In March, I delivered a speech before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., where I spoke of the urgent need for collaboration in the cultivation of new technologies to improve our society’s health and well-being.

I shared a few examples of the University’s latest initiatives, including a genomics research partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University to better understand the properties of Chinese herbal medicines and their pharmaceutical potential. I told of our work with Google to digitize 7 million books from our library in an effort to open our store of knowledge to anyone with an Internet connection. I also reported on the success of U-M engineers, in partnership with colleagues from other state universities and the National Science Foundation, in creating a remarkable cochlear implant for the profoundly deaf.

As a scientist with more than two decades of laboratory experience, a resident of a large manufacturing state, and president of a world-class public research university, I have a deep appreciation for the power of such partnerships to cure illnesses, bind our social fabric and energize economies. I continue to marvel at the role private supporters like you play in helping Michigan develop and deliver other advances in medicine and technology, care for the environment and the social sciences.

In this issue of Leaders & Best, we explore a sample of the wonderful campaign gifts to the University that are helping us do what we do best, namely explore, discover and instruct. Each of these contributions represents a critical partnership with the U-M to find unique solutions to meet society’s challenges head-on.

By supporting pancreatic cancer research or providing our School of Education students with the tools they need to teach English as a second language, you are helping our talented faculty make people healthier, nurture a cleaner environment and improve the communities we share.

Partnerships with the U-M can also play a role in diversifying our state’s manufacturing economy by providing the seeds for new, high-tech endeavors that will attract the brightest minds and create important new jobs. Consider the impact of our life sciences initiative. Over the last six years, the U-M has invested $1 billion and added nearly one million square feet of new facilities devoted to life sciences research and education. That investment includes stem cell research, an area of revolutionary promise for the treatments of Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and a variety of other devastating illnesses.

Experts in genetics, cancer research and biomedical engineering, including acclaimed stem cell biologist Sean Morrison, who you will read about on page 10, lead our efforts. These exceptional scientists are working to make our University a hub of breakthrough developments in the life sciences. Your support will play a critical role in their success.

Through the decades, Michigan has set the pace for innovation in the classroom, the laboratory and in the communities we serve. Sustaining this rich legacy demands continued collaboration with valued partners like you.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
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WWW.THEMICHIGANDIFFERENCE.ORG

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Prechter Fund seeks genetic answers to bipolar disorder

Prominent entrepreneur Heinz C. Prechter suffered intermittent bouts of manic depression most of his adulthood. In 2001, at the age of 59, he took his own life.

In the aftermath of the stunning tragedy, Waltraud (Wally) Prechter (ABED ’79) intensified her campaign to beat this perplexing and tragic disorder.

Within months, the Grosse Ile, Mich., resident had established The Heinz C. Prechter Fund for Manic Depression. She became a powerful fundraiser on its behalf and an inspirational speaker with groups across the country. She has testified before the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee of the U.S. Congress, urging support for bipolar research, and has served as a presidential and gubernatorial appointee on federal and state mental health commissions.
In 2004, Wally Prechter transferred the $2.7 million fund to the University of Michigan Health System. Now known as the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund, it recently provided $1 million to establish a genetic research initiative at the U-M to study the link between genes, stress and bipolar disorder.

“Heinz’s passing was a tragedy that changed our lives forever,” she said. “However, we can do something to support research to find cures for this illness that robbed us of Heinz. We are determined to make a difference in the fight against manic depression.”

Under the direction of Dr. Melvin McInnis, the Thomas B. and Nancy Upjohn Woodworth Professor of Bipolar Disorder and Depression, The Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Genes Project has emerged as a major research enterprise, featuring a DNA repository that will study 1,000 bipolar patients, including adolescents with early onset of the disease, and 1,000 matched, control patients. The Prechter Genetic Repository’s collection of confidential, coded DNA samples will enable scientists from around the world to conduct studies critical to better understanding bipolar disorder, which causes brain chemical imbalances that can lead to deep depressions, manic episodes and suicidal impulses in the 2.7 million Americans who have the disease.

The Genes Project, based at the U-M Depression Center, will encompass the research of investigators from Stanford University, Cornell University and Johns Hopkins University. Wally and Heinz Prechter were early advocates of the Depression Center, providing key funding to support its creation. Dr. John F. Greden, the Center’s executive director, said the Prechter genes project and DNA repository place Michigan at the forefront of the fight against bipolar disease.

“Unraveling bipolar’s genetic vulnerabilities and linking them with stresses and life experiences will open the door to earlier diagnosis, better treatments and eventual prevention,” he said. “Stopping this terrible disease from ever occurring is our true goal.”

— Paul Gargaro

For more information on the University of Michigan Depression Center, visit www.depressioncenter.org.

Schreiber paints a hopeful picture for cancer research

Lyn Schreiber stands in her art gallery in Holland, Mich., amid a thicket of witty collages and bright paintings of shells, butterflies, geese and abstract forms.

All are Schreiber’s creations. All are for sale, and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit cancer research, including the work of Dr. David Garabrant, professor of both environmental health sciences and epidemiology in the School of Public Health and director of the Center for Risk Science and Communication.

The 98-year-old artist is president of the Schreiber Foundation for Cancer Research, founded in 1992 by Schreiber and her late husband in memory of their younger son, Tom, who died of pancreatic cancer. Tragically, despite a lack of family history, Schreiber’s elder son Paul Jr. died in 2004 of the same disease.

“Since Paul died, I feel that research is more important than ever,” says Schreiber.

Acting on a longtime dream, Schreiber began her artistic career at 50 and opened the Holland gallery in 1996 after owning a similar
The word “helpmate” describes in a warmly precise way the wonderful relationship that Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander enjoyed through more than 23 years of married life.

A single mother raising her 8-year-old daughter when she first met Ted—she was a waitress at Weber’s Restaurant and he was a patron (“I remember thinking how handsome he was”) —Jane soon became as indispensable a part of Ted’s life as he became of hers.

At the time they met, Ted, a co-founder of Discount Tire Co., was in the early stages of building the company. There were seven or eight stores in a coast-to-coast chain that now numbers more than 600 stores in 18 states. Jane soon found herself in the role of Ted’s travel companion and informal aide-de-camp, flying out of Ann Arbor Airport with him on the company’s Lear 55 jet and visiting as many as eight cities in one day.

“When Ted died in 1999, Discount Tire was the largest independent dealership in the world,” she says proudly. “It was a big, big accomplishment.”

Jane’s daughter, Gwen, whom Ted adopted, shared with her mother the desire to honor Ted’s memory, and they both agreed that a $2 million gift to support construction of the planned C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital is something he would have very much appreciated. Nearly 20 years ago, Ted had suffered difficulties related to asthma. To show their gratitude to the U-M physicians who treated him, Ted and Jane made a gift to the pulmonary medicine suite, which now carries their name.

For more information on Dr. Garabrant’s research and the School of Public Health, visit www.sph.umich.edu.
Located on the terrace site of the medical campus, the proposed 1.1 million-square-foot hospital will consist of two conjoined towers—a nine-story clinic tower and a 12-story inpatient tower—that will bridge inpatient and outpatient services within the same medical disciplines to create a programmatic approach to patient care on each floor. The $523 million project has a $75 million private fundraising goal. As of February, more than $46 million had been raised.

“When you have grandchildren, you want to know that great research is being done to help all children,” Jane says. “Gwen and I are very happy about this gift and what it will mean for Ted’s memory and for the future of children’s medicine at Michigan.”

— John Barton

For further information on the hospital construction project, visit www.med.umich.edu/mott.

Atkins professorship provides for deeper understanding of metabolism

The University of Michigan’s ongoing search for scientific clues that could lead to solving medical mysteries related to the biology of metabolism has received a significant boost from the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation.

The Foundation’s gift of $2 million establishes the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professorship in Metabolism in the Medical School to provide a greater understanding of the relationship of metabolism to nutrition, diabetes and obesity as well as contribute to the development of new treatments for those suffering from metabolic disorders.

Charles Burant, M.D., Ph.D., has been named the first holder of the professorship.

Dr. Atkins (AB ’51), who died in 2003, was a renowned cardiologist who became one of the world’s most recognizable figures in the advancement of theories involving his low-carbohydrate approach to diet, nutrition and metabolism. His widow, Veronica Atkins, has vowed to continue his work and advance scientific understanding of human metabolism.

As Veronica Atkins explained in a recent Business Week interview: “I would like for my philanthropy to somehow contribute to ending the obesity epidemic. And I’m concentrating on diabetes because it’s so intimately associated with eating the wrong things. Dr. Atkins was very successful in treating both those conditions. But people always underestimated him. They know Dr. Atkins as the diet doctor. He hated that. He was a first-rate clinician.”

— John Barton

Support from Veronica Atkins through the Robert C. Atkins Foundation provides hope for those suffering from metabolic disorders.

The Von Voigtlanders’ campaign generosity for construction of the C.S. Mott Children’s and Women’s Hospital honors the memory of the late Ted Von Voigtlander, shown here with his daughter, Gwen, left, and wife, Jane.
No matter how you look at it, Miss Ida Lucy Iacobucci (AB ’55) is a woman of vision.

As a widely admired orthoptist at the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center for nearly 50 years and an associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, she is a devoted practitioner, a legendary teacher and a tireless worker who is totally dedicated to her patients, her students and the University of Michigan.

Affectionately and universally known as Miss Ida (due in large part, she says, because younger patients found it difficult to pronounce her last name), she specializes in the evaluation, treatment and management of strabismus—the misalignment of the eyes—in children and adults. She is also a leading investigator in the search for new methods of treating so-called lazy eye, a condition known as amblyopia that cannot be corrected by glasses or contact lenses.

The clinic within the Skillman Children’s Eye Care Center where she still works with patients twice a week was named after her in 1995, and in 2005 Miss Ida took the unusual step of tapping into her own financial resources to establish the Ida Lucy Iacobucci Orthoptic Clinic Fund.

“Orthoptics,” she explains, “has been my life’s work and life-long passion. This fund ensures that money will be available to provide eye care for people who cannot afford it. Since I love my department, the fund can also be used to a limited extent for training orthoptic students, or acquiring computers and books.”

Her intense loyalty to the University of Michigan and her fascination with her chosen career field began as a teen growing up on Detroit’s east side.

“I was 12 or 13,” Miss Ida recalls, “and I had an eye problem. My father brought me to Ann Arbor, and they treated me for about a month. They cured me, and I loved everything about the experience.”

She joined the Department of Ophthalmology in 1957 after completing orthoptic training at the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Iowa. Her energy and enthusiasm led to the establishment of the department’s clinical and teaching programs in orthoptics, and she has trained more than 250 ophthalmology residents. Under her guidance and influence, the programs she helped developed gained international recognition, and she has written numerous articles detailing her ground-breaking work in the highly specialized field. Miss Ida’s peers have recognized her many contributions to the field, awarding her the Lancaster Award, the highest honor given by the American Association of Certified Orthoptists.

Miss Ida still lives in a house built by her late father in St. Clair Shores, Mich., and her sister, Lena, lives next door. She has cut down her clinical workload in recent years, but makes the trip to Ann Arbor to spend two days a week in her clinic. “There is nowhere I’d rather be,” she declares, “and there is nothing I would rather do. I really do love this place.”

— John Barton

For more information on the eye center, visit www.kellogg.umich.edu.
A complex and little-understood condition, scleroderma causes tightening of the skin and progressive, life-threatening damage to internal organs, including the heart and lungs. While great strides are being made in managing its complications, there is no cure. Scleroderma affects 150,000 U.S. patients and up to 1.5 million worldwide—mostly women in their childbearing years—and is the most fatal of all rheumatologic diseases.

Recent generosity to the University of Michigan is providing researchers here with the resources to combat this devastating illness. Jonathan (AB ’78, MBA ’80) and Lisa (BFA ’79) Rye, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Marvin and Betty Danto, of Longboat Key, Fla., and Bloomfield Hills, have contributed leadership gifts of $2.5 million and $2 million, respectively, to the U-M Scleroderma Program, which is directed by Dr. James R. Seibold.

“[Dr. Seibold] possesses the unusual combination of being a wonderful healer and a great scientist,” says Jonathan Rye, chairman of Greenfield Commercial Credit in Bloomfield Hills. “Through our efforts, Lisa and I seek to highlight and accelerate the progress of his work by utilizing the power of interdisciplinary research at the U-M to find more effective treatments—and hopefully one day, a cure—for scleroderma.”

The Ryes’ deep commitment to scleroderma research is rooted in the struggles of their son, Calvin, a U-M sophomore, who has been diagnosed with generalized subcutaneous morphea, a rare condition in the scleroderma family. Calvin’s symptoms emerged late in high school, and progressed dramatically, to include severe joint pain and a loss of mobility. After consulting several doctors at other hospitals, and receiving a variety of diagnoses and treatments, the Ryes brought Calvin to the U-M Health System, and to Dr. Seibold, who accurately identified the problem, and placed Calvin on the road to recovery.

“As we watched our son’s extremities harden, his fingers curve and his hands lose all strength, we lived a nightmare, and we could only imagine how painful it was for Calvin,” says Lisa Rye. “That’s why we were so relieved and so grateful when Dr. Seibold was able to correctly diagnose and begin to effectively treat Calvin’s condition.”

The Dantos’ generosity to the Scleroderma Program also reflects their confidence in Dr. Seibold’s contributions. Their gift establishes the Marvin and Betty Danto Research Professorship in Connective Tissue Research and funds research to be directed by Dr. Seibold on scleroderma and related conditions. The Dantos have also provided $2 million in support of the new U-M Cardiovascular Center. Marvin Danto credits their overall philanthropy on behalf of the UMHS to the excellent care he has received from cardiologist Dr. Kim Eagle.

“The generosity, commitment and decisiveness of the Rye and Danto families is remarkable,” said Dr. Seibold. “These gifts are the two largest in the history of scleroderma research. This support, coupled with that of the Dolce and Raiffe families of New Jersey, virtually assures the success of our nascent Scleroderma Program and clearly establishes the University of Michigan as a world-leading center in scleroderma research and treatment.”

Dr. Seibold referred to Anthony Dolce, of Mountainside, N.J., who established the Linda Dolce Scleroderma Research Fund in honor of his late wife, as well as Bruce and Meryl Raiffe, of Warren, N.J., who organized a golf outing last summer in support of the Scleroderma Program.

— Paul Gargaro with reporting from Glen Sard

To learn more about scleroderma research at Michigan, visit www.med.umich.edu/scleroderma
As Mike Leoni (AB ’80), approached the entrance to downtown Ann Arbor’s West End Grill with his wife, Diane, for a quiet dinner to celebrate his 48th birthday, he had no idea of the drama set to unfold.

Indeed, 90 of Leoni’s friends and relatives were gathered inside, poised to surprise the former University of Michigan football lineman and kinesiology graduate with a gift he, his family and researchers at the U-M Division of Kinesiology won’t soon forget—$150,000 to create the Nicholas Leoni Research Endowment for motor behavior studies to benefit people with physical disabilities. The Fund, which has since grown to $200,000, is named for the Leoni’s youngest son, a 6-year-old born with cerebral palsy.

When the Leonis left home that February evening, Nick, his twin sister, Olivia, and brothers Dominic, 13, and John, 11, were settled in for a night with their sitter. An hour later, the kids had joined the party, including Nick, who entered with his walker to the tune “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” sung by family friend Anita Bohn.

“When Nick arrived, that was about as emotional as I have ever been,” said Mike Leoni, a long-time Kinesiology supporter and organizer of its annual Movement for Life Golf Invitational fundraiser, which nets about $30,000 a year for the division. “People have a real soft spot for Nick, and that night it really showed.”

Among the many friends Leoni credits for the fundraiser’s success are organizers Tim Wadhams (AB ’70, MBA ’73), former Wolverine teammate William F. Dufek (BSED, CERTT EDUC, ’79), both of Ann Arbor, and Saline, Mich.’s Timothy Patton. Generosity from friends like these, Leoni said, provides an essential base for Kinesiology’s overall research initiatives.

Surprise endowment seeds Kinesiology’s research

Donor-supported Kinesiology research includes:

- Associate Professor Susan Brown, Kinesiology’s associate dean of research and director of its Motor Control Laboratory, and Dr. Edward Hurvitz, U-M associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, recently received a three-year, $500,000 grant from the Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to support their innovative Upper Limb Training and Assessment (ULTrA) Program to better understand and treat motor deficits in adults with hemiplegic (upper limb) cerebral palsy. The 10-week, home-based training and assessment initiative is linked via Internet to researcher/therapists in Brown’s laboratory. ULTrA addresses the issue of aging with disability and provides adults with CP specialized therapeutic techniques. Often considered a non-progressive condition, CP can continue to cause a decline in motor skills long after childhood. Brown credits modest gifts from early individual donors with providing the foundation for the ULTrA NIDRP grant, one of just 29 awarded nationally.

- Dan Ferris, an assistant professor of both Movement Science in Kinesiology and Biomedical Engineering, worked with the U-M Orthotics and Prosthetics Center to create a pneumatically powered lower-limb robotic brace, a prototype training device to help people suffering from strokes or spinal cord injuries draw their own muscles back into service during gait rehabilitation. Supported through a recently concluded two-year, $150,000 Christopher Reeve Foundation Grant, research with the devices demonstrates that patients do not become so overly reliant on the mechanized support that they become unable to recruit and reactivate the muscles needed to walk. The study, Ferris said, supports the production of this advanced therapy tool for widespread application.

- Starting in the mid-1980s, Ann Arbor donor Richard Sarns began to aid the work of Movement Science Professor Dee Edington, a specialist in employee wellness to maximize productivity and temper spiraling healthcare costs. “It was Richard Sarns who provided the seed,” Edington said. “Without his early support, this never would have grown.” Edington’s Health Management Research Center promotes consumer lifestyle awareness, encouraging people to make better decisions about what they eat and to get more exercise. “Health is free,” he said. “It’s our intent to encourage businesses…to control healthcare costs.” The stakes are high, and failure to keep employees healthy will result in increased insurance costs, elimination of employee healthcare coverage, lower
Chhotubhai Patel had a personal motto: “Service to mankind.”

With his wife, Savitaben, he supported that axiom by emphasizing the values of education, hard work and philanthropy. The Patels’ three sons, Kiran, a cardiologist, Dinesh (PhD PHAR ’79) and Pradip, an MBA, embody these standards as advanced degree-holders and successful entrepreneurs. They have recently united to make a $1 million gift to the University of Michigan’s College of Pharmacy, establishing two fellowships in honor of their parents.

“When I came to Michigan, I hardly had any money and was fortunate to receive a very generous fellowship as well as support from my parents,” says Dinesh Patel. “Unlike what students face today, I managed to graduate without any debt.”

Dinesh also credits his Michigan education under faculty mentor Bill Higuchi with giving him the tools to succeed first in the pharmaceutical industry and later as an entrepreneur. Dinesh followed the esteemed faculty member to Utah, where Higuchi had accepted a teaching post at the University of Utah. The two founded TheraTech, a developer and manufacturer of innovative drug delivery products.

Today, Dinesh Patel serves as managing director and founding partner of vSpring Capital, an early stage venture capital fund with more than $200 million under management. Brothers Kiran and Pradip, meanwhile, founded and operated one of Florida’s biggest HMOs.

“We are successful because we work together as a family unit,” Dinesh says. “When one of us needs help, the others support him.”

This sense of family and desire to serve—deeply rooted in the culture created by their parents—will live on at Michigan through the Chhotubhai and Savitaben Patel Fellowships.

Value of service inspires Patels’ gift to Pharmacy

Based on an article to appear in the College of Pharmacy’s Interactions magazine.

To learn more about the College of Pharmacy, visit www.pharmacy.umich.edu

To learn more about the Division of Kinesiology, visit www.kines.umich.edu.
A scientist is like a storyteller,” says Sean Morrison, director of the University of Michigan’s Center for Stem Cell Biology. “It’s exciting to discover a good story and be able to tell people about it.”

These days, there aren’t too many scientists who have a better or more exciting story to tell than Morrison, a Canadian-born researcher who is in the forefront of an unprecedented effort to unlock the enormous potential of stem cells in the treatment of mankind’s most devastating diseases.

At his new laboratory in the U-M’s Life Sciences Institute, Morrison and a dedicated staff of young researchers are attempting to advance the use of stem cell therapies to surmount the obstacles that have traditionally surrounded the development of new treatments for certain cancers, degenerative diseases and birth defects.

Morrison’s lab specializes in two kinds of adult stem cells: hematopoietic stem cells—the rare cells in bone marrow that generate all the other cells in the blood and immune systems—and the neural crest stem cells that form the peripheral nervous system. He is particularly interested in the mechanisms that regulate such stem cell functions as self-renewal and aging.

‘Can I go to work yet?’

Dr. Sean Morrison brings promise and enthusiasm to U-M stem cell research
“For example,” Morrison says, “we study the mechanisms that allow stem cells to divide and make more stem cells, and the kinds of environmental mechanisms that regulate stem cell function. As we do that, we learn things that would help us to better use stem cells in cell therapies or better understand diseases where something goes wrong.”

The importance of the lab’s research transcends the theoretical for one of Morrison’s highly motivated researchers, Eve Kruger—a recent graduate of the M.D./Ph.D. program who is now doing post-doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis more than 20 years ago.

“Stem cells offer promise,” she says. “It’s really hard not to be excited about possible stem cell therapies when you see the number of diseases that could potentially be affected that don’t have possible treatments right now.”

While Morrison’s lab is achieving remarkable results with the use of adult stem cells, he and other scientists believe even greater strides could be made if they were permitted to use embryonic stem cells. A major source of those cells could be derived from leftover embryos used in fertility treatments. Although such embryos are routinely discarded and destroyed, the state of Michigan has one of the most restrictive laws in the nation forbidding their use for medical research.

Morrison grew up in Nova Scotia and earned his undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He was awarded a Ph.D. in immunology from Stanford University. As a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech, Morrison was the first to purify neural stem cells directly from uncultured tissue. Based on this advance, Morrison then founded his own laboratory at the University of Michigan where he attracted international acclaim by overturning the scientific belief that stem cells do not exist in the peripheral nervous system of adults.

Morrison has been at the University of Michigan Medical School since 1999, and was drawn here by the U-M’s international stature and its culture of co-operation and collaboration.

“We don’t have people working in silos here,” he explains. “We don’t have people creating their own empires. There really is an ethic at the University of Michigan. Excellent scientists who are interested in working with other people in a way that doesn’t involve a lot of ego are drawn to this place.

“As a result, we are able to accomplish more as a group than we would be able to do as individuals.”

Morrison is the author of numerous highly regarded scientific publications, and was named as an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 2000. In 2002, Technology Review selected him as one of the nation’s top 100 innovators, and he has won Wired magazine’s Rave Award for science. In 2003 Morrison was given an Early Career Award by the White House, the nation’s highest accolade for scientists and engineers at the outset of their career.

Morrison said he is encouraged by the work his laboratory is doing, and is driven by the immense promise the research may be on the verge of fulfilling.

“When you just can’t go to sleep at night because you’re thinking about a problem…sometimes you answer a question and the answer is just so beautiful that you can’t believe it—and you are the first person who has ever seen that answer before—that’s an amazing thing.

“Most days,” Morrison adds with a laugh, “I wake up at 4 o’clock in the morning and I say to my wife, ‘can we go to work yet?’ I can’t tell you exactly what she says, but basically it’s ‘No!’”

— John Barton

To learn more about stem cell research and the Life Sciences Institute, visit:
• wwwlsi.umich.edu
• www.umich.edu/~stemcell/
• www.lifesciences.umich.edu/
• wwwlsi.umich.edu/labs/cscb/
• wwwlsi.umich.edu/labs/morrison/

For information on how to support Dr. Morrison’s work, or to receive an 8-minute DVD detailing his research, contact the University of Michigan Health System’s office of development and alumni relations at 734-998-7705, or call the LSI development office at 734-763-0382.
Graham gift punctuates tradition of U-M donor generosity for sustaining our natural world

Preserving and protecting the environment means more than being conscientious about recycling or wearing t-shirts emblazoned with “green” mottos. It means engineering and manufacturing products that are both recyclable and profitable. It means creating supportive legal and social structures. It means designing buildings that use the earth’s resources sparingly.
In two words, it means “environmental sustainability.” The University of Michigan has long nurtured an ever-growing array of initiatives that not only place sustainability on the academic map but also inculcate its principles in disciplines as seemingly disparate as business, engineering, public health, architecture and urban planning, public policy, law, and natural resources and the environment.

U-M’s historic strength in all these fields has positioned it to tackle the breadth and complexity entailed in sustainability studies, and so has the historic generosity of its supporters. The new Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute is the latest reflection of these powerful characteristics.

The need for the Institute reflects the maturation of campus-wide sustainability endeavors. Approximately 300 U-M faculty members, spread across seven schools, are currently involved in researching and teaching sustainability in all its forms. The Graham Institute will coordinate and connect these ventures to maximize the effectiveness of the work already in progress, encourage additional synergies and support new, high-impact programs. And it will exist, in large measure, thanks to a $5.25 million expendable gift from the Graham Foundation, a philanthropic organization established by Donald Graham (BSE IE ’55, MSE ’56) and his wife, Ingrid (BSDES ’57). The Grahams, of York, Penn., serve as honorary co-chairs of The Michigan Difference campaign. The Office of the Provost will provide an additional $5.25 million to support the $10.5 million sustainability initiative.

“There was much more activity than I ever imagined going on in the field in various schools,” says Donald Graham. “It was literally astounding, and I felt the University could benefit from coordination, financial support and a multi-school joint effort, both from an academic viewpoint and a research viewpoint. It would be absolutely unthinkable for the University of Michigan, with all of its strong individual components in this area, not to organize itself to maximize the assets that it has.”

These assets include the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, the Center for Sustainable Systems, and a recent gift from Alcoa Foundation, all fruits of a shared vision.

The School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business established a formal partnership in 1994 by creating a dual-degree MS/MBA program with dedicated faculty and staff. Two years later, Fred (BBA ’47) and Barbara Erb, of Birmingham, Mich., and Naples, Fla., founded the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise with a $5 million endowment gift to support and grow the dual-degree program, develop more education initiatives, and expand research and outreach activities at the intersection of business, the environment and sustainability. Since their initial gift, the Erbs have given an additional $15 million, including $5 million in 1999 and $10 million in 2005. Their gifts have also led to support from other donors totaling more than $8 million.
The Center for Sustainable Systems evolved from the National Pollution Prevention Center for Higher Education, which was established at the School of Natural Resources and Environment in 1991 through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency competitive grant. Peter M. Wege of Grand Rapids served as the founding chair of its External Advisory Committee and, through the Wege Foundation, endowed the Peter M. Wege Chair of Sustainable Systems Professorship and gave generously to the endowment fund that supports the center’s operations.

In December, Alcoa Foundation announced that the University of Michigan was selected as the Foundation’s sole North American academic partner in its six-year Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Program. Alcoa invested $844,000 in the U-M to support six, two-year post-doctoral fellows doing research on sustainable energy technology. The research initiatives and findings plus the knowledge and information gained from the $8.6 million Program will be freely shared with any interested party worldwide.

“The Graham Institute will allow the University to expand the sustainability missions of two very strong centers of excellence created with the Wege and Erb endowments,” says Rosina M. Bierbaum, dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environment and chair of the Graham Institute’s deans’ council. “Peter Wege recognized that taking the world into a sustainable future depended on reducing energy and material use and he enabled the Center for Sustainable Systems, which focuses on bringing engineering and natural resources together to reduce the human footprint on the planet. Fred and Barbara Erb realized that unless improving the environment also made sound business sense, sustainability could not be achieved. So they enabled a rich education and research program to link environment and enterprise. Now the Graham Institute validates both of these ideas and expands them to draw sustainability links in research and education across seven schools.”

When it comes to sustainability, Donald Graham was to the manner born. His father, Sam Graham, was a professor in the former School of Forestry at U-M, the predecessor of the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and was well ahead of his peers in recognizing the challenges that lay ahead.

“It’s amazing, the vision that he had,” says his son. “He’d worked with DDT on some military projects during World War II and was writing articles in the late 1940s predicting the impact on the ecosystem of its overuse even before they started to use it commercially. He was an early thinker in that area with a very practical viewpoint.”

Throughout his enormously successful business career, Graham has honored that vision. Almost two decades ago, he and his colleagues developed the equipment and processing capability to put recycled material into the middle layer of a bottle, thus creating a huge market for recyclables, reducing landfill needs and saving on raw...
Donor support extends demand for Great Lakes environmental news

Since the fall of 1995, the Great Lakes Radio Consortium has been offering a free weekly feed of environmental news to any public radio station that requests it. Based at the Ann Arbor studios of Michigan Radio, the GRLC’s influence has spread far beyond its home markets with productions regularly broadcast by more than 140 stations in 20 states.

According to Michigan Radio, GLRC is committed “to revealing the relationship between the natural world and the everyday lives of people in the Great Lakes region. This is accomplished by thoughtful and provocative explorations of the environment in a way that reaches the widest possible audience.” None of this would be possible without the donors who supply every cent of the Consortium’s budget.

“We primarily fund policy development and public policy innovation,” says Jimmy Seidita, program officer in the environment office of the Joyce Foundation in Chicago, which has awarded the GRLC grants totaling $900,000 since 1997, “but we realize that public understanding of these issues is crucial to policy progress regarding the Great Lakes.”

The GLRC is also funded by the Donnelly Foundation, the Gund Foundation, the DTE Energy Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and individual donors like Ann Arbor’s Mary Ann Wilkes.

“I can hardly wait for the next episode,” she says. “I’m astonished to think that I have lived in Michigan for 45 years and every day I learn something new that I feel is important, especially as a conscientious voter.”

That’s music to the staff’s ears. “The goal of our stories is always to try to connect to listeners,” says editor/technical director Mark Brush.

“We reach 150,000 people a week with news about how they can become better environmental stewards,” says senior editor/producer Lester Graham, who co-manages the consortium with Brush, “and what they can do to improve the planet for all of us.”

To learn more about Michigan Radio (91.7 FM Ann Arbor, 104.1 West Michigan, 91.1 Flint) or the Great Lakes Radio Consortium, visit www.glrc.org.
Faculty, researchers and students have much to offer the communities in which they live and work. Through the support of donors who appreciate the University’s ability to promote quality of life in a range of innovative ways, the U-M is making a difference far beyond campus borders. The following initiatives are representative of the role philanthropy plays in helping Michigan sustain society’s well-being.

**Sound Societies**

**Skillman teams with Social Work to cultivate Good Neighborhoods**

to transform neighborhoods into safe, healthy places for children to grow, work with the people who live there.

The School of Social Work is doing just that as a partner in the Detroit-based Skillman Foundation’s new Good Neighborhoods Initiative that works closely with city residents to cultivate child-friendly communities. Skillman has provided Social Work with a $900,000 grant to collaborate with it during the critical first two years of a planned 10-year project.
For 45 years the Skillman Foundation’s strategy for improving the well-being of children in metro Detroit has been to define problems, then make grants to organizations to address them. The Good Neighborhoods Initiative is a very different model, says Carol Goss (AB ’69, MSW ’72), the foundation’s president and chief executive officer. In contrast, the new program actively engages neighborhood residents to prioritize their needs in an effort to create environments where children can thrive. Skillman chose six Detroit neighborhoods as project participants based on their large numbers of children, many needs, and community readiness to address problems. During the initial two-year phase, the School of Social Work will play a significant role in helping these communities’ residents study and shape their distinct priorities.

“We were looking for an organization that would bring not only academic support, including data interpretation, but that also would have a deep knowledge of Detroit neighborhoods,” says Goss. Good Neighborhoods represents a deepening involvement in the city for the School, says Dean Paula Allen-Meares, the Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work and Professor of Education.

“We are moving our research, classroom and service activities from the ivory tower and positioning ourselves in the community,” says Allen-Meares, principal investigator for the School’s work on the initiative. “The students are very excited.” In addition to faculty, as many as 60 U-M students will participate as part of a class taught by Larry M. Gant, associate professor of social work and project co-investigator. The class meets in the U-M Detroit Center—launched in 2005 in the heart of the city as a base for University-city collaborations. The class blends theory and practice and provides a platform for in-depth student participation in the Good Neighborhoods Initiative.

Other participating faculty are Leslie Hollingsworth, associate professor of...
Good Neighborhoods represents a deepening involvement in the city for the School of Social Work.

social work, and Michael Woolley and Trina Williams Shanks, assistant professors of social work.

The initiative kicked off Jan. 28 with a community meeting, one in a series of gatherings scheduled to take place in all six neighborhoods, facilitated by representatives of Skillman and the School. Early turnout has been encouraging, attracting more than 300 people at each meeting. In the first year, community participants will work with Social Work students and faculty to identify priorities and formulate plans to improve their children’s lives in such areas as nutrition and healthcare access.

In the second year, the School will provide teaching assistance to neighborhood representatives on grant proposal preparation to fund their plans. This instruction, Gant says, will serve as a critical transfer of knowledge.

“There has to be community learning of the technical content,” he says. “If there’s not, we’ve failed in our mission.”

During the remaining years, the foundation hopes to see neighborhoods turn plans into reality. Throughout the project, Goss says, Skillman will be able to draw on the experience of the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation in its nationwide program, Making Connections, a 10-year endeavor to enhance opportunities for families and children in tough or isolated urban neighborhoods (See related story on page 19).

It’s likely the School will remain a partner, a prospect that pleases advocates of the neighborhood-driven strategy.

“This is an initiative that is really in it for the long haul,” says Gant. “I’m honored that the University and the School of Social Work are involved.”

— Rebecca Freigh

To learn more about The School of Social Work, visit www.ssw.umich.edu.
With its first-ever grant from the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) has become a partner in the foundation’s decade-long initiative, Making Connections.

Inaugurated in 1999, Making Connections seeks to create healthy communities for families and children living in tough or isolated neighborhoods in 10 cities nationwide. The foundation’s strategy is to involve all who have a stake in each neighborhood—residents, leaders, government, faith-based groups, community organizations and more—in determining needs and solutions.

ISR became part of Making Connections in 2004, when the Casey Foundation awarded $107,000 to the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA) to produce policy briefs in 16 categories that define healthy communities, such as income level, civic participation and children’s school readiness. The briefs examine current research on these topics with respect to African-Americans nationwide and suggest strategies for progress.

To compile the briefs PRBA researchers compared local, state and national data with data from the African-American communities in the 10 targeted urban neighborhoods, producing detailed snapshots of each community’s status in each category.

ISR hopes to collaborate further with the foundation, using the findings to advance national policy research on racial issues and disparities.

“Each site is creating its own data storehouse,” said Susan C. Frazier-Kouassi, PRBA research investigator and program administrator for ISR’s participation in Making Connections. “That is part of the learning process. They not only have access to the data, they’re learning how to use it, so that when they generate questions, they can answer them by looking at the data.”

Casey turned to ISR to tap the Institute’s research and analysis expertise, says James S. Jackson, ISR’s director and principal investigator for this project. In that sense, Jackson says, ISR has a consultant relationship with both the Casey Foundation and the communities.

“It’s almost like an academic/foundation/community liaison,” says Jackson, the Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology. “Casey brings the resources to the table. Over the long term, however, their expectation is that the infrastructure of data needs to come from the communities themselves.”

Jackson says he appreciates Casey’s objective that each community ultimately will take charge of its own data to apply that information to its own unique policy objectives. He’s also pleased that Making Connections doesn’t involve the social scientists in what he calls “helicopter research” — flying in and out of communities without ever becoming part of the neighborhood fabric.

On the contrary, the Casey Foundation’s project offers ISR researchers the chance to be involved in a community while building an academic career. Such opportunities are sorely needed for young faculty who desire to do both, Jackson says.

“Oftentimes the demands of community involvement and the academic world are at odds with each other,” he says. “Sometimes faculty resolve this by not getting involved, while others leave academia. We’ve seen both. We’re all looking for models that allow us to bridge those gaps in a way that maximizes the opportunities at both ends.”

— Rebecca Freligh
If anyone knows the value of supporting teachers’ efforts to provide their pupils with better communications skills, it’s Joan Neil.

Neil (AB ’52, CERTT EDUC ’52), of Deerfield, Ill., worked for 30 years as a school speech-language pathologist, helping students with speech, voice and other communication disorders. As her career progressed, she noticed that increasing numbers of children who came from non-English speaking homes in the Chicago-area school systems where she worked had similar challenges communicating.

“I saw a real need for training teachers to work with these students,” says Neil, who has tutored students raised in Spanish-speaking homes. “It’s difficult for students to obtain the skills if they’re not processing the language. And if they don’t get that basic learning in the elementary years, they’re lost. I see supporting education as an important priority for our entire nation.”

In response, Neil is providing scholarship assistance to the School of Education for students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement Program, a partnership between the School and the University’s English Language Institute, with courses taught by the Institute.

Scholarship recipients earn credentials through the Elementary Master of Arts with Certification (ELMAC) program, a year-long intensive program that offers both a master’s degree in education and teaching certification. ELMAC students range in age from 23 to 52; because many have left their jobs to study full-time in preparation for teaching careers, financial aid is especially welcome, says Cathy Reischl, clinical assistant professor of educational practice and ELMAC coordinator.

While the ESL endorsement is optional, the credential is a value-added feature for newly-certified teachers seeking their first jobs, Reischl says. What’s more, she says, students who take ESL classes gain a deeper understanding of language that improves their teaching overall.

“Language is the primary tool of teaching,” says Reischl. “When our student teachers pay more attention to language, their teaching improves for all of their students.”

Neil and her late husband, Herb (AB ’52, MBA ’53, PhD ’61) shared a deep appreciation for the value of supporting education. They endowed the Joan Nelson and Herbert E. Neil Scholarship in the School, which provides tuition for a student who is preparing for teacher certification. The couple also made gifts to the Department of Economics, from which Herb Neil received his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees.

— Rebecca Freligh

For additional information about the School of Education, visit www.soe.umich.edu

When it comes to support for community service-learning programs, the name Ginsberg occupies a special place on the University of Michigan campus.

That place is at the corner of Hill and East University streets in the Madelon Pound House, home to the Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning. Established in 1997, the Center was formally named for Edward Ginsberg (AB ’38) in 2000 following a $5 million endowment gift from Ginsberg’s son, William, and daughter-in-law, Inger, as well as other members of the Ginsberg family.

William Ginsberg said he hoped the commitment would “inspire generations of young people to make service and compassion toward others an integral part of their lives.”

In keeping with that mission, William and Inger Ginsberg have made a $120,000 campaign gift to establish the Rosalie Ginsberg Community Service Scholars Fund, named for...
William’s mother. The endowed fund provides $3,000 annual scholarships for civic-minded U-M juniors or seniors who have demonstrated a passion for community engagement and have a need for financial assistance.

“My parents were truly partners,” said William Ginsberg, “and this fund recognizes my mother’s contribution to their charitable activities.”

The first scholarship was awarded in 2005 to junior Wendy Earle for her commitment to political activism and social justice. Two scholarships a year are to be awarded starting this fall. The support provides critical resources for undergraduates committed to serving their society.

“The scholarships help students spend more time on their studies and on their community engagement than they could if they had to work more hours at a job to pay tuition and expenses,” said Margaret Dewar, faculty director of the Ginsberg Center. “The scholarship award is also a recognition and validation of each student’s contribution to making a better society. We hope this award helps cement a lifelong commitment to such work.”

The Ginsberg Center was created to provide students and faculty members with opportunities to combine community service and academics through partnerships that promote civic involvement and community change. The center features a variety of learning programs, including the America Reads Tutoring Corps, Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership, Project Community, Detroit Initiative, and SERVE. It is also home to the OCSL Press, publishers of the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, and a range of other service learning publications.

— Paul Gargaro
$4.4 million for scholarships and building extends Stamps’ charitable U-M legacy

The generosity of Campaign Co-Chair Penny (BSDES ’66, CERTT EDUC ’66) and E. Roe Stamps continues to transform the University of Michigan.

Through a newly-announced $4.4 million gift, the Miami couple has launched a prestigious campus-wide scholarship program that bolsters the University’s commitment to its most promising students and has provided support for the 460-seat auditorium now under construction next to the Charles R. Walgreen Jr. Drama Center on North Campus. The facility has been named the Stamps Auditorium in honor of their remarkable dedication to Michigan, which is reflected in their $9.4 million overall campaign giving.

The Stamps Scholars Program will provide $10,000 annual merit scholarships to outstanding undergraduates for up to four years in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the College of Engineering; the School of Art & Design; the School of Music; the Division of Kinesiology; and the School of Nursing. The University, including the affected schools and colleges, will provide additional need-based and merit-based financial aid to the recipients. The University’s goal will be to match the donors’ gift with money that the University has not previously offered to students for financial aid.

“A gift to scholarship is a gift to the entire University community,” said Penny Stamps. “We are delighted to be partners in this endeavor.”

Slated to begin this fall, the Stamps Scholars Program also funds the Stamps Scholars Society to connect students through social events, community service projects, career opportunities, international studies, and an annual dinner.

“We are thrilled that we can help Michigan provide this incredible educational opportunity to these outstanding young students,” Roe Stamps said.

President Mary Sue Coleman said the Stamps’ contribution reflects their remarkable legacy of support for Michigan.

“This visionary gift enables us to reward our finest young scholars with essential financial support, while enhancing Michigan’s wonderful legacy as an institution that prizes academic excellence above all else,” she said. “By helping to fund one of our newest campus treasures, the Stamps Auditorium, Penny and Roe Stamps play a vital role in providing an outstanding new facility for the University as well.”
“Their continued devotion to our mission highlights the power of individuals to make a lasting difference at Michigan.”

The Stamps’ record of U-M philanthropy includes the creation of Work, a South State Street gallery to exhibit Art & Design students’ creations. They have also provided Art & Design with the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Program that brings acclaimed artists to campus to speak and interact with students; the Stamps Family Scholarship Program; and the Roman J. Witt Visiting Professorship, named for Penny Stamps’ father. The School recently named its undergraduate Stamps Studios in recognition of their support. They are also valued Michigan Athletics benefactors, providing funding for the Stamps Student Commons in the newly completed Stephen M. Ross Academic Center.

An interior designer and antique collector, Penny Stamps is an Art & Design graduate. She serves on the U-M President’s Advisory Group and is chair of the Dean’s Advisory Council at the School. Roe Stamps, a distinguished alumnus of Georgia Tech University and Harvard Business School, is the founder and managing partner of Summit Partners, a venture capital firm headquartered in Boston.

— Paul Gargaro

Powers strengthen Student Publications building renovation

The developing story of the Stanford Lipsey Student Publications Building’s planned renovation took a new turn earlier this spring with the announcement of a $500,000 campaign commitment to the project from Regent Emeritus Philip Power (AB ’60) and his wife, Kathy, of Ann Arbor.

The gift helps the Office of Student Publications close in on its campaign goal of $4 million in private funding for the $5.75 million initiative at the 74-year-old campus landmark, home to The Michigan Daily, the Michiganensian yearbook and the Gargoyle humor magazine.

Designed by Pond & Pond, architects of the Michigan Union and the Michigan League, the historic building is in drastic need of an infrastructure upgrade with new heating, wiring, air conditioning and accessibility features as well as a variety of improvements to modernize its work spaces.

“My family has always believed in the obligation of giving back…to the society that has sustained us and to the institutions that have assisted us,” Power said. “That’s why it’s such a pleasure for Kathy and me to help out in the much needed renovation of the Student Publications Building. I hope many future generations of Daily staffers benefit as much from their experiences as I did.”

The Powers’ gift reflects Phil Power’s distinguished tenure in journalism. He joined The Daily in 1959, and was named its editorial director the following year. He went to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner as its sports and then city editor after graduation, and later became a Marshall Scholar at University College in Oxford, England, where he also worked as a stringer for the Chicago Daily News. He returned to metro Detroit in 1965 where he launched HomeTown Communications Network, which he built to include 65 community newspapers and other publications. In 2005, he sold the HomeTown chain to Gannett Company, Inc.

In addition to their contribution to Student Publications, Phil and Kathy Power and the Power Foundation have made gifts to the Sadye Harwick Power Fund (named for Phil’s mother) in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts’ Department of Psychology, the University Musical Society, and the University Library’s Eugene Power Collection.

— Paul Gargaro
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Museum of Art closes in on its expansion goal

The University of Michigan Museum of Art began 2006 with a flourish, announcing $6.5 million in new gifts to support its $35.4 million facility expansion and restoration project.

The leadership commitments include: $4 million from A. Alfred Taubman (HLLD ’91) of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., founder of Taubman Centers, Inc., a pioneer in mall and retail design, to be recognized in the naming of the suite of temporary exhibition spaces; $1 million from Chicago attorney Irving Stenn, Jr. (AB ’52, JD ’55) to be recognized in the naming of the new addition’s Project Gallery for contemporary art; $500,000 from SeAH Steel Corp. and Chairman Woon-Hyung Lee (MBA ’74) that matches a $500,000 pledge from the Korea Foundation to create a new gallery of Korean art; and $250,000 from an anonymous donor to name the future curatorial research center and library in honor of Marvin and Phyllis Dolinko of Highland Park, Ill. The gifts were made in December 2005 and this January.

In addition, more than 100 new donations and pledges totaling more than $250,000 came from the museum’s diverse community of supporters during this two-month period.

“Our announcement of these four leadership gifts caps an incredible two months in the museum’s campaign, and I am confident this momentum will carry us the rest of the way,” said James Steward, UMMA director.

As of March 2006, the museum had raised more than 92 percent of the total project cost. A $1.5 million challenge grant pledged by the Kresge Foundation, of Troy, Mich. requires UMMA to raise the remaining amount in new contributions and grants by June 1 in order to receive the money. Construction will begin when fund-raising is complete.

Huntington Actuarial Scholarships add up to great support for aspiring mathematicians

Curtis E. Huntington (AB ’64, MAS ’65), associate chair of the Department of Mathematics and director of its actuarial studies program, has made a $506,265 gift to the department through a charitable remainder unitrust to endow the Margaret S. Huntington Actuarial Scholarship.

The contribution, made in memory of his mother, strengthens the scholarship he previously created and will provide 10 promising first-year students with $1,000 awards. Recipients are evaluated based on their strong performance in introductory calculus and their appreciation for the actuarial field as demonstrated in their answers to questions in the scholarship application. Between 40 and 80 students a year have applied for the scholarships since they were first offered in 1999.

“The goal is to get good young mathematicians to consider the actuarial field as a career option,” said Huntington, a Boston native and still a part-time resident, who worked as an actuary for New England Mutual Life for nearly three decades before joining the U-M math department in 1993. Huntington’s father was an actuary, and his mother, also a mathematician, took actuarial course work. Actuaries use financial mathematics to evaluate the probability of future events for businesses and organizations and develop programs to avoid projected risks or reduce their impact.
Kidder generosity takes Michigan Nanofabrication to the next level

C. Robert Kidder (BSE IE ’67), of Columbus, Ohio, provided a $1 million commitment toward the renovation and 37,000-square-foot (gross) expansion of the Michigan Nanofabrication Facility on North Campus within the College of Engineering. Kidder’s contribution to the endeavor provides critical support for the development of newer, faster and smaller technology to promote advances in a range of industries.

“Investing in sustaining leadership at Michigan is a privilege for someone who learned at Michigan,” said Kidder, a member of Engineering’s Progress & Promise: 150th Anniversary Campaign committee. “Hopefully, the next generation of Michigan students will take Nano to the next level and reinvest in Michigan, too.”

Kidder is a principal in Stonehenge Partners Inc., a private investment firm, and a partner in the Sanford Winery in California’s Santa Ynez Valley. He is the former chief executive officer and chairman of Borden Inc. and Duracell International Inc., and he serves on the boards of Morgan Stanley and Schering-Plough.

Campbell’s Ford family memories inspire gift to historic Fair Lane

Longtime Dearborn resident Margaret (Peggy) Campbell has fond childhood memories of the Dearborn estate known as Fair Lane and of her grand-uncle and -aunt who lived there, Henry and Clara Ford. On one unforgettable day, Campbell recalls, she donned her best clothes and rode in the Fords’ chauffeur-driven car to have lunch at the estate with Clara Ford.

A volunteer leader for the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane for more than 20 years, Campbell today chairs its advisory committee. Operated as a museum and event venue, Fair Lane is a National Historic Landmark and part of the UM-Dearborn campus.

Campbell and her husband, Raymond Campbell, recently made a campaign pledge of $50,000 to UM-Dearborn to support the estate and its gardens. Clara Ford was a passionate gardener, and Campbell is eager to revive the gardens to their former glory.

Campbell, her sisters and their families have been instrumental in the preservation of Fair Lane. Through the Frances B. ImOberstag Foundation, they have made generous contributions totaling $160,000 to maintain the gardens for more than a decade. The most recent gift is for $20,000. ImOberstag is Campbell’s maiden name and that of her sisters Mary Biddinger and Sallie Snyder of Indian River, Mich., Ann Knoop of Dearborn, and the late Katharine Campbell of Ann Arbor. In a separate effort, the families supported the restoration of Fair Lane’s Field Room, one of the estate’s most memorable rooms, where the Fords enjoyed music and dancing with family and friends.
Askwith answers Knight-Wallace Fellows challenge ahead of schedule

A major gift from long-time New York volunteer and donor Bertram J. Askwith (AB ‘31), a vice chair of The Michigan Difference campaign, has helped complete the Knight-Wallace Challenge nearly two years ahead of its September 2007 match deadline. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation launched the $5 million challenge in 2002 on behalf of the Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellows program.

Based in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, the Fellows program annually brings 18 mid-career journalists from the United States and other countries to Ann Arbor to pursue their own course of study for an academic year. A former writer for The Michigan Daily, Askwith has been a valued supporter of the program. He previously made a leadership contribution on behalf of its innovative Benny Friedman Fellowship in Sports Journalism.

“This program fills a real need in the overall spectrum of a great university,” said Askwith, of Harrison, New York. “It does a remarkable job of promoting the positive sides of journalism and provides journalists with a broader world-view. Overall, I’ve been very impressed with the efforts of (program director) Charles Eisendrath and (leading Knight-Wallace benefactor) Mike Wallace.”

Askwith, who has also given recently to support the Michigan Union, is president of Campus Coach Lines, a charter coach service he founded as an undergraduate at the U-M.

New endowments recognize the wisdom of WISE

The Women in Science and Engineering Program (WISE) has received its first-ever gifts for endowment, each to support its mission of encouraging women to participate in science, technology, mathematics and engineering. WISE is a cooperative initiative through the College of Engineering; the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the Office of the Vice President for Research; and the Housing Division.

The Erwin C. Rohde Fund, created through a $300,000 contribution to the College of Engineering from the estate of Erwin C. Rohde (BSE ME ’39), will support such WISE programs as GISE@UM, which brings seventh- and eighth-grade girls to campus for one week during the summer for hands-on experiences in engineering, the human genome project, chemistry, physics, and space science as well as sessions on computers, careers, and ethics in science.

Daniel L. Kiskis (MS ’88, Ph.D ’92) an assistant research scientist in the College of Engineering’s Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) Department, established a second endowment late last year through a donation...
Mike Wallace (AB ’39, HLLD ’87), of New York City, has provided the University of Michigan Bentley Library with a major collection of papers—156 linear feet of files—documenting his 40-year career at CBS News. The papers, from Wallace and CBS News, span his career at the network and “60 Minutes” and provide a remarkable window into the inner workings of television news. The heart of the collection comprises the “60 Minutes” program files, including transcripts of the broadcasts and interviews with participants, viewer correspondence, background research, newspaper clippings and photographs, and story ideas in various stages of development that were dropped or never aired. Wallace’s personal and professional materials also cover his responsibilities within CBS News beyond “60 Minutes,” notably his work covering the war in Vietnam and political campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s.

Wallace, who discovered his passion for broadcasting while working as a U-M student at the University’s 10-watt radio station, is a member of the board of the Knight-Wallace Fellows at Michigan (KWF), a program that supports study at the U-M for 18 mid-career journalists from the U.S. and abroad each year, and until last year, Wallace was a founding judge of the Livingston Awards, the largest all-media, general reporting prizes in American journalism. Prof. Charles R. Eisendrath directs both endeavors.

Wallace provided a $1 million gift to the program in 2002, earlier endowed a fellowship in investigative reporting and, with his wife, provided the building that houses the program, Mike and Mary Wallace House.

Wallace donates papers to Michigan’s Bentley Library

of $19,451. The generosity is in memory of his wife, Sushila R. Subramanian (MSE ’91), who had worked as an independent software consultant and as a software engineer at the U-M’s Center for Information Technology, School of Information, and EECS prior to her death in June 2005. Proceeds from the endowment will also be used to support middle and high school girls’ participation in WISE summer programs.

“Countless girls will discover the excitement of science and engineering through the generosity of these two gifts,” said WISE Director Cinda-Sue Davis. “If this country is to remain competitive in the global marketplace, we can’t afford to lose half the potential workforce in the scientific enterprise. These gifts will make a significant impact in that endeavor.”
Dear Friends,

Passion makes a difference

As you have just read in this issue, Wally Prechter’s passion for revealing the mysteries of bipolar disorder is providing the Depression Center with opportunities for ground-breaking research and new hope for the patients it serves. Wally’s extraordinary generosity in establishing the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund as well as her tireless advocacy for bipolar awareness are rooted in her deep personal desire to beat the disease that led to the death of her husband, Heinz, in 2001.

When the University launched our campaign, The Michigan Difference, two years ago, we stated that one of its five missions was to “Advance Health and Society’s Well-Being.” In many respects, that’s the standard by which any great public university can and should be judged.

I am pleased to say that through the support of Wally Prechter and donors like you, Michigan is meeting this challenge and strengthening its foundation as a leading source of service and solutions for the world far beyond our campus.

Your gifts help the U-M conduct research, build facilities, develop academic programs, and support our students and faculty. In other words, your generosity is providing Michigan with the tools to help make our society a better place.

Earlier this year, The Michigan Difference campaign topped the $2 billion mark in pursuit of its $2.5 billion fundraising goal by 2008.

Whether it is the Von Voigtlander family’s support for construction of the new C.S. Mott Children’s and Women’s Hospital, Don and Ingrid Graham’s visionary contribution on behalf of sustainability, or Bill and Inger Ginsberg’s creation of a new scholarship that rewards students for community service, philanthropy at Michigan truly matters.

This fall we will reach the mid-point of the public phase of our campaign, and we can take pride in many terrific accomplishments. Yet, if you are passionate about providing Michigan with the long-term ability to promote global well-being through advances in medicine, engineering, environmental studies, social sciences and the arts, then our work has only just begun.

Sincerely,

Jerry May

Jerry May
University of Michigan faculty and staff give back to the U-M in ways that reflect their unique commitment to sustaining its excellence. To honor that dedication and encourage future generosity, the Office of University Development unveiled in February The Heart of the Michigan Difference, a Michigan Difference campaign initiative focused exclusively on the people who work daily to make Michigan great.

Since the launch of The Michigan Difference campaign, in 2004, an estimated 21 percent of Michigan’s faculty and staff have contributed a remarkable $42 million in support of student scholarships, faculty endowments, academic and cultural programs as well as building renovations or construction. The breadth of their giving highlights the many important ways individuals can make a difference in advancing the University’s world-class stature.

“No one understands Michigan—our needs, our opportunities, our past and our future—better than the people who make their lives here,” said former Provost Paul Courant, professor of economics and public policy. “In my 32 years at Michigan, the University has always found a way to support our best ideas and our highest aspirations.

“The ability to deliver on that commitment to excellence is increasingly dependent on private contributions, and I hope that members of our community will do their share and more.”

Courant serves as a Heart of the Michigan Difference co-spokesperson with Stephanie Pinder-Amaker, associate dean of students. The Heart of the Michigan Difference is promoted through a new series of print advertisements, profiling faculty and staff donors and their unique reasons for giving back. The ads will appear in University publications and throughout the Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn campuses. Contributors’ giving stories will also be featured on a new web page at www.giving.umich.edu/facultystaff. The site provides additional details on why and how to give, including payroll deductions, pledges, estate gifts, and more.

“All gifts, no matter the size, from our faculty and staff are of tremendous value to the University, and play a critical part sustaining the quality of a Michigan education,” said Pinder-Amaker, noting that while there is no dollar goal for faculty and staff giving, the Heart of the Michigan Difference seeks to increase participation throughout the University community.

A number of schools, colleges and campuses have already begun their own faculty and staff fundraising programs. The Heart of the Michigan Difference has been created to complement these worthwhile endeavors. In recognition for their contributions, faculty and staff supporters will receive a Heart of the Michigan Difference lapel pin, and be invited to planned events throughout the year.

— Paul Courant

Excerpted from the February 13 issue of The University Record
Participants in the March 25-26 University of Michigan Dance Marathon (UMDM) perform an enormous line dance during the annual, 30-hour fundraising event in support of pediatric rehabilitation at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Students must raise at least $250 for the UMDM non-profit organization to participate in the protracted swing session. The year-round, student-run group raised nearly $327,000 for the hospitals in 2005-06. For more information on the Dance Marathon, visit www.umdm.org.