was fortunate to study in Vienna; my wife, Deborah, spent a term in the Netherlands. A few years ago, we made a return visit to Sussex to not only reminisce about our time there, but also to expose our son, Elliott, to a new culture. We were especially pleased when he then asked to spend a summer studying at the University of Oxford in England.

Studying abroad generates a lifelong enthusiasm that’s hard to contain. Thank you for instilling it in our students and faculty. I’m proud of, and grateful for, the scope of opportunities you are making possible—your generosity takes our students to six continents!

As always, thank you for supporting Michigan.

Sincerely,

Jerry A. May
During his 22 years as chairman and chief executive officer of Walgreen Co., Charles R. Walgreen III displayed a remarkable capacity for visionary thinking and decisive leadership. Under his direction, the firm, founded by his grandfather in 1901, grew from a major regional retail pharmacy chain into one of the world’s preeminent retailers.

Now, Walgreen’s legacy of progressive thinking continues with his $2 million gift to establish the Charles R. Walgreen III Professorship in Pharmacy Administration at the College of Pharmacy—his alma mater.

Walgreen is one of two national co-chairs of the College’s $24.5 million Campaign for International Leadership and Excellence, part of The Michigan Difference.

Walgreen’s goal in endowing the professorship is to focus greater academic research on the socio-economics of health care, health care policy and regulation, and professional ethics. The professorship reflects Walgreen’s personal belief that, in addition to knowing about a vast and ever-increasing array of drug products, modern pharmacists also must have an in-depth understanding of the economic, social and political forces that affect medication use.

Such insights will allow pharmacists to help shape national health care policy and better manage the growing demand by patients and insurers for more input into health care decisions, said Dr. Frank Ascione (BS PHA ’69, PHARD ’73, MPH ’77, PHD ’81), dean of the College of Pharmacy.
As health care expenditures continue to consume a greater share of the nation’s resources, all health care professionals are being held more accountable for their decisions—especially as they affect health care costs—regardless of advances in patient health outcomes, he said.

The Charles R. Walgreen III Professorship in Pharmacy Administration is the fifth endowed chair at the College, but the first tied specifically to the social science and administrative aspects of the pharmacy curriculum.

“As one of its graduates, I am incredibly proud to support Michigan’s College of Pharmacy,” said Walgreen, who earned his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy in 1958. “Our family has an 80-year relationship with the College beginning with my father’s matriculation in 1924. Since that time, we’ve seen the practice of community pharmacy grow from operations that focused on compounding and filling prescriptions to a full service that includes advising patients and physicians about proper medication use.

“It is my hope that professors who hold this chair will help today’s pharmacy students move to even greater levels of professionalism through a more thorough understanding of the business and operational aspects of the profession.”

Ascione praised the contribution. “I am immensely gratified by Mr. Walgreen’s contribution. ‘Cork’ has recognized and provided financial support for our efforts to bring a higher-level of interdisciplinary education and business-related focus to pharmacy practice. More importantly, it is a continuation of the Walgreen family’s superb tradition of supporting the College and the University.”

The College is consistently rated one of the top pharmacy programs in the country.

Trio of programs benefit from Askwith gift

Longtime Michigan supporter Bertram J. Askwith (AB ’31) has made a broad-reaching gift to The Michigan Difference.

Askwith, of Harrison, N.Y., and his Indian Trail Charitable Foundation are giving $450,000 to three University programs.

At the Knight-Wallace Fellows program, Askwith’s gift of $250,000 will go toward the Benny Friedman Fellowship in Sports Journalism. Friedman, who graduated in 1927, was U-M’s first Jewish quarterback and is considered college football’s first great passer. He played seven seasons of pro ball and was recently elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Fellowship will be the first of its kind in the country. As a student, Askwith wrote for The Michigan Daily.

Askwith’s gift of $100,000 to the School of Public Health will establish the Askwith Fund for Innovation in Asthma and Allergy Management in the Center for Managing Chronic Disease. Dean Noreen Clark, who is stepping down in July, is the principal researcher for the Center and will focus entirely on this effort.

Askwith’s $100,000 support of the University Library will benefit capital and operating needs helping to improve reference service areas for students and faculty. The Film and Video Library in the Shapiro Undergraduate Library will bear Askwith’s name in recognition of his gift.

Askwith is president of Campus Coach Lines, a bus service he founded as an undergraduate.

Trio of programs benefit from Askwith gift

Bertram J. Askwith
Istocks spread support across five programs

Four schools and colleges, as well as the Athletic Department, will have scholarships to award students because of the generosity of a Chicago couple long involved with the University.

Verne G. (AB ’62, MBA ’63) and Judith A. (AB ’62, CERTT ED ’62) Istock are committing $1 million to The Michigan Difference. Co-chairs of the Chicago Major Gifts Committee, the Istocks are supporting:

- The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Donald F. and Arlene G. Warnke Fund, recognizing Judy’s parents.
- The School of Education and Mildred W. Istock Scholarship Fund, recognizing Verne’s mother.
- The Stephen M. Ross School of Business and the Verne G. Istock Scholarship Fund.
- The School of Music and the Judith A. Istock Scholarship Fund.
- The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, with an endowed scholarship.

Verne Istock is the retired chairman and president of Bank One Corp.

Biggest supporter of Athletics, Marching Band gives again

Donald R. Shepherd (BBA ’58) has two loves at the University: the Marching Band and the Athletic Department.

A major supporter of both programs, Shepherd continues his philanthropy with a gift of more than $1.5 million to be divided between the two. This latest gift brings his campaign giving total to more than $7.1 million in addition to a significant bequest intention.

His Marching Band support will go toward the Elbel Club, which provides financial aid for students, as well as instruments, uniforms and other equipment. He is also funding scholarships for undergraduates and fellowships for graduate students.

In the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Shepherd’s gift will support coaches’ fellowships, as well as fellowships for graduate students.

His past contributions includes endowing both the Donald R. Shepherd Directorship of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Donald R. Shepherd Chair in Conducting, held by the Marching Band director, as well as the construction of the Women’s Gymnastics Training Facility.

In recent years, Shepherd, who lives in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., has served on the President’s Advisory Group, the School of Music’s national campaign committee and the Athletic Advisory Board. He is the retired president and chief executive office of the investment firm, Loomis Sayles & Company.
Law School alumni are stepping up their support for a major expansion of Michigan’s spectacular Law Quadrangle, the highlight of the School’s “Building On …” campaign.

The Law School hopes to renovate and expand the Law Quad, a campus landmark since 1933 made possible by the philanthropy of 1882 alumnus William W. Cook.

“The new buildings we propose will create much-needed new classrooms and seminar rooms, offices for faculty and support services, and appropriate spaces for clinical programs. And as I have seen in my short tenure as dean, the need is manifest,” says Dean Evan Caminker, who joined the Law School in 1999.

The selected design, as outlined by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano of the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, calls for renovating nearly 50,000 square feet of space, including the demolition of the library stacks and aluminum catwalk that were tacked onto the Law Quad during the 1950s. The project will also add windows on the south side of the Reading Room.

Piano’s plan includes more than 111,000 square feet of space in a new building at the Law Quad’s southeast corner, now covered by the lawn over the Alene and Allan F. Smith underground library. The building will feature classrooms, offices and space for clinical programs.

Piano also envisions a glass-roofed student center, or “piazza,” that would become the Law School’s main entrance from Monroe Street. For the first time the separate Law School buildings will be brought together into a seamless, cohesive whole.

Recent supporters of the project, all members of the Law School Campaign Steering Committee, include:

- **Robert M. Klein (JD ’65, LLM ’66)** of Bingham Farms, Mich., a retired partner with Butzel Long. Klein’s gift of $1 million will support three areas of the Law School: the renovation and expansion of the Law Quad; the Victor W. and Ruth A. Klein Scholarship Fund, which honors his parents and supports students who have a parent working for Butzel Long; and the Robert M. and Wallis C. Klein Darrow Merit Scholarship Fund in Memory of Frank G. Pollack. Klein is the principal of Robert Klein and Associates.

- **Bruce P. Bickner (JD ’68)**, retired chairman and chief executive officer of DeKalb Genetics Corporation, and the Bickner Family Foundation. With his $1 million gift, Bickner is contributing to the building fund. He is the national chairman of the Law School’s campaign and is a member of the President’s Advisory Group. He lives in Sycamore, Ill.

- **Richard R. Burns (AB ’68, JD ’71)**, an attorney with Hanft Fride of Duluth, Minn. With his wife, Elizabeth, Burns is supporting the new construction with a $500,000 gift. He belongs to the School’s Committee of Visitors.

- **Eric A. Oesterle (BS ’70, JD ’73)**, a partner with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal of Chicago. His $250,000 gift will support the expansion and renovation. Oesterle, of Glen Ellyn, Ill., is active in School reunions.

- **Gregory T. Mutz (JD ’73)**, chairman and chief executive officer of AMLI Residential of Chicago. Mutz, of Barrington, Ill., is supporting his alma mater with a $350,000 gift toward the expansion. His daughter, Sarah, currently attends the Law School.

- **Mary E. Snapp (JD ’84)**, corporate vice president and deputy general counsel of Microsoft Corp. Snapp, of Seattle, is giving $350,000 to the School. The bulk of her gift will support the expansion, with the remaining $100,000 going to the Law School Annual Fund.
From the football field to the corporate boardroom, Robert L. Wood (AB '76, CERTT ED '76) has always been a Michigan man. Wood, a vice chair of The Michigan Difference, is giving $100,000 toward the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics’ new Academic Center. His gift will help build and furnish the facility. The $12 million, 38,000-square-foot building will provide academic study space for more than 700 U-M student-athletes as well as other undergraduate and graduate students.

Wood is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Crompton Corporation, a Connecticut-based producer and marketer of polymer products and specialty chemicals. He previously spent more than 27 years with Dow Chemical Company. He serves on the Stephen M. Ross School of Business Corporate Advisory Board.

As a history major, Wood was a placekicker for the football team in the early 1970s. He lives in Roxbury, Conn.

A vice chair of The Michigan Difference has made a leadership gift in support of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Joining David G. and Judith C. (AB '59, CERTT ED '59) Frey in their support of the Ford School is the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids.

The Freys are providing $250,000 toward the construction of Joan and Sanford Weill Hall, the new home of the Ford School. David Frey is a campaign vice chair and longtime Michigan supporter. Judy is an active volunteer with the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and serves as co-chair of the campaign in the School of Education.

The Frey Foundation has pledged $750,000 to the Ford School. The gift endows two Frey Foundation Fellowships for graduate students, as well as supports construction of Weill Hall.

The Frey Foundation is one of Michigan’s largest family foundations, with David Frey as its chairman.

One of The Michigan Difference’s first supporters has made a leadership gift to support the Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

Sanford R. Robertson (BBA ’53, MBA ’54), of San Francisco, gave $5 million to establish a fund bearing his name. His gift is expendable and may be used at the discretion of Dean Robert J. Dolan or future deans for the Ross School’s most pressing needs and exciting initiatives.

Robertson is a co-chair of The Michigan Difference and a member of the President’s Advisory Group. Along with Campaign Chair Richard H. Rogel (BBA ’70), Robertson was one of the first members of the campaign cabinet. He also serves on the Western States Campaign Committee.

Robertson is a founding partner of Francisco Partners, a San Francisco investment firm. He is a director of salesforce.com and Pain Therapeutics, Inc. He also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving, an independent public philanthropic fund that educates donors and potential donors about philanthropy, helping them take a strategic approach to giving.
One of the earliest gifts to the University came from Detroit philanthropists who wanted to provide a telescope for students to view the stars and planets, and for astronomers to provide a time service to the Great Lakes region to keep trains and commerce on schedule. The Detroit Observatory was built in 1854 and moved the University closer to President Henry Philip Tappan’s vision of a national research institution. The earliest known photo was taken in 1858. Donors also played a critical role in the award-winning restoration of the Observatory in 1994-98, and continue to help ensure the Observatory’s future. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Observatory today is a museum and a center for 19th-century science, technology and culture. To learn more, please visit www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu.
The partnership between the University Library and Google recently made international headlines. By scanning the vast collections of the 19 libraries in the University Library system, this partnership will provide world-wide access to Michigan’s great wealth of resources. At the same time, University Library continues to strengthen its outstanding collections, which feature rare and special materials like this pocket globe from 1809. From books, manuscripts and sheet music to hundreds of daily newspapers from around the world to the most outstanding collection of ancient papyrus in the Western Hemisphere, U-M has built its great resources with the generous support of alumni and friends.