Student Philanthropists
With hundreds of people congregated just inside the Harold T. Shapiro Undergraduate Library on Feb. 20, the scene felt more like a spring afternoon during exams than a cold winter day in mid-semester. There were no finals on the horizon that day, but visitors did learn something on their trip to the Library, namely the impact donors to The Michigan Difference campaign are already having on campus. The event, organized to celebrate the grand opening of Bert’s Café, showcased longtime Michigan supporter Bertram Askwith (LSA ’31), whose latest campaign gift funded the new venue. Located just inside the Library’s main entrance, the café provides fresh coffee, snacks and relaxing space for a study break. Its popularity quickly surpassed expectations as daily sales in the first month doubled projections on a pace of up to 90 customers served an hour.

With seven months remaining in The Michigan Difference, it’s gratifying to see the results of such generosity at the Library and across the University. Consider:

• Through March, approximately 100 performances had been staged at the Charles R. Walgreen Drama Center since it opened to the public last spring, including 56 in the Arthur Miller Theatre.

• Sixty visiting scholars and resident researchers have shared their expertise through the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, a dynamic forum for teaching and scholarship endowed by the Eisenbergs in 2006.

• Robert Beck has been appointed the Richard B. Couch Professor of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. Created by John C. Couch (BSNAM ’63, MSE ’64) in honor of his late father, a former U-M professor, the position is the department’s first-ever endowed professorship and one of 180 donor-funded faculty posts already established since the campaign’s launch.

• More than 11,200 donors contributed to the dollar-for-dollar President’s Challenge Match for Undergraduate Scholarships, helping to raise roughly $70 million in need-based financial aid.

These are but a few examples of the campaign at work. In this issue, you’ll read of other gifts to the University that are certain to make a difference for students, faculty, programs and facilities.

Just prior to the ribbon being cut on the new café, Bert Askwith spoke of the “sustenance” he hopes it will provide students as they study. That sentiment and the care for Michigan shown in the thousands of other terrific campaign contributions ensure the U-M will have the nourishment it needs to thrive for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman

Mary Sue Coleman
Philanthropy at the University of Michigan
Spring 2008

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William Riegel-Green enjoys a story read by Michigan student Veronica Ward at the recent University of Michigan Dance Marathon pajama party.

Photo: J us tin Bass Photography

CORRECTION
A misplaced comma in the page 1 story from the January 2008 issue of The Difference, the U-M’s campaign newsletter, altered the meaning of a key sentence about the size of the endowment. The sentence should have read:

“Although U-M’s endowment is the ninth largest in the country, on a per-capita basis (40,000 enrollment) it works out to approximately $146,000 per student, according to the Council for Aid to Education, which is less per student than rates at many of its peer institutions.”

We regret any confusion that this may have caused.
While their fundraising tactics may vary, Michigan’s student philanthropists are united by their drive to give back.

Consider Galens, a Medical School student organization that for 80 years has been making a difference through its “Tag Days” bucket drive on Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti street corners. The red-vested volunteers for the medical student organization—named after an influential ancient Greek physician—gather donations to meet a range of needs across the U-M Health System and throughout Washtenaw County. While most of its collections come from the pocket change and dollar bills of passers-by, Galens is no penny-ante operation. Prior gifts funded construction of the entire eighth floor of the original Mott Hospital, for example, while a portion of the record $72,000 raised in 2007 will help fulfill the group’s five-year, $120,000 commitment to create a play area for young patients at the new C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital. Other beneficiaries include the Ronald McDonald House at the U-M Medical Center, a home away from home for the families of hospitalized kids.

“The University is very welcoming and open, and local businesses are generally cooperative, too,” says fourth-year medical student Amy Cosnowski, Galens’ president. “People see the red vests and the buckets and they understand.”

While Galens’ fundraising model dates back to 1927, the U-M Dance Marathon (UMDM) takes a more modern approach. Since its launch in 1997, UMDM has grown to attract more than 1,000 annual participants, who stand at its signature event for 30 continuous hours on behalf of pediatric rehabilitation programs at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. The Marathon has contributed more than $2 million to these programs since 1997, and hopes to exceed $350,000 in 2008.
But you can’t turn out 1,000 dancers just by IM-ing a few friends. It takes serious organization. UMDM’s central planning team and its 15 committees organize a series of lead-up events throughout the year to ensure that the marathoners are encouraged by more than 2,000 student support staff and well-wishers as well as by some of the young patients who benefit from the Marathon.

As UMDM External Director Steve Crompton (AB ’08) explains, this personal touch is a crucial element of the group’s efforts. “The dancers are standing for children who can’t stand up for themselves,” he says. “It’s a way for students to symbolically share some small portion of the discomfort experienced by these kids because of their limitations.”

If Galens represents tradition and UMDM a more contemporary approach, Greek Week combines the best of both worlds. The “Week,” now in its 30th year, encompasses 10 days of fundraising activities run by U-M fraternities and sororities, who win points based on their participation. The fundraising events range from the relatively conventional Mr. and Miss Greek Week competition, where spectators pay admission, to the distinctly unusual Can Castle Contest, in which chapters build elaborate fortresses out of collected cans of food that are later donated to a local food bank. At the end of the Week, the winning chapter is allowed to designate 10 percent of the year’s total for the cause of its choice.

Greek Week raised an unprecedented $74,000 in 2007 for causes including Ele’s Place, a Lansing, Mich.-based organization that supports grieving children and their families. Greek Week 2008 co-chairs Halie Bojovich (MUS ’08) and Ryan Glass (AB ’08) say they hope to surpass that record. “Students at U-M can be very competitive,” Bojovich says, “especially when they’re competing on behalf of a charity!”

Galens, Dance Marathon and Greek Week all broke their previous fundraising records in 2007, together raising more than $600,000 for charitable organizations. With the University actively cultivating a culture of student philanthropy (see related story, Page 4), there is good reason to expect that 2008 could be another record year. The University is developing a first-ever audit to measure the support generated by these and many other student fundraising organizations across campus. Expected within the year, the results are certain to show what’s possible when students commit to helping those in need.

“Michigan student philanthropy has taught me much more than leadership and the importance of giving back — it has changed the way I look towards the future,” Crompton says. “My experiences at U-M have shown me that the best way to create change is to empower people to act on their passion.”

— Jim Reische

For more information, visit www.umich.edu/~galens, http://www.umdm.org, and www.umich.edu/~greekwk
As Galens, Dance Marathon, Greek Week and other service efforts show, Michigan students are passionate about making a difference. A U-M student internship program was launched last spring to capture that enthusiasm and help prepare a new generation of development professionals and philanthropists.

The Development Summer Internship Program (D-SIP) provides undergraduates with unique opportunities to work side-by-side with U-M development professionals; earn credit through course-work and professional development activities; and learn about the giving process through interaction with University officials, foundation executives and key University philanthropists.

This year, the program attracted 126 applications for 20 internships. And of the 17 interns from the first graduating class, three are already working in philanthropy while three others are pursuing careers in the field.

“I didn’t know anything about development when I first heard about the internship, but I’d been involved in the Dance Marathon, and this program offered the same kind of opportunities to give back,” says Mark Vinckier, a senior in industrial engineering from Yale, Mich., who says he is pursuing a career in fundraising based on his 2007 D-SIP experience at the School of Dentistry. “The way public funding is now, development is becoming more and more important. It’s something I want to do.”

Inspired by longtime U-M donor and Ann Arbor resident Molly Hunter Dobson’s (AB ’44) early gift for the program, last year’s participants made a $1,000 commitment in support of next year’s class. Their gift came in response to an effective ask at a class event by fellow intern Brian Restuccia of Okemos, Mich. (AB ’08). The appeal and response were so persuasive that event attendee and Michigan alum and supporter Julie Fisher Cummings of Birmingham, Mich., matched the interns’ generosity on the spot.

As D-SIP’s popularity grows at Michigan, program organizers also report growing interest from off-campus non-profits and other universities, who see D-SIP as the model for their own initiatives. Through D-SIP, U-M is investing in the development profession and the future of philanthropy.

— Jim Reische

For more information, see www.giving.umich.edu/institute
Support for student service gives hands-on ways to give back

Since 1990, an organized “Alternative Spring Break” at Michigan has provided thousands of students with the opportunity to serve by participating in projects ranging from building new homes for low-income families in rural Mississippi to tutoring disadvantaged kids in Colorado to helping hurricane victims in Louisiana. This spring, the student-led program, supported by the Ginsberg Center, arranged for approximately 400 U-M students to work at 34 sites in 18 states and Toronto, Ontario.

Impressed by U-M students’ willingness to work for those in need rather than spend their break on the slopes or at the beach, anonymous donors have provided $10,000 to the Ginsberg Center to help students on financial aid cover ASP participant fees and on-site expenses. The gift will also support the North American Summer Service Team, a U-M student-driven group whose members take on one- or two-week volunteer assignments to help community organizations address such issues as AIDS treatment, urban or rural poverty and immigration.

The Ginsberg Center provides students, faculty and staff with opportunities to combine community service and academics through partnerships that promote civic involvement and community change. It was named for Edward Ginsberg (AB '38) in 2000, following a $5 million endowment gift from his son, William, and daughter-in-law, Inger, as well as other members of the Ginsberg family.

To learn more about Alternative Spring Break or the North American Summer Service Team, visit www.ginsberg.umich.edu

Elizabeth Lange

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Members of The American Football Coaches Foundation (AFCF) made a great call in December when they named U-M Regent Emeritus and former Wolverine football player David Brandon (ABED '74, CERTT EDUC '74) of Ann Arbor, the group’s 2007 CEO Coach of the Year. According to the Foundation, recipients demonstrate a “commitment to bringing a diverse group of people together for one common goal—success.” In addition to his successes as chairman and CEO of Domino’s Pizza, Brandon has provided the U-M with volunteer leadership, including his vision as co-chair of the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital campaign. He and his wife, Jan, who is also a co-chair of the Mott campaign, are also generous Michigan supporters with gifts for the new Mott Hospital construction project, the Department of Urology, the Museum of Art expansion, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, the School of Education, and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. As the AFCF’s 2007 Coach of the Year, Brandon is automatically inducted into the organization’s Hall of Fame.
“It was nice that Michigan offered so many options for giving, but it was especially nice that we could retain some income while still supporting the University.”

— King Stutzman with wife, Frances

Trust in MERS

Endowment investment strategy offers top returns for donors, U-M

Sometimes you really can have it both ways. The new Michigan Endowment Return Strategy (MERS) enables donors to invest their trust assets alongside Michigan’s high-performing endowment, enhancing their income while simultaneously increasing the impact of their giving to the U-M. University supporters have established 15 new charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) through MERS and transitioned an additional 63 existing trusts into the program since its inception in 2007.

With a CRT, a percentage of the trust’s income is distributed to the donor or the designated beneficiaries for a specified period, typically the beneficiary’s lifetime. After the trust ends, the principal balance is released to Michigan for uses stipulated by the donor. Thanks to MERS, Michigan supporters can capitalize on an investment strategy for their trusts that resulted in a record 25.6 percent endowment return last year and an annualized rate of 14 percent over the last decade.

This balance of enhanced life income and long-term philanthropy appealed to David Cassard (BBA ’75). As chairman of the commercial real estate firm, the Waters Corporation, and a civic leader in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Mich., Cassard and his wife, Cara (ABED ’75, CERTT EDUC ’75), recently took advantage of MERS to create a CRT benefiting the School of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

“The University has done a lot for our family,” says David Cassard, whose daughters Elizabeth (AB ’03), Anne (AB ’06) and Rosemary, a senior studying mechanical engineering, are all Wolverines. “Establishing a CRT through the Michigan Endowment Return Strategy was a great way to repay our debt of gratitude. It’s nice to be doing something while you’re still alive and watch it grow.”

Like the Cassards, Lee Gorman (BBA ’79, MBA ’83) and Mark Ritz (MSE DBN ’75) say they saw MERS as a way to build their support for the U-M over the long term. Gorman, founder of Barton Consulting Services of Ann Arbor, and Ritz, vice president of Lear Corporation of Southfield, Mich., took advantage of the strategy to create a trust benefiting Michigan Radio (WUOM, WVGR, WFUM-FM), the Center for the Education of Women, and the Frederick A. and Barbara M. Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, a
The Cassards’ CRT commitment to Michigan reflects their deep U-M roots with five Wolverines in the family. They include from left, Elizabeth (Cassard) and Sean Agerson, Cara, David, Rosemary and Anne Cassard.

Lee Gorman and Mark Ritz chat with Michigan Radio weekend host Richie Duchon during a recent visit to the public station. The couple supports Michigan Radio and a range of U-M schools and programs through a newly created charitable remainder trust.

joint program of the Stephen M. Ross School of Business and the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

“Mark and I have been supporters of the University for a long time,” Gorman says. “I think I’ve given every year since I graduated. And we’d already named U-M in our will. But as you get older your values solidify and you start to understand that you can have an impact on areas other than where you spent your career. We realized that CRTs, invested alongside the endowment, are a great vehicle for doing this. They’re a terrific way to ensure some financial security for ourselves, while also making a difference for the University over the long term.”

As long-time University supporters at 94 and 96 years old, respectively, King (AB ’37) and Frances (AB ’34, CERTT EDUC ’34) Stutzman of Wilmette, Ill., can attest to the importance of the long view. Attracted by the opportunity to create a steady source of life income while simultaneously growing their future support for the University, the couple recently used MERS to establish a major CRT benefiting scholarships in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and the School of Education. “It was nice that Michigan offered so many options for giving,” King Stutzman says, “but it was especially nice that we could retain some income while still supporting the University.”

— Jim Reische

For more information on MERS, visit www.giving.umich.edu/planning

500 friends of Michigan got in on the Act

While MERS offers new possibilities for philanthropy at Michigan, another great giving opportunity recently concluded. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) enabled individuals to make gifts from their IRAs to the U-M and exclude their contributions from their gross incomes. Almost 500 donors took advantage of this limited opportunity, contributing in excess of $9 million before this provision of the Act expired on Dec. 31, 2007. Michigan supporters had the highest PPA giving total in the Big Ten, contributing 37 percent more than their peers at second-place Penn State.
with constancy a measure of great philanthropy, Goff Smith (BSEBA ’38, MBA ’39) ranks among Michigan’s finest supporters.

For 70 years and through each of the University’s four major fundraising campaigns, Smith’s giving highlights an unwavering belief in the value of a Michigan education.

“I’ve done the best I could,” says the 91-year-old Winnetka, Ill., resident, who has given the U-M nearly $2 million over the years. “But it’s sure been easy to support Michigan with the confidence I’ve had in it. I was simply asked to consider opportunities and responded to some good ideas over the years.”

Smith’s maize and blue devotion stretches back to the mid-1930s, when he left his hometown of Jackson, Tenn., and went north to Ann Arbor on the recommendation of his cousin, a U-M student. Here, he found people who would shape his life, including A.D. Moore, a popular electrical engineering professor who “laid it on the line, clearly and emphatically,” and Prof. William Paton, whose introduction to accounting Smith credits with helping him rise from an Amsted Industries’ sales representative to the Chicago-based manufacturer’s chairman and CEO.

“They did a helluva a job with me” says Smith, who later earned a master’s degree in industrial management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “I felt like I got my nickel’s worth every day.”

Those days were also spent traipsing across campus from the old Pretzel Bell to the banks of the Huron River with such friends as housemate and classmate Carl Gerstacker (BSE ’38, HLLD ’93), who went on to lead Dow Chemical and whose generosity to Michigan was recently recognized with a named building on the Engineering campus. Smith even made friends with legendary football coach and athletic director Fielding Yost and his wife, Eunice.

“He was a Sigma Chi and Mrs. Yost used to kind of look out for (me and my Sigma Chi fraternity brothers),” Smith recalls. “I had dinner at the Yosts’ house about six times. I’d bring my date—the girl I eventually married—and we’d have a great time. We’d talk about everything, especially the Civil War, a real interest for someone from west Tennessee.”

These memories keep Michigan feeling like home to Smith even though the University’s contours have evolved over the years with Engineering’s move to North Campus in 1982, and more recent developments like construction of the new Central Campus landmark, Weill Hall, and the major enhancements to Michigan Stadium.

“I’m astounded by the building,” he says. “But they seem to be managing it all pretty well. You’ve got to do that to stay on top.”

Such trust has served as the foundation for Smith’s legacy of U-M support. President of his senior class
at Engineering, he was instrumental in creating the 1938E Award, given annually in support of an outstanding engineering junior faculty member. Smith was also a key contributor to the Tauber Manufacturing Institute, endowing one of its co-directorships, and he established the Goff Smith Prize and Lecture, the College of Engineering’s most prestigious external honor. Past speakers have included prominent leaders such as Microsoft’s Bill Gates. For his part, Smith downplays his impact.

“Bill Gates didn’t come to Michigan because old Goff Smith gave some money,” he says. “He came because it’s Michigan. I give the University all the credit.”

Smith’s volunteer credentials also run deep. In the 1970s, he served as Chicago area chair for the Engineering Capital Campaign and for several years on the University’s Development Council Board of Directors, including work as chair of its Corporations and Foundations Operating Committee. He also has been a member of the Business School’s Development Advisory Board. Smith was honored for his efforts with the University’s Sesquicentennial Award in 1967, a Presidential Societies Leadership Medal in 1989, and the College of Engineering’s Alumni Society Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

“Goff Smith has responded to Michigan’s needs over and over again,” said David Munson, the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering. “He has given of his resources and his time with a consistent belief in the U-M that should make the entire University extremely proud. The impact of his commitment will be felt here for many years to come.”

Reflecting on his long association with the U-M, Smith struggles to pinpoint a single reason behind his affection for the University and enduring commitment to its success. His love for Michigan, he concludes, is the sum of many parts.

“There are so many great things about it that I’d be an idiot to try and pick just one,” he says. “I couldn’t appreciate anything more than I appreciate Michigan.”

— Paul Gargaro
With their creation of the Frost Open-Access Fund, Robert Frost II and his wife, Margaret Hedstrom, have made a key contribution to the availability of information in the public domain.

The associate professors in the School of Information credit their ability to give back in this way to a unique literary source, namely, Frost’s share of royalties from the estate of his great-grandfather, poet Robert Frost. The elder Frost joined the Michigan community in 1920 when he accepted University President Marion L. Burton’s invitation to become the U-M’s first fellow in creative arts. The two men looked forward to a long relationship, and indeed Frost returned to Ann Arbor for a second fellowship and even briefly joined the U-M faculty in 1925. They never could have realized, however, that Frost would continue to contribute so generously to the University long after his death.

The stream of royalties from Frost’s estate will help keep Michigan at the forefront of research on open access to information. “The School of Information is arguably the most innovative school of its type in the country,” Frost II says, “particularly for its insistence that there be a public information space. The Open-Access Fund is our way of ensuring that this principle is honored even as the tools of creativity and publication evolve.”

The Frost Fund is a vivid example of the commitment that thousands of U-M employees have made to the University through its faculty-staff campaign, The Heart of the Michigan Difference. More than 15,500 members of the campus community have given to the campaign to date, raising a total of $135 million.

Of this amount, $59 million has come from retired faculty and staff. The group includes Donald Munro, professor emeritus of philosophy and Chinese and former chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), who retired in 1995. Munro’s passion for teaching Asian philosophy moved him and his wife, Ann (MPH ‘75), to join with a group of Hong Kong donors to establish LSA’s Tang Junyi Visiting Scholar
Best & 11Leaders Spring 2008

Fund with gifts totaling more than $96,000. The Fund makes it possible for visiting scholars to teach Confucianism, Philosophical Taoism and modern Chinese thought in LSA’s departments of Philosophy, Psychology and Asian Languages and Cultures as well as the Center for Chinese Studies.

In the 1960s Donald Munro studied under Tang, a noted Asian philosopher and former dean of the arts faculty and chair of the Department of Philosophy at New Asia College, a part of what is now the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Munro returned to the Chinese University of Hong Kong as the Ch’ien Mu Lecturer in 2003 and as the Tang Junyi Visiting Professor in 2006.

“While I was an undergraduate student,” Munro says, “to study philosophy meant studying Western philosophy. It was only later that Confucianism began being taught. I believe it is long past time to treat Chinese thought as equally worthy of study among philosophies.”

The Frost Open-Access Fund and the Tang Junyi Visiting Scholar Fund clearly represent their creators’ individual passions. But other University funds are the product of employees’ collective generosity. For example, Michigan faculty and staff have contributed 114 gifts to the University of Michigan Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship, generating more than $62,000 in need-based student aid that was matched dollar-for-dollar by the President’s Donor Challenge.

Members of the Michigan community like Robert Frost, Donald Munro and contributors to the U-M Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship become donors in part because they intimately understand the University’s needs and priorities, explains Patricia Warner, associate director of the U-M Hospitals and Health Centers and chief administrative officer of C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital, who serves as co-spokesperson of the Heart of The Michigan Difference campaign with Paul Courant, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries.

“Michigan is a special place,” Warner says, “There are families who have worked here for generations. Faculty and staff donate because they want to give back to this dynamic institution that has given them so much. They are contributing to their legacy by supporting the University’s future.”

With their recent commitment, Professor Emeritus Donald Munro and his wife, Ann, promote the study of Chinese philosophy at the U-M.

To learn more about the faculty-staff campaign, The Heart of the Michigan Difference, visit www.giving.umich.edu/facultystaff

Tribute for a colleague

For the many donors, faculty and staff who had the opportunity to work with Chacona Johnson during her 22-year tenure with the University, which included executive positions in the president’s office and in development, the experience was invariably pleasant and productive. To show their appreciation, these grateful associates joined with Johnson’s family and friends in raising approximately $180,000 to establish the Chacona Winters Johnson Scholarship Fund, offering need-based support for undergraduates from her home city of Detroit. The total will be matched dollar-for-dollar through President Mary Sue Coleman’s Donor Challenge. At left, Johnson reacts with surprise as the gift is revealed during her January retirement party.

See page 14 for additional details on the President’s Challenge for undergraduate financial aid.
As the holder of an endowed professorship and the namesake of another, Dr. John Greden knows first-hand the importance of funding for faculty.

“I don’t think there is anything that can have more of an impact on making a great University even better than support for professorships,” he says. “I understand this from a scientist’s perspective, but believe that to be true across the campus.”

That belief is shared by Michigan Difference campaign donors, who through March have funded 180 new professorships. Their generosity provides the University with the resources to recruit the best scholars, whose presence draws great students and faculty peers to the U-M. As executive director of the Depression Center, Greden says he looks to Mary Meader as a model of the impact donors can have on enhancing the faculty ranks at Michigan.

Meader, who died in March (See story opposite page) and her late husband, Edwin Meader (AB ’33), established the Rachel Upjohn Professorship in Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences held by Greden, while her $2 million gift at the end of last year created the new John F. Greden, M.D. Professorship in Depression and Clinical Neuroscience.

“This was such a wonderful legacy gift from a truly generous woman. It couldn’t have come at a better time considering the advances occurring in the field,” says Greden, noting that the new professorship will enable his team to attract a leader in translating the rapidly evolving neuroscience advances into clinical care.

“When I was informed of this latest gift, I was speechless, and I’m not often speechless.”

This recent contribution elevated the Meaders’ support for depression studies and treatment at Michigan to $15 million, including commitments for the Rachel Upjohn Building, home of the Depression Center, the endowed professorships, and a research fund. “The fact that this was yet one more gift from this very special Michigan family makes it even more meaningful,” Greden adds.

Recognizing the impact

For supporters like Robert Donia (AM ’74, PhD ’76) and his wife, Jane Ritter, named professorships provide enduring recognition for special individuals. The La Jolla, Calif., couple’s recent $2.5 million commitment to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts establishes the Fred Cuny Professorship in the History of Human Rights. The post honors the late civil engineer and disaster relief specialist, whom Donia met in 1994 in a bunker at the Sarajevo airport during the Bosnian war. A U-M research associate from the Center for Russian and East European Studies, Donia was there as a war-time historian, attempting to re-establish links with scholars in Sarajevo.

According to Donia, Cuny’s proudest achievement was the design and installation in besieged Sarajevo of a water filtration system made of huge modules that could be unloaded from a United Nations transport plane in a matter of minutes to avoid Serbian sniper fire. The system provided filtered river water to the city’s 250,000 residents, helping to sustain them through some of the greatest deprivation and heaviest shelling of the war. Cuny was
From psychiatry to archaeology, Mary Upjohn Meader and her husband, the late Edwin Meader (AB ’33), provided visionary philanthropy to the U-M.

The pioneering character of Mary Meader, who died on March 16, 2008, was revealed more than 70 years ago through her daring aerial photographic survey of South America and Africa. Dressed in a fur coat and boots against the bitter cold of high altitude, and inhaling oxygen from a tank through a wooden mouthpiece, the 95-pound adventurer snapped more than 1,800 pictures of some of the world’s most remote regions while navigating her single-engine Bellanca Skyrocket and monitoring its Morse-code radio. Photographs from that historic trip are included in the National Air and Space Museum’s “Women in Flight” exhibit. This drive to reach new heights extended to the Meaders’ remarkable support for Michigan. In 2004 they played a pivotal role in creating a home for the U-M Depression Center, the country’s first multi-disciplinary center dedicated to research, education and treatment of depression and bipolar illness. The Rachel Upjohn Building is named for Mary, whose maiden name was Rachel Mary Upjohn, and her grandmother, Rachel Babcock Upjohn.

Mary Meader made her latest major gift to Michigan in December 2007, endowing the John F. Greden, M.D., Professorship in Depression and Clinical Neuroscience (See related story opposite page). The gift honors the Depression Center’s executive director and holder of the Rachel Upjohn Professorship in Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, a post created by the Meaders in 1997.

The couple’s transformative generosity also launched construction of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology’s William E. Upjohn Exhibit Hall, adding exhibit space for the Museum’s renowned Egyptian and ancient Mediterranean collections as well as for valuable research and study facilities. It is named for Mary Meader’s grandfather, an 1875 graduate of the U-M Medical School, inventor of the first pill that dissolved easily in the human body, and co-founder with his brothers of the Upjohn pharmaceutical company. The Meaders’ previous gifts to the Chemistry Department, the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center, the School of Music, Theatre & Dance; the Medical School; University Musical Society and Hill Auditorium extended the impact of their devotion to Michigan across campus.

Mary Meader is survived by four sons, Christopher U. Light, Timothy Light, John R. Light and Rudolph H. Light, as well as seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

— Jim Reische
Need-based financial aid for undergraduates received a substantial boost in 2007 as a result of a dollar-for-dollar donor challenge match issued by President Mary Sue Coleman. When the challenge concluded on Dec. 31, 2007, the results were tallied as follows:
- 11,202 donors;
- approximately $70 million in new funds raised through donor gifts and the president’s match.

TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

“Amy and I have a passion for helping those who need it the most and are least able to help themselves. There is a tremendous opportunity to assist former foster children in achieving their educational goals. Believe it or not, recent statistics show that only 2 percent of former foster children pursue a post-secondary education. Lack of financial resources often makes the thought of attending college appear to be nothing more than a dream for these kids. By taking part in the Presidential Challenge and establishing the Blavin Scholarship, Amy and I intend to make that dream a reality.”

— Paul Blavin, (BBA ’86) of Scottsdale, Ariz., who with his wife, Amy, committed $1 million to the Office of Financial Aid for need-based scholarship aid for students who are foster children, orphans or wards of the court. The gift consists of $900,000 in endowed funds and $100,000 in expendable support.

TO SUSTAIN TOMORROW’S HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

“Through careers in nursing, young people can have the opportunity to make a critical difference in the lives of others, while experiencing tremendous challenge and fulfillment. Nursing scholarships give students the chance to graduate and enter a field where there are immediate career opportunities and growth potential as health care professionals. Nursing offers individuals a great opportunity to support themselves and their families and become role models for others. The President’s match opened up real possibilities for us to fund two full-ride scholarships, which was really important because for the population of students we want to help, $2,500 scholarships may not be enough for them to have the opportunity to attend the U of M.”

— Franklin, Mich. resident Denise Shough Jacob (BSN ’77, PhD ’97), who with her husband, James A. Jacob (BBA ’76), endowed a fund to provide two students with the School of Nursing’s first need-based, full scholarships. Preferred recipients will be from Detroit public or charter schools.
TO SHARPEN AMERICA'S TECHNICAL EDGE

“I really believe that one of the great challenges facing our country is its ability to produce talented people with technical capabilities. I hope that by supporting Michigan engineering students, I can play a part in creating engineers who will enable us to meet this challenge in the competitive world economy. The President’s Challenge offered a real opportunity to help me do that.”

— Paul F. Werler (BSECH ‘47, MSE ‘48) of Minneapolis, whose $75,000 gift to the College of Engineering establishes an endowed fund in his name to provide need-based support for chemical engineering students.

TO BUILD A DIVERSE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

“We have a long legacy with the University. In all, 11 from our family have attended Michigan. We also have a strong commitment to Cleveland and Detroit and hope this scholarship fund helps students from these cities who have the desire to attend but may not have the financial resources. Exposing these young people to Michigan is not just great for them, it is great for the University by contributing to the diversity of the campus. President Coleman’s Donor Challenge inspired us to make this commitment at this time.”

— Cleveland’s Douglas McGregor (BBA ‘65), who with his wife, Charlotte (AB ‘63), has committed $1 million to endow two need-based scholarship funds, one in the Stephen M. Ross School of Business and another in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

In celebration of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s 85th anniversary, alumnae have established an endowment to fund need-based scholarships. The $65,000 they raised was matched dollar-for-dollar by President Mary Sue Coleman’s Donor Challenge, bringing the total endowment to $130,000. The first two $1,000 scholarships were recently awarded to Delta Sigma Theta’s Nu Chapter sisters Dominique Sheffield, of West Bloomfield, Mich., and Ryan Pearson of Detroit. Sheffield is the sorority’s corresponding and recording secretary, fundraising chair, and assistant step master. Her majors are women’s studies and pre-nursing. After graduation, she plans to enter a nursing program to eventually become a certified nurse midwife and establish a birthing education center for women of color.

“...nothing like having a group of dynamic women come together to affect the lives of so many people,” says Sheffield, an LSA senior.

Pearson is a junior studying theater arts, who plans to become an actor, director and writer.

“It is so refreshing and heartwarming to receive a scholarship from my own sorors,” she says. “It makes me reflect on all the wonderful things Delta Sigma Theta does.”

Delta Sigma Theta, founded in 1913, has a membership of 200,000 predominately African-American, college-educated women and 900-plus chapters worldwide. It has distinguished itself as a public service organization that addresses the challenges of African-Americans and all Americans. Over the years, the sorority has created a wide range of programs addressing education, health, international development, and strengthening of the African-American family.

“This is a remarkable achievement that demonstrates what individual donors can do by working together,” says alumna Kathryn Bryant Harrison (AB ‘71). “We are proud to have done so much in a relatively short period of time and are especially pleased to have been able to award two scholarships so quickly.”
Meeting the need for graduate and professional student support

INSPIRING GIFTS FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Inspired by the success of the challenge for undergraduate aid, President Mary Sue Coleman launched last fall a second donor challenge to help Michigan attract and support top graduate and professional students. The challenge matches $1 for every $2 in expendable or endowment gifts of up to $1 million in assistance for these scholars.

The challenge has already raised $22 million from more than 6,200 donors, or $33 million with the match. Such assistance makes the U-M the best option for prospective students by:

- reducing the debt they’ll face after graduation and expanding their employment options to include less lucrative, though critical practice areas or positions in the public or non-profit sectors;
- defraying living and school expenses that enable them to concentrate on their coursework, research and dissertations and enter the workforce more rapidly.

In the following statements, donors share their reasons for rising to the challenge.

TO CREATE TOMORROW’S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

“We hope this gift plays a small part in allowing the University to lead in an interdisciplinary, holistic way on two of the most important challenges of the coming century — climate change and energy. To ensure a brighter tomorrow, today’s graduates will need to understand the multi-dimensional impacts of these issues and be equipped to build a bridge to a more sustainable future. Michigan should be where they gain this enlightenment. While President Coleman’s interdisciplinary vision was an important factor for us, her challenge match allowed us to maximize our investment.”

— Ann Arbor’s Douglas R. Glancy (M SNRE ‘07, MBA ‘07), a graduate of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, who with the Glancy Family, established the $75,000 Glancy Climate Innovation Award in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. The gift provides SNRE graduate students with support for tuition, summer internships and climate change research.

TO RETURN THE FAVOR OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

“I remember very clearly how the financial support I received from the University allowed me to pursue my career in public health. I am now more than happy to partner with the University to ‘pay back’ that debt and be fortunate enough to be able to support others as they pursue their goals. Susan and I are pleased to be able to support the education of public health professionals who choose career paths that will meaningfully improve the quality of life of so many people.”

— Steven Bloom, (MPH ’81) of Armonk, N.Y., who with his wife, Susan, has committed $50,000 in continued support of the Risk Science Center Fellowship Fund, which they established two years ago with an earlier gift to the School of Public Health. The interdisciplinary Center focuses on human exposure to health hazards, including environmental and occupational threats.

TO SAY THANKS FOR AN OPPORTUNITY

“It was a blessing for me to be able to attend Michigan — something that I couldn’t have done without the generosity of others. Now as they say, it’s time for me to pay it forward. The President’s match allowed me to make a gift greater than I could have done on my own and an endowed fund will help students into the future. This gift also has been a way for me to honor my parents and to say thank you to the Pharmacy faculty that gave me the opportunity to be the professional I am today.”

— Annette Karageanes (BSPHA ‘83) of Harrison Township, Mich., whose $50,000 commitment to establish the Karageanes Family Scholarship Fund supports students enrolled in the College of Pharmacy’s professional program.
For Jennifer Gates-Foster, the road to Egypt's Eastern Desert was paved with a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship. The classical archaeologist said the fellowship gave her the ability to dig more deeply into her research by returning to Egypt and attending important overseas conferences. The end results speak for themselves. Gates-Foster's thesis earned a Rackham Distinguished Dissertation Award, she was selected as a junior research fellow at Cambridge University's Darwin College, and is now an assistant classics professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

While the stipends and classroom experience she gained as a graduate student instructor at Michigan were of real value, she said the Rackham Fellowship enabled her to leave Ann Arbor for the crucial December/January dig season when the desert climate cools enough to work in relative comfort. That trip would not have been possible if she were teaching.

"Having the ability to go back into the field and to attend conferences in that final year was so important," said Gates-Foster, a specialist in (the Ptolemaic Period from 323 to 31 B.C.) . "I would not have had the opportunity to focus like I did without the fellowship."

Rackham Fellowships, said Gates-Foster (AM '01, AM '04, PhD '05), are a crucial element in the funding Michigan can provide graduate students. Such assistance attracts top scholars.

"I definitely would not have come to Michigan without the support I had from Rackham."

— Jennifer Gates-Foster

THE CHANCE TO DIG DEEPER:
The difference a U-M fellowship can make

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"I definitely would not have come to Michigan without the support I had from Rackham," said the Mississippi native and University of Virginia graduate. "I was the first person in my family to pursue a graduate degree. It just wasn't possible for my family to support my graduate studies."

— Jennifer Gates-Foster

TO ADDRESS THE RISING COSTS OF A DEGREE

"As I toured the pre-clinic with some of my former classmates at our 50th class reunion, I was impressed with how technology is being used today and the caliber of the dental students I had a chance to talk to. But the costs when I was a student were nothing compared to what the costs are today. We wanted to give back to an organization that was especially good to me. We want our gift to make a difference."

— Dr. Samuel Nagel (AB '50, DDS '54), of Southfield, Mich., who with his wife, Penny, established a graduate support scholarship at the School of Dentistry, in honor of his parents, Ben and Ethel Nagel.
Making a Difference

A public statement for stadium support

Having grown up in difficult economic circumstances, Drs. Benn and Kathleen Gilmore say their recent $5 million gift for the Michigan Stadium project would not have been possible without their faith or their U-M educations.

“I don’t think I saw grass until I was about 5 years old,” Benn Gilmore recalls of his upbringing in Detroit’s inner city. “No one who saw that place would ever have dreamed that I’d be able to make a gift to anyone for anything.” Their strong Christian belief and their Michigan experience reversed such notions. Jesus Christ changed their lives, they say, and now they want their generosity to help do the same for others.

Today, Dr. Benn (BS ’66, MD ’70, MDRES ’78) Gilmore and Dr. Kathleen (AB ’90) Gilmore, who received her medical degree from Wayne State University in Detroit and completed her residency at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Mich., devote their time to charity medical service and medical missions. They also are active in starting a new corporation called iH’s Automotive Group, based in Ann Arbor.

The Plymouth, Mich., couple’s stadium gift, like their previous gifts to U-M athletics—from scholarships to women’s golf and men’s basketball— is motivated by their belief that Michigan Athletics can be a pathway to success for student athletes in a range of careers. Traditionally anonymous donors, the Gilmores say they hope their public support for the stadium will inspire others to give back to Michigan athletics and provide “life-changing” opportunities for future generations of Wolverines.

Work on the Big House includes creation of two exterior sideline structures—bracketed by four corner towers—that will help direct crowd noise back onto the field and increase the Wolverines’ home-field advantage. The buildings will house elevated concourses with additional restroom and concession areas. The project also adds suites, club seats, designated seating for spectators with impaired mobility as well as new entry and exit points.

For more details on the stadium project, visit www.mgoblue.com
To honor his late wife, a 30-year Flint, Mich., elementary school teacher, Joe Kendall has committed $19,500 to establish The Norma J. Wright-Kendall Scholarship for Elementary Education at the University of Michigan – Flint's School of Education & Human Services. The scholarship will assist students who have demonstrated academic promise and have financial need. Preference will be given to residents of Genesee County who are graduates of Flint Community Schools.

To learn more about UM-Flint's education programs, visit www.umflint.edu/sehs/
Fulfilling a passion for the power of the maize and blue community

Regent Andrea Fischer Newman (AB ’79) has been a champion for Michigan. The support she and her husband, Frank, have shown as long-time fans and members of the University community was recently reinforced through their generous $200,000 gift to be split equally between the football stadium renovation and expansion and construction of the new C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and Women’s Hospital. The couple describes their maize and blue devotion in the following statement.

“For us, ‘The Michigan Difference’ is much more than a slogan for a capital campaign. It’s a distinction that has many colors of ‘blue.’ It starts with Andi’s undergraduate experience and later years as a Regent. It continues with a son’s graduation from the Michigan Law School, a daughter-in-law’s graduation from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and another son’s (and future Wolverine’s) birth at Mott Children’s Hospital. But, more importantly, it also includes the unexpected joy of exchanging a ‘Go Blue!’ with an M-cap-wearing fellow-traveler going up the Great Wall of China while we were going down and in uncounted similar meetings on planes and in places about as far removed from Ann Arbor as it’s possible to be.

“Why that tingle when we see the block M on someone in a faraway place? Why that instant sense of common ideals when someone we’ve not previously met calls out ‘Go Blue!’? Why that automatic fist pump when we hear the opening strains of ‘Hail to the Victors’? Why the tears when we see clips of Bo on the TV? It’s that elusive ‘difference’ making itself apparent in our hearts, minds and emotions. We don’t know all of its parts, but we do know the power of the community it’s built upon, and we are thrilled to be able to do our part to strengthen and nurture it for future generations.”

For information on the stadium project, visit www.mgoblue.com
To learn more about the Mott Hospital construction, go to www.med.umich.edu/mott/

Maceks provide generous applause for music at Michigan

When Robert and Pearson (AM ’74, PhD ’86) Macek arrived in Ann Arbor from New York in 1993, they were delighted to discover a bit of Broadway at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance’s Musical Theatre Department. Over the years, these fans of musical theater have maintained four scholarships for the Department, one in each class year.

With their latest $25,000 gift to the School, the couple has established the Macek Musical Theatre Visiting Alumni Fund, an endowment bringing program graduates back to share their professional insights with students and with the Friends of Musical Theatre.

“We consider ourselves lucky to live in Ann Arbor. We get to know the stars before they get to Broadway.”

Recent stars have included: Gavin Creel (BFA ’98), who performed in “La Cage aux Folles” on Broadway, “Mary Poppins” in London and was a Tony Award nominee for his work in “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and Celia Keenan-Bolger (BFA ’00), Tony Award nominee for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” Daniel Reichard (BFA ’00), one of Broadway’s “Jersey Boys” and the lead in the New York City Opera’s recent presentation of “Candide,” as well as Jake Wilson (BFA ’07), creator of YouTube’s pioneering online musical, “The Battery’s Down.”

The Maceks also played a key role in securing a recent anonymous $370,000 gift from one of Robert Macek’s clients, of which $259,000 will be divided between the School’s Musical Theatre Endowed Enrichment Fund, an addition to the Macek Musical Theatre Visiting Alumni Fund, and the Cairn Scholarship Fund, which offers need-based student aid for musical theatre majors. The balance will provide leadership support for the University Musical Society’s presentations.

To learn more about the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, visit www.music.umich.edu
For details on upcoming University Musical Society events, go to www.ums.umich.edu
Completing a masterpiece at the Museum of Art

Three new gifts to the University of Michigan Museum of Art’s building transformation are raising the arts at the U-M to a new level.

The Tisch Foundation, under the stewardship of Joan Tisch (AB ’48) of New York City, recently contributed $1 million to the initiative, while the Bredt Family Fund at the Silicon Valley Foundation, acting on behalf of Tom (BSESE ’62) and Polly Bredt (AB ’63, CERTT EDUC ’63) of Portola Valley, Calif., has increased the couple’s original $1 million gift to the project with a further $500,000 contribution. And Irving Stenn, Jr. (AB ’52, JD ’55) of Chicago, has added $250,000 to his original $1 million commitment.

Their generosity supports the expansion and renovation of UMMA’s landmark Central Campus home, Alumni Memorial Hall. The effort will more than double the Museum’s size with a 53,000-square-foot glass- and stone-clad addition, providing new gallery space, state-of-the-art collection’s storage, study facilities, gathering areas and improved visitor amenities. Work is slated for completion later this year with the Museum’s reopening anticipated in early 2009.

These latest contributions highlight how loyal Michigan donors continue to help the University meet its needs.

The Tisch family’s philanthropic U-M legacy includes leadership gifts for construction of the Tisch Humanities Building and the Tisch Tennis Center, as well as Joan and her late husband Preston Robert Tisch’s (AB ’48) service as honorary chairs of The Michigan Difference campaign.

The Bredts previously endowed the Bredt Family Professorship in Engineering, while Irving Stenn has been a valued supporter of Michigan Law.

Recent UMMA contributions build on a $10 million leadership gift from The Maxine (AB ’66 DRBN) and Stuart (BBA ’61) Frankel Foundation of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The Museum’s new Maxine and Stuart Frankel and The Frankel Family Wing has been named in honor of that visionary commitment.

For more on the UMMA expansion, visit www.umma.umich.edu

Towsley Foundation helps Kellogg offer a clearer picture of eye disease

A $1.5 million gift from the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation will fund and name an advanced Ophthalmic Imaging Center that will play an important role in the new W.K. Kellogg Eye Center clinical and research facility, scheduled to open in 2010.

This latest gift to Kellogg builds on Dr. Towsley’s early support for eye care at Michigan.

“Over 20 years ago, Dr. Harry Towsley offered significant guidance and key philanthropic support as we developed the concept for what is now the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center,” said Paul R. Lichter (AB ’60, MD ’64, MDRES ’68, MS ’68), the F. Bruce Fralick Professor of Ophthalmology and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. “This advanced imaging center is essential for providing patients with the highest level of eye care, while serving as a key resource for our vision research and educational programs.”

Michigan Difference Campaign Honorary Co-Chair Margaret Ann “Ranny” Riecker (HLLD ’05), chair of the Foundation and one of Dr. and Mrs. Towsley’s daughters, said the gifts reflect her family’s continued commitment to eye care at Michigan.

“It is a family tradition to be involved with the Kellogg Eye Center, but more importantly we are thrilled and excited about the work they are doing today,” she said. “We are so glad to be a part of the Eye Center’s growth.”

The late Harry (MD ’31, M DRES ’34) and Margaret (AB ’28, HLHD ’33) Towsley were valued contributors to Michigan throughout their lives. Dr. Towsley served as a U-M professor of pediatrics and chair of the post-graduate medicine department. Over the years, the Towsley Foundation and family’s support for Michigan has included gifts to the School of Music, Theatre & Dance; the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics; the Center for the Education of Women; the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; and the Health System.

To learn more about eye care at Michigan, visit www.kellogg.umich.edu

Our photo services: Scott Galvin

UMMA Director James Steward, below, says donors’ “belief in the value of a great university having a great museum is the kind of endorsement that will see us through the homestretch.”
Bipolar research at Michigan took a major step forward thanks to Waltraud “Wally” Prechter (ABED ’79) of Grosse Ile, Mich., whose recent generosity and leadership could result in up to $3 million to help overcome the challenge of this devastating disorder.

“The need for answers is urgent and millions of families share my concern that we find those answers through science as quickly as possible,” Prechter said. “Good science takes money, and the time has come to understand the genetic underpinnings of this disease.”

Prechter, vice-chair of The Michigan Difference campaign, recently announced a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant from the World Heritage Foundation-Prechter Family Fund that will match up to $1 million in gifts to the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund, which she created through previous support totaling $2.7 million. Named for her late husband, an automotive pioneer who committed suicide after battling bipolar disorder for decades, the Research Fund supports the U-M’s efforts to study the link between genes, stress and the disease.

In addition to her own challenge grant, Prechter recently helped the Fund secure a major commitment from the Herrick Foundation of Detroit. A longtime University partner, the Foundation has created its own dollar-for-dollar challenge that will match up to $500,000 in contributions to the Prechter Fund made before September 30, 2008.

“I am truly honored that the Herrick Foundation is joining this effort with their generous matching grant, and I hope that these challenge grants will spur gifts from the public,” Prechter said.

John Greden, M.D., executive director of the U-M Depression Center, expressed his appreciation for the two challenges. “To truly understand why bipolar disorder occurs, and how we can treat it more effectively, our researchers must be able to explore every promising avenue and test every hypothesis,” said Greden, the Rachel Upjohn Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences. “These two major challenge grants, and the many individual donations they will engender, will make that possible in the promising area of genetics.”

For more information on depression studies at Michigan, see www.depressioncenter.org
To learn more about the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund, go to www.hcpfmd.org

For a better understanding of Armenia

Located south of Russia, east of Turkey and north of Iran, Armenia claims one of the longest lineages of any modern nation, reaching from deep in prehistory (it was long rumored to be the location of the Garden of Eden) up to its recent emergence as an anchor of post-Soviet democracy.

The Manoogian Simone Foundation’s recent $1.2 million gift to the Armenian Studies Program in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts is designed to improve understanding of Armenia’s rich heritage and strategic political position. The Foundation’s commitment will fund graduate and post-doctoral fellowships, a visiting scholars program, international conferences, graduate workshops, an expanded Summer Language Institute and various outreach programs. The Foundation is headed by Louise Manoogian Simone of New York City, daughter of the late Detroit businessman Alex Manoogian (HLHD ’91), founder of MASCO Corporation.

“My parents started the Armenian Studies Program at U-M,” said Simone, “and this gift will expand the program by providing funds for young scholars to study Armenian language and history, both in Michigan and Armenia.”
Almost 100,000 people a year visit the Henry Ford Estate—Fair Lane on the campus of the University of Michigan–Dearborn. Visitors can tour the museum, explore the beautifully landscaped grounds and eat lunch at The Pool Restaurant. Fair Lane is also a venue for art history student internships, community concerts and University events.

To enhance Fair Lane’s historical, cultural and artistic contributions to the community, the Troy, Mich.-based Kresge Foundation has committed a $90,000 grant to UM–Dearborn, conservator of the landmark residence. Distributed over three years, the grant will support improvements to the content and presentation of Fair Lane tours, including the incorporation of digital media. The funding will also enable the Estate to hire a program expert to expand the breadth of Fair Lane’s offerings and improve its outreach to audiences throughout metropolitan Detroit.

The support for UM–Dearborn and Fair Lane comes as part of $6 million in Kresge Foundation grants for 53 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in the Detroit area. Other recipients with maize and blue connections include the Sphinx Organization, founded by Aaron Dworkin (BMUS ‘97, MMUS ‘98) to promote diversity in classical music through instructional programs and competition.

For further information on the Henry Ford Estate, visit www.henryfordestate.org
To learn more about the Kresge Foundation, visit www.kresge.org

In Memoriam: Samuel Frankel (1913 – 2008)

For decades, real estate developer, Michigan alumnus and philanthropist Samuel Frankel, who died on April 7 at the age of 94, and his wife, Jean (AB ‘36), generously supported local, national and international causes. These included Jewish religious, educational and service organizations as well as community healthcare and cultural institutions, often without fanfare.

At the U-M, gifts from the Frankels of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., made a range of exceptional opportunities possible in education and medicine.

“Sam Frankel’s amazing commitment to the University of Michigan has transformed our teaching, research and healthcare,” President Mary Sue Coleman said. “As the patriarch of one of our community’s most thoughtful and civic-minded families, Sam Frankel’s spirit of giving has enlivened all of southeastern Michigan.”

The couple established the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the U-M through a joint gift with the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation. Their Samuel and Jean Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation later created the Center’s Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, one of only a handful of institutes worldwide that brings together leading scholars of Jewish history, culture, literature and religion to pursue collaborative advanced study.

“Samuel Frankel was a pioneer in his support of Jewish studies,” said Center Director Deborah Dash Moore. “Early on, he recognized the value of the young field and nurtured the University of Michigan’s program with unwavering confidence in the abilities of its faculty and students.”

Among other gifts to the U-M, Sam and Jean Frankel endowed the Frankel Professorship in Cardiovascular Surgery at the Medical School and supported it with a research fund.

“The Frankel name will live on as a mark of distinguished achievement and promise in cardiovascular medicine and surgery at our University,” said Robert Kelch, M.D., U-M Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and CEO, U-M Health System.

Sam Frankel’s philanthropic character is carried on by his sons and their wives, Stanley (AB ‘63, MBA ’64), vice-chair of The Michigan Difference campaign, and Judith; Stuart (BBA ’61) and Maxine (AB DRBN ’66); and Bruce (BBA ’67) and Dale (AB ’68, CERTT EDUC ’68, AM ’69); as well as by his daughter, Jo Elyn, and her husband, George Nyman.

Michigan celebrates Sam Frankel’s lifetime of generosity, and mourns his passing as a great loss for U-M and the many communities he enriched.
Stem cell research attracts Alperns’ support

“Because we live in a democratic country with a long and proud history of openness and freedom, we wish to personally support the most promising stem cell research at the University of Michigan with the greatest potential for increasing the understanding of fundamental stem cell biology and treating human disease. Anyone wishing to support stem cell research can contribute to the fund.”

Robert (AB ’42, MBA ‘43) and Marge (AB ’42, CERTT EDUC ’42) Alperns’ earlier U-M support includes significant gifts for Complementary and Integrative Medicine as well as for the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.

To learn more about making a gift to the fund, visit www.medicineatmichigan.org/gifts/, select Michigan Online Giving and choose “Alpern Stem Cell Research Fund” from the pull-down list.

For more information on stem cell research at Michigan, go to www.lsi.umich.edu/facultyresearch/centers/stemcellbiology or www.med.umich.edu/medschool/hes/

In Memoriam: Terrence A. Elkes (1934 - 2008)

Terrence A. Elkes’ wisdom and generosity continue to enrich the Michigan experience for students and professors. Elkes (JD ’58), who died on Jan. 18 at the age of 73, and his wife, Ruth (AB ’59), who died Nov. 26, 2007, showed a particular passion for Law at Michigan. They created two major scholarships based on Terry’s appreciation for the financial support he received as a U-M law student. In addition, the couple established the Elkes Fund for Faculty Excellence. Also known as the Elkes Leaves Program, the Fund helps attract and retain top professors by enabling them to take a semester off to conduct research.

The impact of Terry Elkes’ commitment as a volunteer leader also endures at Michigan. A member of President Mary Sue Coleman’s Advisory Group and the University’s Investment Advisory Committee, he also served on the Law School’s Host Committee of New York and as an honorary chair of the School’s Campaign Steering Committee. The national chair of Law’s Steering Committee during the last Campaign for Michigan, Terry received the Presidential Societies’ Service Citation for his efforts. And for the last 15 years, the Rye, N.Y., resident’s contributions as a trustee of the Law School’s Cook Trust ensured a steady stream of support for academic research.

“Terry Elkes’ extraordinary insights and commitment were invaluable gifts to the Law School and the University,” said Law School Dean Evan Caminker. “He had a wonderful ability to share his expertise and vision when and where they were needed most. He will be truly missed.”

The former president and CEO of media giant Viacom, Terry worked most recently as a principal in the New York City investment group Apollo Partners. The Elkes are survived by sons Daniel, David, and Steven, as well as by seven grandchildren.
Dear Friends,

These are interesting times in the economics of higher education.

With revenues derived mainly from tuition, state appropriations, gifts, investments and research funding, public universities like the U-M are working harder than ever to adapt to shifts in these income streams to guarantee their financial future.

Michigan, like so many of our peers, faces escalating costs in such key areas as energy, facilities maintenance and renewal, the competitive market for faculty, and employee healthcare benefits, which have grown at three times the rate of inflation. State budget woes, meanwhile, have resulted in reduced funding. The U-M’s support from Lansing accounted for 61 percent of our General Fund budget in 1980. In 2007-2008, it had fallen to 24 percent. The 11 percent decline in state funding over the last six years translates to a $40 million decrease that’s actually $100 million when accounting for inflation. The U-M’s support from Lansing accounted for 61 percent of our General Fund budget in 1980. In 2007-2008, it had fallen to 24 percent. The 11 percent decline in state funding over the last six years translates to a $40 million decrease that’s actually $100 million when accounting for inflation. This challenging combination — rising expenses and reduced state aid — places upward pressure on the costs borne by students.

The University’s conservative fiscal management and the stewardship and support of our endowment, however, mean the U-M continues to thrive.

Our endowment today stands at $7.1 billion because of thousands of donors like you and a highly-productive investment policy that delivered a 25.6 percent return in 2007. Through an average effective spending rate of at least 5 percent annually over the last decade, the University has relied on this robust endowment to provide critical support for financial aid, research, faculty and educational programs. Its impact can’t be overstated.

Michigan recently illustrated this point for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, which asked 136 colleges and universities to provide details on their financial aid spending and endowment management. [For a copy of the U-M’s comprehensive response, visit www.umich.edu/pres/UMich-SFC_Response_Web.pdf or feel free to contact my office.] The committee’s questions reflect a simmering debate in the media and on Capitol Hill over whether schools like Michigan should more aggressively tap the wealth of their endowments to offset the rising costs of education.

Doing so would be a mistake for a variety of reasons:

• During times when state appropriations decline and the economy fluctuates, the discipline of Michigan’s endowment spending rule ensures a reliable, predictable source of funding. In 2001 and 2002, for example, the endowment generated negative rates of return, but a positive 5 percent payout was still made possible because of the prudent payouts made during the years when the endowment posted positive returns.

• Even in the face of increased operational costs, which place upward pressure on tuition, the endowment helps ensure accessibility to a U-M education. More than $442 million has already been raised in this campaign for student aid, bringing the total endowment for this priority to $1.4 billion, or 20 percent of the endowment. In the last seven years, the market value of our endowed scholarship funds has grown 90 percent.

• Donors have endowed 180 new professorships during The Michigan Difference, bringing our total endowed professorships to 451. This visionary generosity gives the U-M the ability to compete in the marketplace for the very best academic and research talent across all areas of the University.

• Building our endowment today provides us with the means to control our own destiny. Through March, your campaign generosity has added $841 million to the endowment, which features approximately 6,200 thoughtfully-established donor funds to meet our specific requirements in perpetuity.

As we move forward at Michigan and in the campaign, I hope you will take time to reflect on the importance of strengthening our endowment and appreciate the difference support from donors will make for future generations of Wolverines.

Sincerely,

Jerry May
Is it fall yet?

It may only be spring, but the Office of Reunions & Reunion Giving wants alumni to be thinking ahead to fall for a special trip back to Ann Arbor. Members of the Class of ’58 are invited to campus Oct. 3–5 for their 50th Reunion Weekend Celebration, and alumni who graduated in 1957 and before are welcomed back to celebrate Emeritus Weekend. This weekend will feature lectures, intimate school and college events on Friday, a festive Go Blue Tailgate just prior to the Illinois football game on Saturday, and the prestigious Reunion Gala and Emeritus pin presentation that evening.

Undergraduate alumni from the Classes of ’03 through ’08 are invited to the Recent Grad Reunion Sept. 26–28 to connect with friends, celebrate at the Wolverine Club party on Friday, and enjoy fun and games at the Go Maize Tailgate before the kickoff with Wisconsin.

Look for invitations to arrive in June. To learn more, visit www.reunions.umich.edu, or call 866-998-6150.

QUESTIONS… COMMENTS

WANT MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO MICHIGAN? Visit our website www.themichigandifference.org

HAVE COMMENTS FOR THE EDITOR? Send emails to leaders+best@umich.edu

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON GIVING TO MICHIGAN CONTACT:

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