

MICHIGAN

ALUM

FALL 2025

PAGE 16

What It Means To Be Human

Greg Epstein, '99, MA'04, is a secular chaplain who helps college students (and readers) consider the big questions.

PAGE 18

GOAL-ORIENTED

PAGE 22

ON AIR ALUMS

PAGE 26

DEVELOPING A LEGACY COLLECTION



**“I can’t think of a
more important
thing to do in one’s
time on this planet
than to determine the
purpose of one’s life.”**

14



FEATURES

14 What It Means To Be Human

Greg Epstein, '99, MA'04, is a secular chaplain who helps college students (and readers) consider the big questions.

BY ROBYN ROSS

18 Goal-Oriented

Jessica Berman, '99, dreamed of being a sports commissioner as a teen. Now she's helping the National Women's Soccer League grow during a surge of interest in women's sports.

BY JEREMY CARROLL

22 On Air Alums

There are 4.5 million podcasts worldwide. From Supreme Court analyses to book recommendations, meet three Wolverines hosting shows of their own.

BY STEVE ZOSKI, '13

26 Developing a Legacy Collection

Through decades of collecting and research, David Tinder, '49, amassed a comprehensive archive of early Michigan photography, now preserved at the Clements Library.

BY KATHERINE FIORILLO

DEPARTMENTS

5 Around the U

31 Your Association

41 Alumni News + Notes

64 Around Town

Cover photo by Cydney Scott Photography

Where's the Wolverine?

Since the University's earliest years, the wolverine has occupied a special place in the heart of each Michigan Wolverine. Michigan Alum pays tribute to the wolverine by inconspicuously placing it in the magazine. Last issue, Wolvie was on page 7. See if you can find Wolvie in this issue!





Keep Making Michigan Moments

WHETHER NEAR OR FAR, OUR BOND AS WOLVERINES TIE US.

The global reach of the University of Michigan alumni network is unparalleled, meaning that wherever you go, a Wolverine is likely to be there. U-M grads lend their expertise to a broad range of industries, hail from 181 countries, and wear their block Ms with pride. I'm sure we have all had the experience of shouting "Go Blue!" in unexpected places — maybe sharing a brief Michigan moment with perfect strangers who turn out to be members of the Wolverine family.

I treasure these Michigan moments, especially when traveling and spending time with alumni in their home communities. Sometimes it seems the block M resonates even stronger the further you get from Ann Arbor, Dearborn, or Flint. One of my favorite experiences is the Pan Asia Alumni Reunion, where hundreds of U-M alumni convene from across Asia to engage with each other and U-M leaders and faculty like Dr. Zhen Xu, MS'03, PhD'05, who is at the forefront of biomedical engineering due to her histotripsy research. In May, I had the privilege of networking not just with alumni attendees, but also with current Ross School of Business students who were in Hong Kong for an immersion program. There is magic in facilitating intergenerational connections among Wolverines.

Whether these moments happen in the States, abroad, or in Northern Michigan on the shore of Walloon Lake at Camp Michiganiana, I am regularly reminded of the strength of our Wolverine community, and how each generation plays a role in strengthening our ties. In June, we welcomed more than

70 alumni club and affiliate leaders to Ann Arbor for the Community Leader Workshop. It was a delight to see familiar faces back on campus, including two recent grads I've known since their early college days. Zoe Evans, '21, and Jumanah Saadeh, MA'19, were both engaged student leaders and have now transitioned from passionate students to inspiring alumni volunteer leaders. You can learn more about our new affiliate groups on page 34.

As the school year has kicked off, the University welcomed another record-breaking first-year class. I want to extend a special thank you to all of the alumni who helped these students along their journey, including the Alumni Student Recruiters. The ASR program is a partnership between Undergraduate Admissions and the Alumni Association, and this year, we celebrate 25 years of volunteer service and recruitment activities. Read more about the history of the program on page 33.

I also had the great pleasure of chatting with students that are part of our Mbassadors program. These students are a wonderful representation of the Leaders and Best and I really enjoyed getting to know some of them better.

Whether it's on campus or an alumni event in your community, I hope you'll continue making those Michigan moments. We are better together.

AYANNA MCCONNELL is the president and CEO of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

FALL 2025 | VOL. 132, NO. 1

Published by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan
since 1897. Founded in 1894 by Alvick A. Pearson, 1894.

PUBLISHER

Ayanna McConnell

VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Rob Clendening

DIRECTOR OF CONTENT AND CREATIVE STRATEGY

Jeremy Carroll

SENIOR EDITOR

Katherine Fiorillo

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gregory Lucas-Myers, '10

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Pryor Design Company

ART DIRECTOR

Caili Dalian, '15



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Mary Kay Haben, MBA'79

CHAIR-ELECT

Kurtis Wilder, '81, JD'84

TREASURER

Thomas W. Hawkins, '83

SECRETARY

Gabriela Teran, '96

EX OFFICIO

Ayanna McConnell

Wendell Brooks, '87; Wayee Chu, '97;

Salene Hitchcock-Gear, '84; Monica Howard Douglas, '94;

Joseph Giles, '96, MBA'01, JD'01; Li Li Leung, '95;

Prakash Patel, '89; Anup Popat, '95; Emilie Rubinfeld, '96;

John Sabat, '95; Charles F. Schwartz, '90; Rajiv Shah, '95;

Steve Shindler, '85; Paul Viera, '81; Rick Wallace, '82;

Sophie Wong, '97; Lynn Wooten, PhD'95;

Linda Zhang, '96, MSE'98, MBA'11

U-M VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT EX OFFICIO

Thomas A. Baird, '83

To contact the editors, email us at alum.editors@umich.edu.

Michigan Alum is published by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan for its members. Dues are \$74 per year which help fund the publication of the magazine. Michigan Alum offices are located at Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1007. Phone: 734.764.0384 or 800.847.4764. Website: alumni.umich.edu. Postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. The Michigan Alum magazine, logo, and content are copyrighted and owned by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. The magazine is not for resale. No form of reproduction of the magazine is permissible. For reprints or further information, contact the editor at alum.editors@umich.edu.

Member: Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Not the Last Demand

As I was reading the Summer 2025 issue of the Michigan Alum, it struck me that eliminating DEI and the LEAD Scholar program won't be the last programs the University will be "asked" to sacrifice by the government. The Alum summer issue highlights sustainability. Given the administration's hatred of all things related to protecting the environment, the University should expect a demand from the government to end all such programs or face loss of federal funding (again). It remains to be seen whether the University's craven capitulation over DEI will extend to these other programs as well. — **Tim Klaver, MALS'80**

Big Ten Solutions

As a graduate of both UCLA and U-M, I celebrated the Big Ten expansion that put my alma maters in the same conference. At the same time, I was concerned about the extensive travel's potential toll on athletes', coaches', and staff members' health and sleep hygiene. As the Summer 2025 issue ("The Big Ten's Bigger Carbon Footprint") pointed out, however, airplane fuel emissions would also increase tremendously. One possible solution, tried out this past softball season, is to bring several Big Ten schools together at one site so that the teams could play multiple series in a single trip. U-M was one of eight conference teams to participate in this experiment, playing against Maryland and Wisconsin in Oklahoma City. — **Alan Reifman, MA'85, PhD'89**

Forgotten Events

The Summer 2025 edition of the Michigan Alum reviews "The JFK Conspiracy" by Brad Meltzer, '92, HLLD'24, and Josh Mensch, who say the Dec. 1960 attempt on Kennedy's life in Florida is not very well-known because the news was quickly drowned out by the sensational story of the collision over New York City of two

American commercial airliners, killing all 128 persons aboard the planes and six more on the ground. That catastrophe was followed the next morning by another in Munich, Germany, when an aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force and carrying mostly American students studying at the University of Maryland's Munich campus home for Christmas took off in a blizzard and hit the steeple of one of Munich's highest churches, losing power and plummeting into the street below. The pilot was the father of one of the students.

The 180 victims in New York and Munich amounted to, at the time, aviation's greatest death toll in a 24-hour period. The 12 students who died in that inferno in Munich were my friends on that campus. Two years later, I would transfer from there to the University of Michigan. I would not be surprised if the news from those two extraordinary accidents within such a short time was sufficient to distract the attention of most people from the valuable story that Meltzer and Mensch tell. I vaguely recall reading about it at the time, but I, too, had long since forgotten about it. — **Victor Mason, '64**

MICHIGAN ALUM welcomes letters from its readers. To be considered for publication, letters must be clearly labeled "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line or on the envelope and include the writer's name, address, and class year. Email them to alum.editors@umich.edu, or send them to Letter to the Editor, Michigan Alum, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Letters may be edited for length and/or clarity. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Michigan Alum or the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

Stay Connected

Follow us @michiganalumni



Get back



Ann Arbor, MI

to you in A2.

Ann Arbor is more than the ultimate college town. It's seven unique destinations made for reconnecting with the real you.

Trek world-class trails. Dig into our award-winning eats. Or just relax with the people you love.



Plan your trip at annarbor.org.



DESTINATION
**ANN
ARBOR**

→ UPDATES FROM CAMPUS

AROUND THE U

DIAG UNDER CONSTRUCTION

As the fall semester began, Wolverines didn't have the opportunity to risk their first blue book exam grade by stepping on the M — the choice was made for them as the Diag remained under construction with accessibility, drainage, and other improvements underway. New brick pavers are being installed to keep the heavily used walkways safe and preserve the iconic Block M; improved drainage and new sidewalks will support soil and tree health; and a new ADA-accessible ramp is being added on the east side of Hatcher Library. Construction is anticipated to be complete by mid-October.



\$200
cash back
bonus offer*

The Alumni Association of the University of Michigan Customized Cash Rewards credit card

Maximize your cash back by choosing how you earn rewards, now with a **double cash back offer** in your choice category for the first year!

Get a \$200 cash back bonus if you make at least \$1,000 in purchases in the first 90 days of account opening.*

Earn 6% cash back for the first year in the category of your choice: gas and EV charging stations; online shopping, including cable, internet, phone plans and streaming; dining; travel; drug stores and pharmacies; or home improvement and furnishings. You'll automatically earn 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs, and unlimited 1% cash back on all other purchases. **After the first year from account opening, you'll earn 3% on purchases in your choice category.**¹

Earn 6% and 2% cash back on the first \$2,500 in combined purchases each quarter in the choice category, and at grocery stores and wholesale clubs, then earn unlimited 1% thereafter. After the 3% first-year bonus offer ends, you will earn 3% and 2% cash back on these purchases up to the quarterly maximum.

Carry the only card that helps support the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan

This offer is unique to this solicitation. Our credit card offers may vary, and this offer may not be available elsewhere. You can take advantage of this offer when you apply now.

To apply, please visit:
go.bofa.com/umich

6%
~~3%~~
cash back

DOUBLE CASH BACK
for a year



Gas & EV
Charging Stations



Online Shopping
& More



Dining



Travel



Drug Stores
& Pharmacies



Home Improvement
& Furnishings

2%
cash back

at **grocery stores
& wholesale clubs**

1%
cash back

unlimited on all
other purchases

Brought to you by:

BANK OF AMERICA



For information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this card or to apply, please visit go.bofa.com/umich. Residents of the US and its territories only. See full disclosure for details.

* **Bonus Cash Rewards Offer.** You will qualify for \$200 bonus cash rewards if you use your new credit card account to make any combination of purchase transactions totaling at least \$1,000 (excluding any fees) that post to your account within 90 days of the account open date. Returns, credits, and adjustments to this card will be deducted from purchases, even if this card was not the original payment method. Cash Advances and Balance Transfers are not considered purchases and do not apply for purposes of this offer. Limit 1 bonus cash rewards offer per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to customers opening a new account in response to this offer and will not apply to requests to convert existing accounts. Your account must be open with active charging privileges in order to receive this offer. Other advertised promotional bonus cash rewards offers can vary from this promotion and may not be substituted. Once you qualify, you will receive your cash rewards within your next 1-2 billing cycles. The value of this reward may constitute taxable income to you. You may be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 (or other appropriate form) that reflects the value of such reward. Please consult your tax advisor, as neither we, nor our affiliates, provide tax advice.

¹ **Customized Cash Rewards Additional Earn Choice Category Bonus Offer.** Earn an additional 3% cash rewards bonus (equal to \$0.03 for every \$1) on Net Purchases in the Choice Category you have selected that are made with the card each billing cycle and post to your account within 365 days of the account open date. This offer is in addition to the 3% cash rewards you will earn in the Choice Category you have selected for a total of 6% cash rewards. This offer is subject to the \$2,500 quarterly limit for Bonus Categories in which eligible Net Purchases made in both the 2% and 3% Bonus Categories earn bonus cash rewards on the first \$2,500 of combined Net Purchases posted to the account each calendar quarter. Once the \$2,500 quarterly limit is reached, additional Net Purchases will not earn the additional 3% cash rewards earn offer until the first day of the next calendar quarter; instead, they will earn the standard 1% base cash rewards for that period. Cash Advances and Balance Transfers are not considered purchases and do not apply for purposes of this offer. Limit 1 bonus cash rewards offer per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to customers opening a new account in response to this offer and will not apply to requests to convert existing accounts. Your account must be open with active charging privileges in order to receive this offer. This offer will not apply to any customer bonus or account opening bonus, nor will you receive any Bank of America Preferred Rewards® bonus on the additional cash rewards earned from this offer. The value of this reward may constitute taxable income to you. You may be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 (or other appropriate form) that reflects the value of such reward. Please consult your tax advisor, as neither we, nor our affiliates, provide tax advice.

This credit card program is issued and administered by Bank of America, N.A. Visa and Visa Signature are registered trademarks of Visa International Service Association, and are used by the issuer pursuant to license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Bank of America and the Bank of America logo are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation. The Contactless Symbol and Contactless Indicator are trademarks owned by and used with permission of EMVCo, LLC.

©2025 Bank of America Corporation

MAP8025078

AD-02-25-0383.A

Research

► COOL SENSATIONS

Researchers from the U-M Life Sciences Institute published a study demonstrating that a spinal circuit in mice conveys cool signals from the skin to the brain, indicating that evolution has created different circuits for hot and cold temperatures.

Why it matters: Not only does this deepen our understanding of fundamental biology and bring us closer to unraveling evolutionary explanations, but it can also help develop targeted therapies to improve quality of life, for example, in people who experience pain caused by cool temperatures after chemotherapy.

► EMISSIONS ROADMAP

Supported in part by the U-M Electric Vehicle Center, U-M researchers have done a comprehensive analysis to provide drivers with estimates of emissions per mile driven across 35 different combinations of vehicle class and powertrains, finding that a more electrified vehicle will reduce drivers' greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of where they live in the contiguous U.S.

Why it matters: This analysis will help drivers understand their greenhouse gas emissions and will provide valuable information to policymakers and the automotive industry.

► BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE

In an analysis that involved 100,000 trees belonging to nearly 130 species, research led by U-M found that trees with more diverse neighbors in wetter climates grew more, while in drier climates, the effect was weaker or nonexistent. By the study's metrics, Michigan's forests would qualify as wet.

Why it matters: This study demonstrates the importance of high neighborhood diversity in forest management, which will help maximize biodiversity as one of many nature-based climate solutions.

Look to Michigan

Interim U-M President Domenico Grasso, PhD'84, announced an evolution to U-M's strategic vision, previously known as Vision 2034. In addition to the existing impact areas — life-changing education; human health and well-being; democratic, civic and global engagement; and energy, climate action, sustainability and environmental equity — Look to Michigan now includes an additional pillar: advanced technology, which Grasso says will aim to develop and harness innovation responsibly, to ensure breakthroughs serve the common good.

Expanded Go Blue Guarantee

As part of U-M's 2025-26 budget, the Go Blue Guarantee (GBG) will expand access for middle-income families by increasing eligibility to families making up to \$125,000. Additionally, the University will fully cover the cost of attendance for GBG-eligible students in teacher education and nursing, and for those GBG graduates enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at the School of Social Work.

Early Decision Applications

U-M will introduce Early Decision for the fall 2026 application cycle, giving first-year applicants the option to receive an admission decision from U-M Ann Arbor in December. The binding program is designed for students who know U-M is their top choice, and will be offered alongside Early Action and Regular Decision options.



New Programs

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP

This 30-credit graduate degree from the School of Social Work will be available beginning fall 2026, for aspiring leaders who are committed to driving meaningful, measurable impact across public, nonprofit, and private sectors. The program includes a year-long community-based problem-solving project and is designed for recent graduates and mid-career professionals who want a social work education with coursework that focuses on leadership instead of licensure.



▲ INTEGRATED BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING

Offered by the College of Engineering and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, students will be able to combine a Bachelor of Business Administration with a Bachelor of Science in any engineering major in this new dual degree program. The coursework will blend technical depth with business acumen, include co-curricular activities, and emphasize innovation, action-based learning, and strategic thinking.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM

First-year students interested in pursuing teacher education will now be able to begin educator preparation learning earlier in their careers by applying directly to the Educator Preparation Program at the Marsal Family School of Education, rather than being admitted to LSA and applying as sophomores for the teacher education program. The program prepares educators to support the well-being and learning of young people, as well as their families and communities.

First Oakland County Facility

A \$40 million gift from Kenneth Eisenberg will establish the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care in Oakland County, Michigan. Expected to open in spring 2027, the facility will enhance access to specialty clinical services provided by U-M clinicians for patients in Oakland County and across Southeast Michigan. A portion of the new gift, \$15 million, will build upon the work at the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg and Family Depression Center to support mental health research.

Strengthening Health Workforce

U-M's School of Public Health has received a five-year, \$1.8 million award to establish the Center of Excellence for Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health to address critical gaps in the maternal and child health workforce. The center will aim to address national and Michigan-specific health challenges by addressing workforce development gaps, increasing academic-practice partnerships, and developing strategies to enhance the impact of these efforts.

Additionally, the school has launched a comprehensive Certificate in Maternal Child Health. The program includes a maternal and child health-focused practice or research experience, including internships with public health agencies, research projects addressing maternal and child health challenges, and community service activities.

CAN YOU GUESS THAT GRAD?

As a child, what future neurosurgeon had her academic course corrected by a chance visit from her grandmother?

Answer on page 49.



BACK IN MY DAY

Switchboard Operators

We explore how alum's memories of campus have changed today.

BACK IN MY DAY...

"I lived in the new Mary Markley and worked as a switchboard operator. If the phones were too busy, we announced '30 seconds please,' then disconnected the call. I got called back to the switchboard during my senior year when they were changing to dial phones and did not want to train new operators."

— Carolyn Creighton Rhode, '64, MD'72

TODAY... almost all students arrive on campus with personal smartphones, and phones are no longer provided in dorm rooms.

Corridor phones began to arrive in University of Michigan dormitories throughout the 1910s and 1920s, with additional phone lines and switchboards frequently being added to support ever-increasing demand among students.

Callers would reach a dorm's switchboard by dialing the dorm's number — Helen Newberry's, for instance, was 2338 in 1920 — which would then be answered by a resident, who would fetch the intended recipient of the call. Additional phones were available in shared spaces such as the Michigan Union, which boasted a telephone service with 20 telephone booths throughout the building.

As telephone use grew throughout the 1920s and 1930s, telephone companies continued to add phone lines to connect local and long-distance calls. In turn, switchboards were added and reorganized to improve service. For example, Stockwell and Mosher-Jordan had their own small

Back in My Day is a new Around the U section that highlights alumni memories of campus life, from long-gone traditions, classes that have been replaced, or forgotten events today's students wouldn't believe. Whether it was five or 50 years ago, we'll explore how campus life has evolved from back in your day.

Have a memory you'd like to share?

Email us at alum.editors@umich.edu.

switchboards until they were centralized at Alice Lloyd in the fall of 1949, in the hopes that three operators working together on one switchboard would be more efficient than working separately.

A 1955 Michigan Daily article reported switchboard operators in women's dorms would sometimes report "80 to 90 busy signals in an hour" during busy weekends or bad weather. With a ratio of up to 23 women students per corridor phone, the switchboard operators' job proved challenging, often unable to connect phone lines due to busy signals, and students complained their calls were regularly interrupted by switchboard operators with incoming calls. The solution was to add more corridor phones, suggest a three-minute call rule, and request callers dial specific lines rather than the dormitory switchboard.

Phone service began in individual dorm rooms in the fall of 1951 with the opening of South Quad, which then was a men's-only dorm. Students were polled to gauge interest in phones for each room, though the 1952 consensus was only if they were available at no additional cost.

The first private phones in a women's hall were added in 1958 in Mary Markley, provided alongside an Ann Arbor telephone book. The process of adding phones to each room was slow, and the update didn't reach Martha Cook until 1975, when the switchboard was dismantled and donated to the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre's prop collection.

The rise of personal cell phones throughout the 2000s, as well as the introduction of smartphones, ushered in a sharp decline in landline usage, deeming in-room phones an unnecessary housing expense.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2003, fewer than 3 percent of adults lived in wireless-only households, a statistic that shot up to 73 percent by 2022. Though many older adults still have landlines, 85 percent of adults ages 18-24 are "wireless-only."

Given the decline of phone set usage in residence halls, U-M terminated phone service to traditional and legacy halls in 2017. However, courtesy phones can still be found in certain locations within housing spaces.

KATHERINE FIORILLO is the senior editor of Michigan Alum.

HISTORY LESSONS

The Days of Michigan Dames

Wives of U-M graduate students and interns formed the Michigan Dames in 1921.

> “The wives of graduate students and interns,” wrote Michigan Daily associate editor Ethel Norberg, ’40, ’42, in 1939, “Make up the membership of one of the most active organizations on the University campus, the University of Michigan Dames.”

Dedicated to a mission of providing betterment for its members, the Michigan Dames funded various social, educational, special interest, and charitable activities. Most of all, the Dames provided a structure of assistance and chance to connect with others in what could easily be an isolating experience.

While the place of female students continued to be pushed forward at U-M and broadly, they had to deal with the realities of the present. As their husbands pursued advanced degrees at U-M, most of the wives themselves were college graduates in fields ranging from romance languages to aerospace engineering by the late 1930s. Often, both husband and wife took part-time jobs to afford school while also taking care of their children. But with homemaking and housekeeping responsibilities still falling to the women, a club to connect them in community made sense.

In 1890, years before U-M appointed Eliza Mosher, MD1875, as its first dean of women students, female faculty and wives of students formed the Women’s League to help organize and alleviate the experience for incoming women.

Perhaps sensing a need for a more specialized club, graduate student Frances Adams organized an initial group of 20 women as the Michigan Dames in 1914. The idea was not U-M’s alone. Possibly the earliest Dames club



Florence Ruthven, 1904 (left), wife of U-M President Alexander G. Ruthven, PhD1906, HLLD’53, meets with Michigan Dames leaders Lettie Lange, wife of medical school student Henry J. Lange, and Ila Jean Townsley, wife of physical education’s Elmer R. Townsley, in 1939.

was formed at Harvard University in 1896. The National Association of University Dames was formed initially by chapters at the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa in 1921; in the same year, U-M’s club became the fourth to be granted a charter.

The year 1921 would prove to be significant for women at U-M. It marked the launch of the Alumnae Council of the Alumni Association’s fundraising for the building of the Michigan League, which would serve the female students as the Michigan Union did for the men. The year also saw the formation of U-M’s Faculty Women’s Club, which supported its own members and as patronesses and advisors to the Michigan Dames. The Dames had an official advisory board of wives of administrative officers and faculty members of the University, such as Florence Ruthven, 1904, wife of U-M President Alexander G. Ruthven, PhD1906, HLLD’53.

It’s not clear when the Michigan Dames ceased activities. While similar organizations continue today at

other schools (such as the Harvard Students’ Spouses & Partners Association), and the Faculty Women’s Club celebrates its 104th year this fall, recruitment and general meeting notices for the Michigan Dames disappear from The Michigan Daily in the early 1970s. A parallel may lie in the story of the Women’s League. Over the course of the 1960s, women at U-M began to hold office in student government, the Office of Student Affairs took over for separate dean positions overseeing men and women, and student activities for the Michigan Union and League also became centralized (directly leading to the official end of any gendered use of the facility or its doors).

The spirit of the Women’s League’s work was certainly not finished, but its form dissolved and reformed in other avenues. So, too, does that appear to be the case with U-M’s chapter of Dames.

GREGORY LUCAS-MYERS, ’10, is the senior associate editor of Michigan Alum.



OFFICE HOURS

Ramaswami Mahalingam

We speak to a U-M professor about a topic in their field of research.

Ramaswami Mahalingam is a professor of psychology and the director of the Barger Leadership Institute in U-M's School of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Michigan Alum spoke to Mahalingam about mindful leadership, part of his Michigan Online course, "Mindfulness, Dignity, and the Art of Human Connection."

> Why is mindfulness important in leadership development?

Leaders must possess a multi-dimensional skill set to make decisions, balancing the cognitive and emotional aspects of decision-making. Mindful leadership is a holistic approach to thinking about values and cultural practices in the workplace, emphasizing kindness and compassion, with actions guided by the values that are important to them.

Mindful leaders promote compassion, rejoice with their employees' success, provide resources to excel, and support them all the way. By recognizing the dignity of self and others and fostering a culture of dignity, leaders can enhance well-being, mental health, and productivity in the workplace.

> Of the seven features of the Mindful Mindset — compassion, sympathetic joy, critical

intersectional awareness, negative capability, cultural humility, wonder, and generosity — which do you find is the easiest for leaders to adopt?

Compassion comes readily because whenever there is suffering, people respond with it. As mindful leaders become more intentional about compassion, whenever there is suffering in the workplace, they respond and support by providing all the things their staff needs.

> Which seems to be the hardest?

Sympathetic joy doesn't come easily. In Buddhism, *Mudita* is the practice of finding joy in the happiness and success of others, even if it does not directly benefit us. It's difficult because if something good happens to people around us, our immediate response can be jealousy and social comparison.

A mindful leader can generate sympathetic joy in the workplace, where they help people feel good about themselves, support one another, and feel respected for their work, thereby creating a culture of dignity.

> How can leaders begin to build mindful, dignity-centered connections?

Mindfulness is not just about doing meditation. It is recognizing the dignity and humanity in ourselves and others, and acting with compassion, sympathetic joy, and spreading happiness around us. Start with generosity, wonder, and negative capability.

Generosity is how we think about the different ways people contribute to our lives through material, intellectual, and emotional means. Keep a journal of the generosity you receive or witness, from a colleague sharing their knowledge to a stranger performing a random act of kindness. This intervention improves our mood and psychological well-being.

Wonder is a powerful force that leads to transformation. When you stand before the Taj Mahal or the Grand Canyon, you can't help but feel small. This experience can inspire a personal transformation, a humbling shift in perspective. But wonder also has a social component. When you wonder why your female colleagues are earning less, that wonder should lead to a call for social transformation.

Negative capability is our capacity to accept our imperfections and

shortcomings with profound compassion. This mindset encourages us to see our failures not as a sign of weakness, but as opportunities for growth and learning.

> How do you recommend leaders sustain these practices in challenging or stressful situations?

Leaders are faced with challenges, but it is not always about the bottom-line decision of "What am I going to do?" In such situations, mindful leaders engaging in a variety of contemplative practices — such as meditation, meditative art, journaling, and poetry — will arrive at decisions that are guided by their values, not just by the bottom-line demands.

My mindful mindset framework provides the tools to approach complex problems with clarity, courage, and a commitment to preserving dignity. Cultivating a mindful mindset will help leaders bring clarity to their intentions, deepening their connection to their values. It will empower leaders to approach the question "Why are you doing this?" with a lot more tools under their belt — and probably come up with a more optimal, creative solution to the problem.

ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

5

former student-athletes in athletics' 2025 Hall of Honor class — Brian Diemer, '83; Kristi Gannon Fisher, '05; Jon Jansen, '98; Lion Kim, '11; and Kevin Porter, '08

4.0

the perfect GPA earned by 26 student-athletes during the 2024-25 academic year

3

national records set by members of the women's track and field team — 60-meter hurdles, 400-meter dash (Canada), 400-meter hurdles (Canada)

2

fewer home football games this year, projecting a \$19.1 million drop in revenue compared to 2024's eight home games

1

run scored by Ohio State in the men's baseball matchup, the largest margin of victory against the Buckeyes in program history (23-1)



M-AIR

A 40-mile research skyway, announced in July by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, will link U-M's research in Ann Arbor to Michigan Central's testbed and innovation district in Detroit, providing a flight corridor for testing drones and electric aircraft. M-Air is the new public-private partnership, part of the existing public-private partnership Mcity, an automated vehicle test facility. M-Air will allow advanced air mobility researchers and companies to test their technologies in realistic environments, outfitted with a drone traffic management system that meets national safety standards. The corridor will also run through UM-Dearborn, providing access to students and faculty on the campus.



Enhanced Campus Safety

U-M's Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) has launched a multi-year initiative to enhance campus safety called the Security Technology Enhancement Project (STEP). In collaboration with University leadership and Information Technology Services, STEP will enhance key technologies, including access control systems, emergency phones, classroom

door locks, and security cameras. Security cameras have been on campus for more than 20 years, but new cameras will be installed in public and high-traffic areas, and will include some real-time monitoring during specific events or high-risk situations. DPSS says U-M does not use facial recognition technology in its security camera system.



SPACES

The Lurie Nanofabrication Facility

At the nanoscale, a University facility makes a big impact.

> Ph.D student Yakshita Malhotra, MS'20, enters the gowning room and slips into a coverall, boots, gloves, hood, and safety glasses — not to protect her, but to protect the delicate work inside the adjacent cleanroom. Even a single speck of dust could disrupt the nanowire LEDs she's here to develop, each approximately 100 times thinner than human hair.

It's meticulous work — and the Robert H. Lurie Nanofabrication Facility (LNF) is built for it.

Located on U-M's North Campus, the LNF is a world-class, 13,500 square foot cleanroom facility where filtered air keeps stray particles to a minimum. This ultra-clean environment is essential for nanofabrication, creating devices with dimensions measured in nanometers, the scale of billionths of a meter.

Becky Peterson, director of the LNF, says the facility is “where the magic happens” — where ideas are transformed into real-world solutions.

“The work that we do here is ultimately linked back to the technologies that we all rely on,” she explains. “That all starts with materials [and device] fabrication . . . it's not all software. It takes new sensors, new electronics, new [displays and user interfaces], and this lab is where that happens.”

The LNF offers more than 135 specialized tools, from equipment that etches patterns only a few dozen atoms wide to systems that deposit ultra-thin layers of materials. These capabilities fuel innovation in fields that shape daily life: powering faster electronics, advancing clean energy solutions, improving medical devices, and driving breakthroughs in optics and photonics.

Behind those innovations are researchers like Malhotra. While nanowire LEDs are primarily used in display technology, she believes it's just the beginning. With support from the LNF, she's deepening her understanding of these tiny

structures and exploring potential new applications, including virtual reality devices.

“It's exciting to uncover the stories that these nanostructures are waiting to tell about the physical mechanisms that make them work, and figure out where it all fits with our existing knowledge,” Malhotra says.

Malhotra is just one of more than 400 users who rely on the LNF each year, including students, educators, researchers from other universities, and industry partners from across the country. It's accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, but users must have a clear objective for being there, ensuring every visit is tied to a research project or experiment.

Supported by 20 LNF staff members, users benefit from an environment where knowledge is shared and collaborative problem-solving is encouraged. Peterson says the staff is there to support and help the users do impactful research and advance scientific knowledge.

“It's really the success of the users that is the success of the facility,” she says.

In addition to advancing nanotechnology, the LNF is shaping the next generation of scientists and researchers. Through hands-on outreach programs for undergraduate and high school students, the facility gives them an opportunity to explore nanofabrication firsthand — and step into a space where ideas can become breakthroughs.

“We're always trying to do something new and to push the edge of what we can accomplish with the existing tools and capabilities we have,” Peterson says. “The fact that [LNF users] can go into the facility and be successful developing new technologies, writing papers, discovering new scientific insights, and establishing new capabilities . . . it's pretty astounding.”

QUINN REDICK is a junior copywriter for the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

What It Means To Be Human

GREG EPSTEIN, '99, MA'04, IS A SECULAR CHAPLAIN WHO HELPS COLLEGE STUDENTS (AND READERS) CONSIDER THE BIG QUESTIONS.

BY ROBYN ROSS

When Grant Williams was leaving the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he was left questioning whether or not he could still be an honorable person if he became an atheist. He picked up a copy of “Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe,” a 2009 New York Times bestseller, and realized the author, Greg Epstein, '99, MA'04, was a chaplain on his own campus at Harvard University.

But Epstein isn't a religious chaplain — he's a humanist one, a professionally trained member of the clergy who supports the ethical and communal lives of nonreligious people. For more than 20 years, he's been helping students find meaning and purpose beyond religion.

The two began to meet regularly, and Epstein introduced Williams, who was searching for community, to other secular students.

“Something about Greg that I really love and admire is he always wants a space to be as welcoming to everyone as possible, and he never casts himself as the teacher, per se,” Williams says. “He's always facilitating conversation. He's not one to give prescriptive advice. . . . Greg was just phenomenal at being a very inviting, kind, compassionate person that maybe is opposite to how some of society views nonreligious people.”

Epstein is one of the world's most prominent humanist chaplains, and the second to hold the position

at Harvard. After spending years exploring his own relationship to religion at the University of Michigan and around the world, Epstein was introduced to humanism and realized the humanist chaplaincy was the vocation he'd been seeking.

“It was a job that I had not known existed and was immediately fascinated by,” he says, “because here was a chance to do humanism in a communal context — humanism focused around meaning and purpose and the exploration of who young people were and who they wanted to be.”

The Path to Humanism

Epstein grew up in Queens, New York, in a culturally Jewish but nonreligious family.

“We were probably either atheist or agnostic, depending on the day,” he says, “but we never talked about it that way.”

His family valued asking the “big questions” and pursuing meaning and purpose.

“But how to do so, or what that required, the theology behind that, was an unanswered question in my childhood,” Epstein says. “And my time at U-M . . . was an opportunity to ask those questions more directly, and to combine a scholarly or academic approach to such questions with a very personal, practical search for answers.”





Greg Epstein, '99, MA'04, spends much of his time as a humanist chaplain working with students at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE COMING AT ANY KIND OF SEARCH FOR PURPOSE FROM A MOSTLY SECULAR OR NONRELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE TO FEEL THAT THERE ARE POSITIVE NONRELIGIOUS VALUES, AKA HUMANISM, THAT THEY CAN DRAW ON TO LIVE A MEANINGFUL AND ETHICAL LIFE, AND HAVE A SENSE OF CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY.”

He came to the University of Michigan because he had decided he wanted to see the America that lay beyond New York City. His first day in Near Eastern Religions class, Ralph Williams, an “incredibly unusual and ultimately very charismatic and wise professor,” bounded to the lectern. Within minutes of the start of Williams’ lecture — punctuated by his enthusiastic hand gestures — Epstein was hooked. He declared a religion major, which he considered “a way to study what it is to be human.”

Epstein imagined Buddhism might hold the spiritual enlightenment he was seeking. At the suggestion of Robert Sharf, PhD’91, who taught Eastern religions, he became fluent enough in Mandarin Chinese to study Chan (or Zen) Buddhism in Taiwan over a summer.

“I went there looking for something transcendent, something beyond human,” he says. “I drew this conclusion that every religion was a human creation, and that I wasn’t going to find any special spiritual truth there that I couldn’t find anywhere else.”

After graduation, Epstein spent a year touring with Sugar Pill, a rock band that headlined The Blind Pig in

Ann Arbor. Somewhat adrift, he met Rabbi Binyamin Biber, MSW’00, a student at the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Epstein remembers Biber observing that, despite Epstein’s lack of religious affiliation, the career interests he described resembled a clergy position.

Biber invited him to a class taught by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, ’50, MA’51, the founder of humanistic Judaism. The movement marries Jewish culture with humanism, which Epstein describes as “a positive, affirming, ethical philosophy of life for nonreligious people.”

Humanism, and Wine’s position as a secular rabbi, so resonated with Epstein that he enrolled that summer in the rabbinical program at the Institute. It required a master’s degree, so he began work toward a master’s in Judaic Studies at U-M.

Helping Others Find Purpose

In 2001, during a trip to Boston, Epstein arranged to meet with Tom Ferrick, who had served as Harvard’s first humanist chaplain since the 1970s. It was through their conversations that Epstein realized

“I STARTED MAKING
A LIST OF WAYS IN
WHICH MODERN-
DAY SILICON
VALLEY TECH CAN
BE COMPARED
WITH RELIGION —
AND THAT LIST IS
NEVER ENDING.”

this was the calling he was looking for. When Ferrick hired an assistant in 2004, Epstein got the job, and he took over when Ferrick retired the following year.

Epstein earned a master’s in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School and in 2009 published “Good Without God.” The book argues that people can lead purposeful, affirming, compassionate lives without subscribing to a theistic worldview and concludes with an appeal for readers to start humanist communities.

Epstein launched the Humanist Hub, a secular congregation in Cambridge that grew to hundreds of weekly attendees, in December 2013. The Hub, which at its peak employed 11 staff, organized meditation and book groups, activities for families, and interfaith community service programs such as packing meals for food-insecure families in Boston.

But by 2018, Epstein was no longer convinced that secular humanist congregations were the answer.

The congregational model “requires such an enormous investment of human resources,” he says. “Even a lot of traditional religions are struggling to maintain their congregations, because it’s so labor intensive to do so.”

Over its 13-year run, Epstein had invested numerous 80-hour

weeks in the fundraising and administrative work necessary to keep the Humanist Hub running. He was ready to focus his energy on something new.

One day, while reading in a café, he was struck by an idea: in many people’s lives, social media had overtaken the religious (or secular) congregation as a source of human connection.

“I started thinking, are there other ways in which we’re getting our sense of meaning, our sense of purpose, our sense of our own humanity, from tech?” he says. “I started making a list of ways in which modern-day Silicon Valley tech can be compared with religion — and that list is never ending.”

Tech executives, often portrayed as messianic geniuses, prophesied about the utopian futures their products would create. Thought leaders opined about what it meant to be human — but in debates about artificial intelligence, not how to lead an ethical life. Sometimes they took the metaphorical language even further.

“It’s not an accident that so many leaders in the AI world have referred to their creations as literal divinities,” Epstein says.

In October 2024, he published his analysis in “Tech Agnostic: How Technology Became the World’s Most Powerful Religion, and Why It Desperately Needs a Reformation” (MIT Press).

“I think many of those people are, without knowing so, worshiping at the altar of tech,” Epstein says, adding that he wrote “Tech Agnostic” partly as a consciousness-raising exercise. The book probes the “tech religion’s” theology, doctrine, visions of the future, views on charity, rituals, and leadership hierarchy.

Epstein expresses his skepticism about the tech religion, one that has the potential to exacerbate inequality, isolation, surveillance and exploitation.

“What I’m calling the tech religion may be more powerful at this point in time than all the other religions combined,” he says. “And that is not always for the good.”

The Big Questions

Epstein is working on more books to help a broad audience think through questions of meaning and ethics, including a graphic novel series, written with his friend Siwatu Moore, ’00, in which humanist philosophy figures prominently.

He’s also working on a project funded by the Omidyar Network, a tech- and social justice-focused foundation supported by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar, that will convene leaders of religious and humanist communities — and even tech leaders — for discussions about Silicon Valley’s cultural influence and what it means to be human.

But since ending operations of the Humanist Hub, Epstein has dedicated additional time to chaplaincy work at Harvard and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was appointed in 2018. He wanted to spend more time helping students think about humanity’s important questions: “Who do I want to be? How do I want to live?”

“I can’t think of a more important thing to do in one’s time on this planet than to determine the purpose of one’s life,” Epstein says. “What makes for meaningful work to me at this stage of my career is I want to help people to feel that they are achieving a sense of meaningful purpose in their life. I want to help people who are coming at any kind of search for purpose from a mostly secular or nonreligious perspective to feel that there are positive nonreligious values, aka humanism, that they can draw on to live a meaningful and ethical life, and have a sense of connection to community.”

ROBYN ROSS is a freelance journalist based in Austin, Texas.

NWSL COMMISSIONER
JESSICA BERMAN, '99,
HOLDS THE CHAMPIONSHIP
TROPHY DURING THE NWSL
CUP FINAL GAME BETWEEN
KANSAS CITY CURRENT AND
PORTLAND THORNS FC
AT AUDI FIELD ON OCT. 29,
2022, IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



GOAL-ORIENTED

Jessica Berman, '99, dreamed of being a sports commissioner as a teen.

Now she's helping the National Women's Soccer League grow during a

surge of interest in women's sports. BY JEREMY CARROLL

As the horn sounded following a goal at a New York Islanders hockey game, a 16-year-old Jessica Berman, '99, watched as two strangers near her erupted in joy, hugs, and high-fives.

That's when the Brooklyn, New York, native had an epiphany.

"I remember clear as I'm sitting here today, turning to my parents and saying, 'I need to work in sports because I can't believe that the power of this moment,'" Berman says.

After doing some research, Berman locked onto the idea of becoming the commissioner of a sports league and began telling people that's what she wanted to be when she grew up.

"I liked to be around sports, but I never knew it was something that could be for me directly," she says. "I grew up in a community that was very diverse. My friends lacked access and privilege, but I saw the way that sport allowed for them to create hope and aspiration beyond what their parents had achieved."

Some three decades later, Berman is living the career aspirations of her teenage self as the commissioner of the National Women's Soccer League, helping propel the league forward as women's sports explode in popularity.

FINDING A HOME AT U-M

Berman started her college career at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, but a visit to Ann Arbor to see her cousin, Eve Rodsky, '98, changed everything.

"I didn't know I was not in the right place until I visited [Eve] at Michigan," Berman says.

With an eye toward working in sports, she decided she needed to be at a university with a world-class athletic department. She transferred in the middle of her sophomore year and immediately went to work trying to learn all she could about the business of sports.

Berman interned with the athletic department and pounded on the door of the hockey team, saying she'd be willing

"Women's sport has always been amazing. The product hasn't changed,

the talent hasn't changed. But what has changed is the investment, from

an ownership, media, and sponsorship perspective."

JESSICA BERMAN, '99, STANDS NEXT TO A SIGNED HOCKEY JERSEY FROM U-M'S 1998 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM IN HER OFFICE AT THE NWSL HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY. THE TEAM GAVE BERMAN THE JERSEY AS A WAY TO THANK HER FOR HER UNOFFICIAL WORK WITH THE TEAM.

to do anything to help out. At the time, only the football team had official team managers, but the hockey team took Berman in for an unofficial role, and she tracked stats, wrote articles, and got players prepped for interviews for the 1998 season.

That year, the men's hockey team went on to win the national championship. But since Berman didn't have an actual position with the team, she didn't get a championship ring. The players, realizing that Berman was left out, got a jersey and had everyone sign it as a token of their appreciation for her hard work.

"That jersey has traveled with me, in that frame, to every single place I've worked," Berman says. "It's a reminder for me that the actual ring is much less important, it's the impact I made on the players and how much they appreciated the work I did. That's what drove me to do the work that I did."

Berman worked with the football and baseball teams, took side jobs as a waitress and an entertainment DJ company, all while earning her degree in sports management communications through what would become the School of Kinesiology.

Having tracked that many sports commissioners were labor attorneys, Berman set off for law school at Fordham University before landing a job at Proskauer Rose, a firm that counted several major sports leagues among its clients.

Not long after she started, the National Hockey League (NHL) was preparing for a possible work stoppage and Berman raised her hand when one of the partners needed a young associate to work on the case. That's how Berman found herself in the middle of the NHL lockout in 2004-05.

The NHL later hired Berman, and she spent 13 years working for the league, serving as deputy general counsel and later

vice president of community development, culture, and growth. Berman says she loved working at the NHL, but knew that to achieve what she wanted, she would have to leave.

"Ultimately, I made the decision that I wouldn't reach my maximum potential if I stayed and I had to make a decision about how ambitious I wanted to be in my life," she says. "It's really hard to leave something where you're happy and content."

In 2019, she became deputy commissioner of the National Lacrosse League, before taking the top job at the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) in 2022.

REBUILDING TRUST

When Berman joined the NWSL, the league was in turmoil. A year earlier, allegations of emotional abuse and sexual misconduct surfaced among multiple teams. An investigation ultimately led to four coaches receiving lifetime bans from the league, and Berman's predecessor resigned amid the scandal.

"The single biggest obstacle for this league to overcome was rebuilding trust with the players and building confidence that the league could become a successful and viable business," she says.

Berman says her previous work with the NHL infused in her the importance of working in close partnership with the players and the union to build the business. The NWSL took the opportunity to open collective bargaining agreement discussions with the players several years before the contract was up in an effort to make a deal that was focused on the players and growing the league.

In addition to large increases in salaries, what resulted was a unique contract as it relates



to sports in the U.S.: the entry draft was completely eliminated and players are free to sign with whatever team they like; no trades can be executed without the player's consent; all contracts are now guaranteed; and all players have unrestricted free agency when their contracts expire. The deal was struck in 2024, more than two years before the previous contract was set to expire.

"[The contract] is consistent with our strategy to build a player-centric league that created agency for players and ownership of their professional careers in an entirely different way," Berman says.

The resulting deal earned Berman wide praise in the sports press. She was named Executive of the Year by the Sports Business Journal and Sports Illustrated named her the Innovator of the Year.

Berman is not the only Wolverine in leadership at the NWSL. Anup Popat, '95, is a co-owner and executive board member of the NWSL's Portland Thorns FC. He says Berman has positioned the NWSL as a true global standard-bearer.

"The new benchmarks being set aren't just about today, they're about future-proofing the league against rapidly growing international competition," he says. "That level of foresight ensures the NWSL can remain progressive, sustainable, and firmly established as one of the premier soccer leagues in the world."

GROWTH OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

Berman says the surge in interest in women's sports took a major turn during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the context of the women's sports journey, I think COVID was the great equalizer because all

the men's sports were stripped of everything they had in terms of privilege and any sort of advantage they had as it related to attendance."

In 2020, before Berman was commissioner, the NWSL was the first league to resume play after a pandemic hiatus. And with no other sports on television, the American public tuned in to NWSL games in record numbers with 572,000 viewers for its opener — triple the previous best viewership for an NWSL game.

"The ratings were shocking to everyone," Berman says. "When everyone was forced to sit on their couch and not leave their house and there wasn't any sort of inherent advantage that was given to men's sports, all of a sudden, the product was speaking for itself."

Viewership and attendance continues to climb for the NWSL. Total viewership across Nielsen-rated platforms in 2024 reached 18.7 million, a fivefold gain from the 2023 season. The league's

championship game viewership averaged nearly 1 million, an 18 percent increase from the previous season.

The increased interest in women's sports isn't just about soccer. At the same time, viewership and attendance for women's basketball has skyrocketed since the emergence of Caitlin Clark and some of the most popular athletes to come out of the 2024 Summer Olympic Games were women.

"Women's sport has always been amazing. The product hasn't changed, the talent hasn't changed. But what has changed is the investment, from an ownership, media, and sponsorship perspective," Berman says. "There can be no doubt that the next generation of consumers and fans care about equity and meritocracy in a different way."

JEREMY CARROLL is the director of content and creative strategy for the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.



▲ JESSICA BERMAN, '99, SPEAKS DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOV. 09, 2023, AHEAD OF THE 2023 NWSL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.



[UPBEAT MUSIC STARTS, FADES DOWN]

Podcasts are everywhere.

There are literally millions of them worldwide. Four point five million to be precise.

People listen to them to pass time while doing housework, on their morning commute, or walking their dog.

And they cover everything from daily news and true crime to niche interests and celebrity interviews.

There are so many podcasts because they're easy to start. ... All you need is a microphone and a topic.

Heck, there's a chance your buddy started one during the pandemic and abandoned it after making you listen to six episodes.

But on today's show ... we're talking to three University of Michigan alumni who host podcasts of their own. ... And none of them stopped after six episodes. ...

I'm Steve Zoski and *this* is ...

ON AIR ALUMS

[UPBEAT MUSIC FADES UP]



THIS IS... THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

As a Michigan Law student in the mid-2000s, Jordan Harbinger, '03, JD'07 would offer networking tips to fellow students during weekly meetups at Ashley's bar on State Street.

They discussed confidence and nonverbal communication, and eventually the central topic morphed into dating advice.

"It was just my stream of consciousness thoughts on dating and relationships," Harbinger says. "How to be vulnerable and work on yourself."

But demand for his advice escalated and Harbinger started recording his talks and burning them onto CDs in his dorm room.

"All of a sudden, guys were asking to buy CDs, saying, 'I need five,'" Harbinger says. "Me and my roommate need this. My brother and uncle need this. My dad just got divorced — he needs this' . . . and I'm like, 'Guys, I'm not selling these CDs. This is a class. You're supposed to listen and give it back.' And they were like, 'Yeah, I still need five.'"

Harbinger's friend told him a "new thing called podcasting" could help. As episodes went online, thousands of listeners around the world started to download them. Even as Harbinger joined a Wall Street law firm after graduation, he continued recording after hours.

In the midst of leaving the firm during the financial crisis of 2008, Harbinger realized that he loved podcasting far more than law and decided to attempt a full-time podcasting career. Throughout the next decade, he led popular shows on streaming platforms and satellite radio, but in 2018,



he launched The Jordan Harbinger Show, which has now been downloaded more than 100 million times.

In its first year, the show was recognized as Apple's Best & Most Downloaded New Show. With more than 1,195 episodes thus far, Harbinger has signed a long-term contract with the PodcastOne network to keep going.

Harbinger "unpacks guests' wisdom into practical nuggets you can use to impact your work, life, and relationships." Having overcome job losses and setbacks throughout his life, Harbinger hopes listeners gain practical wisdom from the show's eclectic range of guests, which have included spies, diplomats, star athletes, and leading scientists.

"It's fine if you're only coming for entertainment," Harbinger says. "But if you listen to my interview with someone and you take their advice and apply it to your everyday life, that's even better, because my podcast did more than just entertain you — you learned something."

Today, Harbinger selects interviewees often by following his own interests, an approach reminiscent of how he customized his individualized major while an undergraduate.

"Going to Michigan was one of the first experiences in my life where I had choice and agency," Harbinger says. "All education up until that point had been about just getting to the next rung on the ladder. At Michigan, it's encouraged to explore different interests of yours and see what clicks, and that encouragement to forge my own path in life came at a pivotal time."



THIS IS... STRICT SCRUTINY

Each episode begins with two soundbites.

The first — “Mr. Chief Justice, may it please the Court. It’s an old joke, but when a man argues against two beautiful ladies like this, they are going to have the last word” — was spoken during the 1971 oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*.

And then — “She spoke, not elegantly, but with unmistakable clarity. She said, ‘I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks’” — a line quoted by Ruth Bader Ginsberg ahead of her first oral argument before the Court in 1973.

The bites open *Strict Scrutiny*, a podcast started by Michigan Law professor Leah Litman, JD’10, and co-hosts Kate Shaw and Melissa Murray, professors at Penn Carey Law and New York University Law schools, respectively. Litman recalls asking if they would “be interested in starting a female-led podcast about the Supreme Court to draw attention to people whose perspectives weren’t always considered.”

“The Court is pretty hard to casually follow from the outside, but its decisions have such momentous effects on so many people’s lives, including substantive law, particularly with women’s rights, reproductive freedom, and civil rights,” Litman says. “We try to make the Court accessible, given how opaque and not well understood it is, and have fun while doing so.”

Strict Scrutiny analyzes the U.S. Supreme Court and the legal culture that surrounds it. With more than 250 episodes including deep-dives into Supreme Court decisions, summaries of oral arguments, and analyses of legal news and political updates, each detangling the often-complex web of legal jargon, culture, and history for the citizens these decisions affect.

“We’ve seen how omnipresent gender and sex are in modern politics, and that includes what is happening at the Supreme Court,” Litman says.

This year, the trio was honored with the highest award recognizing women in the legal profession,

STRICT SCRUTINY



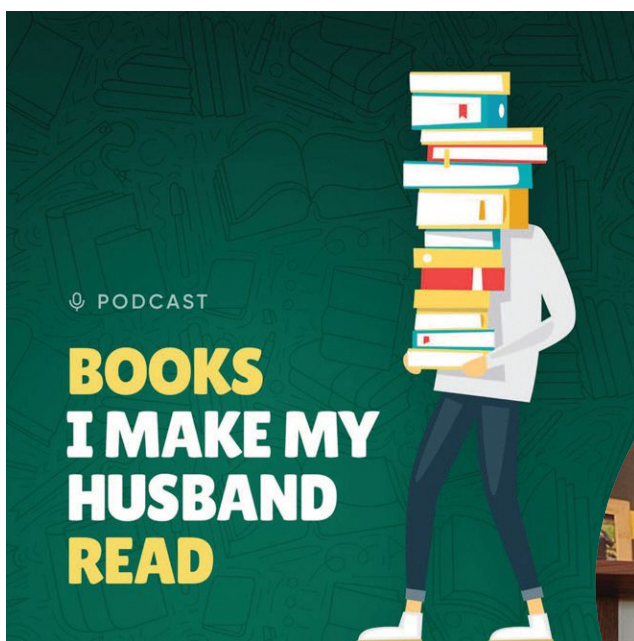
CROOKED

the Arabella Babb Mansfield Award, named after the first woman admitted to a state bar in the U.S.

“Elevating and highlighting women’s voices was an important part of starting the podcast, and hearing from women law students and aspiring law students — or just women interested in the law — is one of the best parts of it. It is very meaningful to have our podcast and its unique perspective mentioned alongside such incredible previous honorees like Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Elena Kagan, and Stacey Abrams,” Litman said in an interview with *Michigan Law*.

The group independently operated the podcast for three years before being picked up by Crooked Media, a change that allows them to focus on producing content and handling their other responsibilities as professors, writers, and lawyers. Litman says podcasting and professorship are fulfilling ways to contribute to a better-informed populace.

“The impulses that led me to start the podcast are also what I enjoy about being at a public university — they are both designed to be accessible to the public,” she says. “I think part of the Court’s power to date has come from being misunderstood or at least from people not paying a lot of attention to it, and that is what we are trying to correct.”



THIS IS... BOOKS I MAKE MY HUSBAND READ

The first book Kristy King-Pritzl, MPA'22, ever told her now-husband to read was “The Hunger Games.”

By day, King-Pritzl is a special assistant to the CEO for a national nonprofit that connects young people and adults to good jobs. By night, she reads fiction — an average of six novels a month — and works on Books I Make My Husband Read, the podcast she founded in 2024, with co-host and her husband of nearly 13 years, Jon King-Pritzl.

King-Pritzl cites Season 1: Episode 4 as one of her favorites. Alongside their discussion of “Just for the Summer” by Abby Jimenez, a book in which two unlucky-in-love characters figure they might as well date each other, the hosts touch on how mental health plays a role with the main characters.

King-Pritzl said she has been amused by how much her husband enjoys some of the romantic fiction they cover.

“A lot of the romantic fiction audience is female, and he’s like, ‘I get it, I enjoy it, I understand,’” King-Pritzl says. “‘Just for the Summer’ was unexpectedly one of his favorite books last year. We laughed so hard in that episode and had such a good time. We still talk about it.”

The couple has repurposed a room in their home to serve as their library and podcasting studio that includes two chairs situated so they can face each other when speaking, and places for their two dogs, the “chief barking officers” Harvey and Spencer, to lounge.

King-Pritzl says the authentic banter between her and



Jon is part of the podcast’s appeal. She believes working on the show together has enhanced their marriage, noting how reading and discussing books together has been a way to overcome difficult circumstances.

“We are unable to have children and that has been a journey for us,” King-Pritzl says. “I knew I wanted to start a podcast, and thought maybe it could be about our story with that, but I also remembered how I had been making Jon read books since the beginning of our relationship and thought Books I Make My Husband Read could be a podcast about books, but also a podcast about us and who we are as people.”

King-Pritzl says she finds the impactful nonprofit work she accomplishes very fulfilling, but appreciates being able to come home and recharge in fictional worlds.

“Fiction offers a way to live different lives in a way and explore different cultures and ways of thinking and feeling emotions,” King-Pritzl says. “Through other people’s stories, you can process your own emotions and what you have going on.”

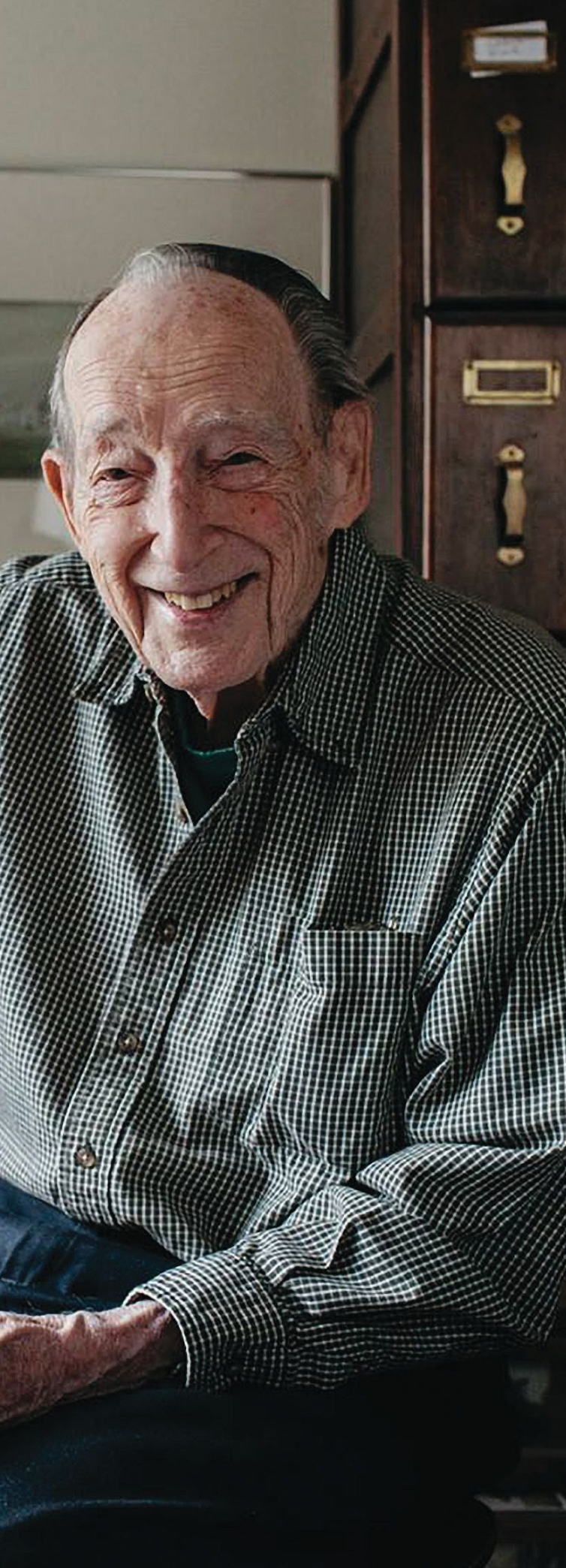
STEVE ZOSKI, '13, is a freelance writer based in Dearborn, Michigan.



BY KATHERINE FIORILLO

Developing a Legacy Collection

Through decades of collecting and research, David Tinder, '49, amassed a comprehensive archive of early Michigan photography, now preserved at the Clements Library.



David Tinder, '49, had a favorite “stunt” he liked to

perform when a new visitor arrived in his suburban metro Detroit apartment. He'd ask what town in Michigan they were from, dig in his photography collection — “packed to the ceiling,” as several friends recall — and find an old photograph of that town the new friend had never seen before.

“Dave just delighted in that kind of stuff, with a big smile on his face, he'd pull out these photos and the visitor would just be awestruck,” says Clayton Lewis. “He did that time and time again, but he was very willing to share, willing to let his photos be published by others, and be used for different projects. And that, I think, made him an attractive figure to a lot of people.”

Tinder was a renowned collector of early Michigan photography. As the curator of graphic materials at U-M's William L. Clements Library in 2002, Lewis was encouraged to get to know the collectors of the area, as the library had a long history of collection building in this manner, beginning with William Clements, 1882, himself.

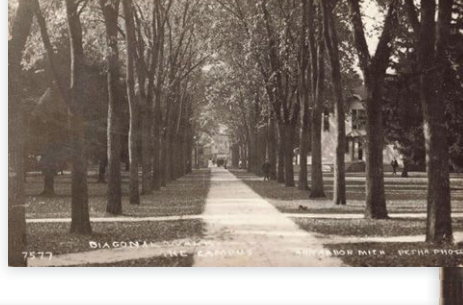
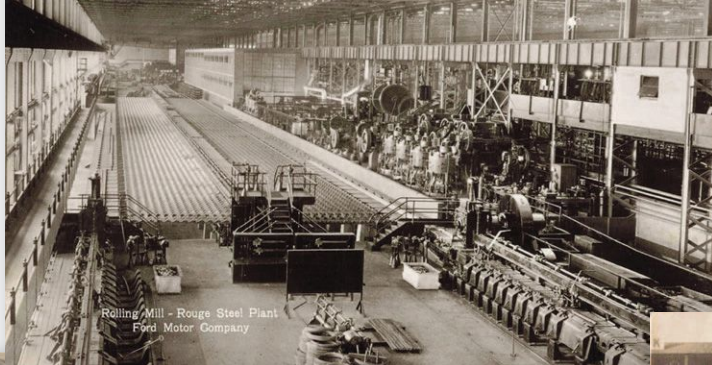
Knowing photography would be a revelatory research resource, Lewis was introduced to Tinder on a visit to his apartment, alongside the library's director, and was wildly impressed with the significance of what he'd seen.

“We started brainstorming ideas about how the University could possibly acquire this great collection. Dave Tinder was not a rich man. He wasn't in a position where he could just outright donate it, and he had invested pretty much almost everything he had in terms of his financial resources into his collection.

“That's when Dave Walters stepped in and helped guarantee that that could happen,” Lewis says.

Purchased by Clements Library Associates Board of Governors member David Walters in 2006 and incrementally donated to the University's research library in honor of Walters' parents, Harold L. Walters, '47, and Marilyn S. Walters, '50, the David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography consists of more than 100,000 images in a variety of formats, capturing everyday life in Michigan from the 1840s into the mid-twentieth century. Amassed over Tinder's lifetime, the collection is now housed at the Clements Library on the University of Michigan's Central Campus.

“It was very gratifying for me to be able to have a small hand in that, but certainly, it was Dave [Tinder's] effort that made this whole thing possible,” Walters says. “I don't think there will be a serious publication about the state of Michigan that doesn't include material from the Tinder Collection. There are other great collections of state photography, but I think Tinder certainly ranks up there as a seminal collection of state photography.”



Developing an Archive

Tinder graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in physics after serving in the U.S. Navy as an electronic technician's mate. He spent the majority of his career as a project engineer and product development manager for automotive manufacturers and suppliers in the Detroit area, and was issued 16 U.S. patents.

Tinder began collecting antiques and art in the 1950s, and shifted to international photographic stereo views before focusing on early Michigan photography in the 1970s. By the following decade, he was a well-known collector in the state.

Cynthia Motzenbecker, who served as treasurer of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society for 20 years and president for another 18, first heard about Tinder at local flea markets before finally meeting him at one such event. The two started trading photos and became lifelong friends. Motzenbecker recalls attending many antique shows with Tinder.

"He would wear a T-shirt and with a button-up shirt over it, and then he would stick the shirt in his pants and he'd fill up his shirt with all this stuff so he wouldn't have to carry it," Motzenbecker recalls. "And then on the way home in the car, he'd start looking at [the photographs]."

Tinder collected images at antique and trade shows and by traveling to small shops around the state, and later with the help of online reselling platforms like eBay and Etsy. But the community he established also largely aided his efforts.

"A lot of these dealers got to know Dave and what he was interested in, and they'd set stuff aside for him. So when Dave showed up at one of these antique fairs, the dealers would have a little box of stuff just for him to go through, and he would buy it up," Lewis says. "I think it got to the point where other collectors of early Michigan photography would feel guilty if they had something really good."

Today, the Tinder Collection is comprised of daguerreotypes, cartes de visites, cabinet photographs, real photo postcards, and many other photo formats, with images by professional and amateur photographers, capturing Michigan towns, societal and construction development, and glimpses into ways of life.

"The significance is both the quality of the images, some of which are exceedingly rare, and show us glimpses of American life that are unrecorded in any other form. But it's also, in the case of the Tinder Collection, the sheer size, the number of images, is extraordinary. By using the collection as a research resource, there's no stone unturned. You're seeing this incredibly wide swath of information in visual American life," Lewis says.

It wasn't a simple decision to have Tinder's expansive archive entrusted to the Clements.

Though the collection could have been sold for a significant price, Tinder wasn't interested in selling. But years earlier, there had been a small fire in his apartment, where about 10 percent of the collection was lost, emphasizing a concern over secure guardianship, both to protect the collection and preserve Tinder's work. Through an agreement between Tinder, Walters, and the library, Walters purchased and incrementally donated the images to the Clements, which also offered Tinder the means to continue to grow the collection.

Though Tinder died in 2016, his friends remember that Tinder felt the collection going to the Clements was "bittersweet," but ultimately a positive development for him and the collection. After his death, Lewis recalls finding a letter Tinder penned to another collector about the archive's transfer.

"The first load of material had just gone to the Clements Library, and he said he had initially a lot of mixed feelings



Photos in the David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography include factory interiors, U-M campus shots, portraits, and more.

about it, sort of a sadness of losing so much of this collection that he had built up over the years. But then he said he came around to the idea of how great he felt about the idea of other people putting it to use,” Lewis says. “I can’t remember exactly how he expressed it, but he said he was really surprised within himself how good he felt about the whole thing. It definitely energized him to keep on going.”

Seminal Collection

As Tinder amassed photographs, his pursuits took on a research dimension that extended into the people behind the images.

“Different collectors have a different vision and a different idea of what is important. For Dave, he got really interested in the photographers themselves. These 19th century entrepreneurs that were taking the pictures, he wanted to know more about how they worked and what their lives were like, and a lot of his collecting was for the purpose of documenting the behavior of the photographers — where they worked and what kinds of pictures they took and who their clients were — and he ultimately started putting together a reference work, a directory of early Michigan photographers that is unlike anything else anybody had ever done in terms of its detail,” Lewis says.

Published in 2013, the “Directory of Early Michigan Photographers” is a 2,850-page document, covering more than 8,000 men and women who played significant roles in the first 80 years of the photography business in Michigan, with an alphabetical directory of each photographer and short biographies, as well as a community directory, with photographers listed by the Michigan communities and towns they worked in.

Sierra Luddasaw, the current curator of graphics at the Clements Library, says the directory is impressive, but

even moreso are Tinder’s notes that reveal the depth of his research.

“That database is based on his three-ring binders and there’s even more in the binders. It’s all of his research of trying to track down every place this [photographer] had a studio and what years their studio was there, which you see reflected in that photographer file that’s online and thousands of pages long — amplify that to a whole cart of three binders,” she says. “His knowledge and research, encompassing almost all of the early photographers in Michigan, is really what makes it special.”

Scholars, researchers, and students will continue to use the Tinder Collection to reveal new insights about photography, our history, and our society — and it’s all thanks to the team at the Clements and Tinder’s lifetime of work on the collection and directory. About 66,000 photographs from the collection have been digitized, and library staff have been working diligently to digitize and open more of the collection for research.

“A point that often gets overlooked by historical researchers and scholars who are working in a museum, working in a library collection, or an archive somewhere, it’s important to remember that there was some individual person like Dave Tinder who put that material together for them to use,” Lewis says. “When a scholar has a ‘eureka’ moment in the library, it gets forgotten that there was a librarian who planted that thing there. He planted an awful lot of ‘eureka’ moments for others to discover. We don’t know exactly who those people will be, but the stuff is there, and it will happen. There’s still discoveries to be made in that collection.”

KATHERINE FIORILLO is the senior editor of Michigan Alum.



Taking care of our own every step of the way

As a proud member of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, you have access to exclusive insurance benefits—designed to help protect you and your family through life's many milestones.

Alumni insurance benefits include these advantages:

Competitive rates that have been negotiated using alumni buying power.

Flexible benefits tailored to your needs throughout your life and often help complement employer-provided coverage.

Top-rated insurance providers you can trust to be there for you.

Portable coverage you can keep with you if you change employers, move or are self-employed.

Easy to get started — call the Alumni Benefits Hotline or visit us online.

You and your family have access to these benefits as a member of the **Alumni Association of the University of Michigan:**

- Auto & Home Insurance
- Group 10-Year Level Term Life Insurance
- Apollo Health Insurance
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Pet Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Medical Transportation Coverage
- Vision Insurance
- Travel Protection

Check them out today:
www.alumniplans.com/aaum
or call: **888-560-ALUM (2586)**

Association Member Benefits Advisors, LLC.

In CA d/b/a Association Member Benefits & Insurance Agency
CA Insurance License #0I96562 • AR Insurance License #100114462

108125 (9/25) Copyright 2025 AMBA. All rights reserved.



→ NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

YOUR ASSOCIATION



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MERRILL MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

ALUM 101

This summer, alums traced University history across campus, highlighting recent lessons and concluding the Alumni Association's first Alum 101 course — A Wolverine's Guide to U-M History. Alum 101 is a new series of free online mini courses offered by the Association's Lifelong Learning program, allowing alums to dive back into classroom learning with programming that "highlights what's uniquely Michigan." The next course, The Science of Sleep, begins Oct. 15 and will explore how sleep works, practical strategies for improving sleep quality, and what happens when sleep goes wrong.



Register for
the next free
Alum 101 mini
course, The
Science of Sleep.

WE PAY **CASH** FOR YOUR MICHIGAN CLOTHING



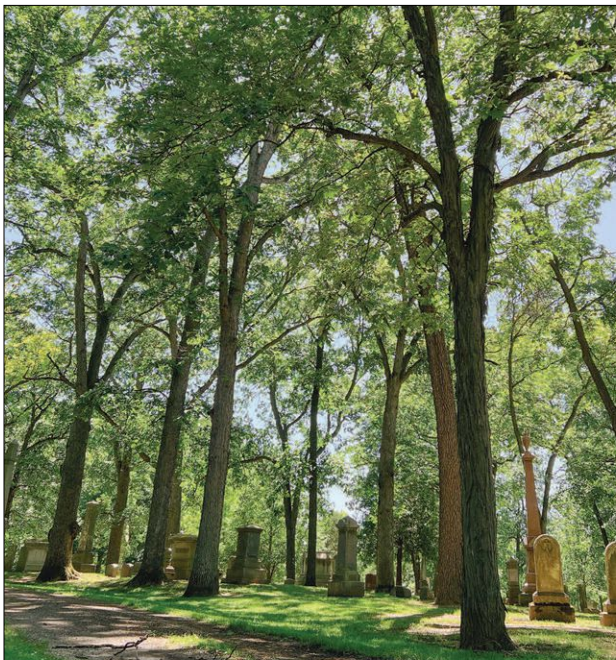
248-838-8538



Scan for
More Info

Alumni Owned and Operated

324 S. State St, Ann Arbor | universityvintage.com



“ I chose Forest Hill as I wanted a cemetery with character, an abundance of stately trees, rolling hills, and a place where my Michigan friends will visit. ”

MICHIGAN ALUMNUS BBA '58,
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



Forest Hill Cemetery

ANN ARBOR'S LANDMARK CEMETERY

VISIT TODAY

Organized as a private, non-profit corporation, Forest Hill Cemetery is a significant landscape which welcomes all. A remarkable haven nestled within Ann Arbor and adjacent to the University of Michigan.

www.foresthillcemeteryaa.org

415 South Observatory at Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104
734-663-5018

Alumni Student Recruitment Program Celebrates 25-Year Milestone

Today, alumni recruiters encourage admitted students to choose U-M.

For many high school students, deciding where to attend college or university can be an incredibly daunting task. Over the past 25 years, University of Michigan alumni have proudly volunteered to help prospective students navigate this pivotal moment through the University's Alumni Student Recruitment Program.

As an Alumni Student Recruiter (ASR), alumni have the opportunity to build one-on-one connections with admitted students in their area to share their insight as a U-M graduate.

Phyllis Taylor, '91, who now serves as a senior assistant director of student success at the Alumni Association, played

“

IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE BACK AND TO SEE THE NEW CLASSES THAT ARE COMING IN AND ALL THE DIFFERENT STUDENTS THAT ARE APPLYING. IT'S JUST VERY GRATIFYING.”

an instrumental role in the program's launch back in the fall of 2000. She says the program today is about supporting and encouraging admitted students.

“The word

'recruitment' is kind of a misnomer, because we're not necessarily using alumni to get students to apply,” Taylor says. “The program is more dedicated to making sure that once students have been admitted to the University of Michigan, they have an opportunity to have alumni contact them with the goal of encouraging them to enroll.”

CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

Dan Chiorean, '03, president of the U-M Club of New Orleans, has volunteered as an ASR for more than five years. Like other out-of-state Alumni Student Recruiters, Chiorean is assigned up to three high schools in his area to “adopt” and help serve as a local resource for admitted students.

“University of Michigan doesn't get a lot of applicants from the New Orleans area,” he says. “Frankly I wish they got more, but when they do, I get a little spreadsheet with the students who have been accepted and I'm encouraged to reach out to them.”

Chiorean says it's worth the time and effort to extend opportunities to students considering U-M.

“You might form a mentorship there, or a relationship with their family, or be able to really make a difference in how they think about going to Michigan,” he says. “You never know whose life you might touch.”

In more densely populated cities like New York City or Chicago, ASRs may also be tasked with staffing college fairs or helping to organize receptions for admitted students, where they can share more about their experience at the University and answer any lingering questions they might have.

Heather Yablon, '92, is an ASR based in New York City, and has two children currently enrolled at U-M. She says the reception events have been especially rewarding for her, because they afford her the opportunity to connect with both students and their parents over her experience as a student herself, and as a parent to students enrolled at the University.

“It's a wonderful way to give back and to see the new classes that are coming in and all the different students that are applying,” she says. “It's just very gratifying.”

A GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Beginning with only about 168 ASRs in the program's first year, the Alumni Student Recruitment Program has grown significantly since its inception — with more than 600 alumni volunteers actively participating today.

“We have a lot [of ASRs] where we have a lot of alums,” says Jody Gore, assistant director of national recruitment and alumni relations at U-M. “We have about 175 in Michigan, 94 in New York, 47 in California, and 49 in Illinois — those are the biggest states.”

In addition to the many alumni volunteers across the country, there are more than 70 ASRs spread out across 30 countries around the globe, including China, Indonesia, Canada, and many more.

While it's difficult to quantify whether those connections directly lead to enrollment, Gore says the program has helped influence thousands of students to choose U-M.

“Because of the selectivity, the students we do admit, they have really good options besides just Michigan, and a lot of times they not only have good options, they have good options with enticing scholarships that they might not be getting from us,” he says. “We're using alums to really make the case sometimes that we're worth the investment.”

GET INVOLVED



JENNY SHERMAN is a freelance writer based in Ferndale, Michigan.

New Affiliate Groups Enhance Student–Alumni Connections

ROTC Alumni and Muslim Alumni are the newest Alumni Association affiliate groups open to all.



The University of Michigan ROTC Alumni Association helps ROTC alums stay connected to the University and each other after graduation.

When Art Bartell, '77, joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Michigan in the wake of the Vietnam War in 1973, it was the smallest Army ROTC class in school history, he says. But Bartell was also part of a storied tradition at the University that's counted Gemini 4 astronauts James McDivitt, '59, HSCD'65, and Edward White, MSE'59; Skylab 3 astronaut Jack Lousma, '59, HDAS'73; and actor James Earl Jones, '55, HLHD'71, among its ranks.

"U-M has a history of producing extraordinary officers, and we want that to continue," Bartell says.

It's one of the reasons Bartell founded the University of Michigan ROTC Alumni Association (UMRA) this year, which joins the University of Michigan Muslim Alumni (UMMA) as the two newest affiliate groups for alumni.

Such groups foster a symbiotic relationship between

students and alumni: students learn from the experiences of alumni, and alumni maintain a connection to the place that was instrumental in shaping their careers, and often the course of their lives.

NEW GROUPS

After a 36-year career in the Army, including three deployments and being stationed throughout the world, Bartell never lost his connection to U-M or the ROTC program. Now a Michigan resident and regular attendee at football games, Bartell began talking with professors and cadets about their interest and vision for an ROTC alumni group. Soon, he accepted the invitation to become the first president of the newly formed UMRA along with three other ROTC alumni: vice president Daniel Allmacher, '94, treasurer David Babulak, '92, and secretary Robert Vokac, '78.



The inaugural board of the University of Michigan Muslim Alumni affiliate group, from left to right: Fatima Makki, '98, MSW'00, MPH'00; Bilal Irfan, '24; Jabeen Hamzavi, '92; Jumanah Saadeh, MA'19; Hassan Rehman, MS'22; and Nishath Hakim, '90.

“The purpose of our association is first and foremost to support the ROTC programs, and thereby support the University by providing mentorship, by providing financial support where we can — but overall, to support the program,” he says.

Their first big event was this fall, when the group partnered with the Alumni Association for the homecoming tailgate on Oct. 4.

After becoming aware of the Association’s affiliate groups, Jumanah Saadeh, MA’19, a graduate student at U-M, recently helped launch UMMA alongside other inaugural board members Bilal Irfan, '24, Jabeen Hamzavi, '92, Nishath Hakim, '90, Hassan Rehman, MS'22, and Fatima Makki, '98, MSW'00, MPH'00.

“

THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE WATER AT THE UNIVERSITY. OUR ALUMS CARRY THIS PLACE WITH THEM NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE IN THE WORLD.”

Saadeh notes there’s a strong Muslim student community on campus.

“But there hasn’t been a formalized mechanism for students to remain in connection

with alums and vice versa,” she notes. UMMA is planning engagement opportunities, and members can expect social, educational, and volunteer-based events.

“We definitely want to be giving back and doing community service,” Saadeh says, adding that educational events will leverage the vast resources of the University.

Even before a year of activities gets rolling in earnest this fall, the response the UMMA has already received has been “really positive,” Saadeh says, noting people’s strong connection to the University.

“The University is super important to people’s lives in the sense that this is where careers start. This is where best friends are made. This is where marriages happen. It’s this pivotal moment in so many people’s lives whether they’re in med school, undergrad, doing a fellowship or whatever the case may be.”

MORE CONNECTIONS

UMRA and UMMA are the two newest Alumni Association affiliate groups, which are categorized by educational, student, and special interest groups. UMRA and UMMA join eight other special interest groups, including the Alumnae Council and the University of Michigan Black Alumni. Though the groups aim to connect alumni with shared identities, backgrounds, or interests, all groups are open to all alums.

Affiliates create a board, craft bylaws, and must produce a roster of at least 50 alums with which they’re engaged. Judah Doty, the Alumni Association’s associate director of affiliate programs, says the groups benefit both those on campus as well as alumni scattered throughout the country and world. And for new groups looking to form, Doty says the reason should be organic.

“Think about the why, think about your campus partners,” she advises.

Once formed, the groups can draw on support from the Alumni Association, such as a website space and marginal funding as well as guidance from Doty, who can help point groups in the right direction in terms of campus partnerships and thought leadership.

“It’s about building community,” Doty says. “There is something in the water at the University. Our alums carry this place with them no matter where they are in the world.”



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR AFFILIATE GROUPS**

DAVID MULLER is a freelance writer based in Grosse Ile, Michigan.



SENIOR RESIDENCES

CLARENDALE
— ANN ARBOR —

There's always room for
Michigan

EXPERIENCE THE EXCELLENCE

Check out our award-winning spaces and
championship-caliber retirement lifestyle.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE.



Independent Living ■ Assisted Living ■ Memory Care

Clarendale Ann Arbor
2830 South Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

OFFICE 734-318-1700
LIFE@ClarendaleAnnArbor.com
ClarendaleAnnArbor.com



Most awarded
independent senior living
company in the history
of the J.D. Power U.S. Senior Living
Satisfaction Study

#1 in Customer Satisfaction among Independent Senior Living Communities, 6 years in a row
Life Care Services has won more independent living awards than any other issuer in the J.D. Power U.S. Senior Living Satisfaction Study from 2016-2024.
Visit jdpower.com/seniorliving for more information.

Managed by **Life Care Services®**

The Power of Referrals

Networking is the key to your next job.

The job search isn't just about what you know, it's about who knows you and trusts you. No matter your career stage, referrals have become the most crucial factor in landing new opportunities.

UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S JOB MARKET

Today's job market is more competitive and complex than ever. While sectors like artificial intelligence and skilled trades are expanding, most white-collar fields are saturated. Early-career professionals often struggle to "break in" when positions require years of experience. Mid-career job seekers face barriers of being "overqualified" but not quite at the leadership level. Late-career professionals must navigate age and salary biases.

In every case, applying to jobs online without connections is less effective than ever. With the ease of one-click applications and AI-generated resumes, recruiters are now receiving double or even triple the number of applications per job compared to just a few years ago. Automated systems weed out most applications before a human sees them. The odds? On average, the likelihood of receiving a job offer from one cold application is between 0.1 to 0.2 percent. That means you'd need to send more than 800 applications just to reach an 80 percent chance of getting one offer.

REFERRALS CHANGE EVERYTHING

This is where referrals come in. Referrals are nine to 10 times more likely to receive a job offer than cold applicants.

Hiring managers are looking for trustworthy recommendations in a sea of anonymous resumes. A current employee saying, "I've worked with this person and they deliver great results," significantly boosts your chances of being noticed and considered by the hiring team. Generic or distant referrals — "We met once at a conference" — don't matter nearly as much as strong, credible endorsements tied to real experience.

SHIFTING YOUR JOB SEARCH MINDSET

Given these odds, perfecting your resume is far less important than many realize. Of course, a clear and accurate resume is necessary, but endless polishing won't make your application stand out in a crowded, automated process. The best use of your time and motivation is a strategy that focuses on building meaningful relationships.

The Alumni Career team recommends spending your job search time as follows:

- **80 percent** on networking and building relationships.
- **10 percent** on preparing your resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile.
- **10 percent** on submitting job applications.

Networking is the activity; referrals are the outcome. Authentic relationship-building should always come before asking for favors. Approach your networking with curiosity, ask thoughtful questions, and genuinely listen — professionals are much more likely to become your advocates if they feel heard and respected.

Networking isn't about "bothering" people or making cold asks. It's about building community. Most professionals, especially fellow U-M alumni, want to help those who reach out sincerely. Your value lies in your achievements and relationships, not just your current job title.

In today's market, referrals aren't just helpful, they're essential. Invest in connections and let your U-M network work for you.



THE 2-HOUR JOB SEARCH

This workshop, available to all U-M alumni, teaches a repeatable process to turn networking into referrals.

JEREMY SCHIFELING, MBA'12, is a career expert, author, speaker, and founder of The Job Insiders.

KIERRA TROTTER is the director of alumni career and lifelong learning for the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

A Camp Michiganania Getaway

Victors Week has provided a special experience for some Mott Children's Hospital patients for 20 years.

As the sun set over Walloon Lake, 9-year-old Leila Hudson and 6-year-old Minette Mejia skipped hand-in-hand to their cabins. While they had only met mere hours earlier, they walked similar paths in life, leading them to this special moment on a summer night at Camp Michiganania.

Leila and Minette were among the campers who came to Michiganania during Victors Week, from June 7-14. Since its launch in 2005, Victors Week has given families with children receiving care at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital the opportunity to enjoy a fully-funded week at Camp Michiganania, the Alumni Association's family camp located in Northern Michigan. And it's all thanks to the support of generous donors who give to the Mott Family Program Fund.

This summer, four families traveled to Camp Michiganania and for an entire week their lives were not defined by health challenges. Instead, they learned to sail, spent afternoons polishing rocks, tried their hand at archery, toasted marshmallows over a bonfire, and soared through the air on the zipline. They were just like any other family making core memories.

Leila's favorite moments were the ones spent "fiddling around" in the nature center. Minette enthusiastically recalled horseback riding as "the funnest part," followed closely by swimming and painting a garden gnome in the Ceramics, Arts, and Crafts center.

For Leila's mother, Amy Greenwell, and Minette's mother, Samantha Mejia, the entire week felt "like a huge deep breath of relief" — one they felt they hadn't been able to take since becoming parents of medically complex children.

Leila was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was an infant, and Minette was born with a rare, inherited metabolic disorder, MPS1, also known as Hurler Syndrome.

“

**LITTLE BREATHERS LIKE THIS
KIND OF HELP TAKE THAT
BURNOUT AWAY AND HELP US
REALIZE THAT THERE'S STILL A
LOT OF BEAUTY IN LIFE, AND WE
STILL GET TO EXPERIENCE IT.”**

Most of their lives have been spent dedicated to daily treatments, doctor appointments, surgeries, and inpatient hospital stays.

“When you're in the medical world, there isn't really a

world outside of it sometimes . . . there are a lot of things that our families don't get to experience that everyone else does,” Greenwell says, recalling missed birthday parties, holidays spent in hospitals, and vacations that never happened due to financial or health restraints. “Little breathers like this kind of help take that burnout away and help us realize that there's still a lot of beauty in life, and we still get to experience it.”

Watching their girls bond over their “similar and constant medical experiences” was meaningful for Greenwell and Mejia, both of whom are single moms supporting their daughters through health challenges. It quickly led to a friendship of their own.

“We had no idea that both of us were in such similar situations, and I think it added a really unique and special experience to being [at Camp Michiganania],” Mejia says.

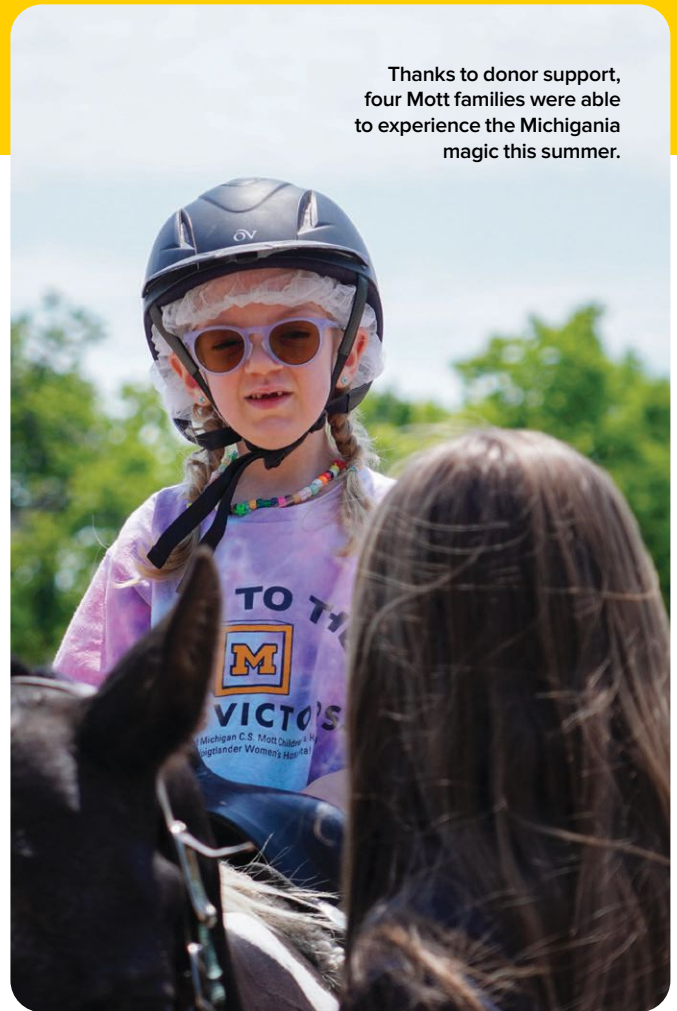
ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE FOR EVERYONE

Julie Piazza, a certified child life specialist with the office of patient experience (OPE) at Michigan Medicine, has been attending and facilitating Victors Week at Camp Michiganania since 2006. Watching families connect and enjoy this experience together feels just as special each year.

“There's nothing like the magic of Michiganania and just being in that setting on a lake, in a whole different situation where you can finally relax and enjoy,” Piazza says. “You are arm-in-arm with somebody who has also navigated something really tough, and you can empathize with them and learn from their experience.”

Piazza recalls the years when there was only enough funding to invite two families. Thanks to continued donor generosity, the program has since expanded, with enough funds to welcome more families as well as Mott liaisons





Thanks to donor support, four Mott families were able to experience the Michigania magic this summer.

and medical staff members. Mott liaisons and health care providers are referred through a collaboration with OPE and Mott's Child and Family Life team. The additional support "makes the families feel more secure knowing there is a Mott physician present and people who are connected to their children's health needs and journey."

"We have some wonderful donors who love Camp Michigania and Mott Hospital, and they wanted to marry their two experiences and help make it possible for families who would not otherwise get to do this amazing trip and have time in a place that is beautiful, that offers activities for every age group, and is a safe space," Piazza says. "[The families] really get to gather together and celebrate their family as opposed to navigating their health care journey, where they are usually focused on surviving, treatment, and the stress of it all."

Continued gifts have also allowed Camp to ensure programming is accessible and enjoyable for the families, whether that means adapting a ladder to help a child get

up on the zip line, providing golf carts for families to get around the grounds, or finding alternative activities and accommodations for unique medical needs.

"[The camp staff] has been really wonderful," Piazza says. "They work really hard to make these things accessible and make the experience really positive. The gratitude of the families is just palpable."

"We had no idea it would be this grand of an opportunity . . . it means more than you could possibly imagine," Greenwell says.

For the Mejias, not even Disney can come close to the Michigania magic.

"We did a Make-A-Wish trip in May of last year, and I would say, bar none, this was far superior. We would pick this week at Camp Michigania over Walt Disney World any time, easily."

KATIE FRANKART is a marketing communications manager for the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

Discover the **Benefits of Brookdale**



As a University of Michigan alum, you and qualifying family members may be eligible for special senior living discounts that can help you get the lifestyle and care you deserve.



**SENIOR
LIVING:**
7.5% OFF
monthly fee/basic
service rate*



**IN-HOME
SERVICES:**
10% OFF
service rate**



**SHORT-TERM
STAY:**
**% DISCOUNTED
RATES VARY**
by community***

► **Call (866) 749-7445** or visit a community and be sure to use the redemption code **“Go Blue”** to redeem this offer.
Visit **www.brookdale.com/michiganalumni** to learn more.

Applicable to all discounts: Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Discounts are available to members and their family members, including spouse, adult children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and corresponding in-law or step adult children. Subject to availability. Discounts cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Further restriction may apply.

* The Senior Living discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale independent living, assisted living, or memory care community admitting under an executed residency agreement. Discount applies only to the monthly fee/basic service rate, excluding care costs and other fees and is calculated based on the initial monthly fee/basic service rate.

** The In-Home Services discount is only applicable to new clients of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.

*** A Short-Term Stay discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate.



→ HIGHLIGHTS FROM FELLOW WOLVERINES

ALUMNI NEWS + NOTES

▶ **ALYSSA BURNS, '86**, shared a Michigan moment with the statue of Hungarian writer and journalist Gyula Krúdy in downtown Budapest, Hungary.



As you travel around the world or around the block, show us your Michigan pride! Don your Maize and Blue or Block M and snap a photo (high-resolution, without filters or artificial enhancement). Then email it to WhereInTheWorldIsBlue@umich.edu or share it on social media with #WhereInTheWorldIsBlue. Include the graduate years for all alumni appearing in the photo and a description of the location. Due to the high volume of submissions, we cannot guarantee your photo will appear in the magazine; however, all submitted photos appear on the Michigan Alum website. We publish only those photos submitted by Alumni Association members. By submitting your photo, you agree that the Alumni Association may also use it in its marketing and communication materials.

Seeking Answers in an Age of Disillusionment

BY BRUCE FLYNN, '72

The years 1970-71 were not the carefree college years I had expected. I began as a freshman at the University of Michigan in 1968, amidst the “free love,” hippie-influenced years. The anti-war and civil rights movements were gaining acceptance and peace seemed possible; social change, inevitable.

But something was off. Richard Nixon had been elected President in a chaotic campaign during which Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated and George Wallace stirred violent white supremacist undercurrents. Civil unrest and violence dominated the news cycles. The Tate/LaBianca murders were said to have been the beginning of the end for the flower power movement. A serial killer who had terrorized the Ann Arbor area was finally arrested and convicted. Then, in May 1970, National Guardsmen opened fire on unarmed students at Kent State, killing four and wounding nine others. Echoes of the 1960s civil rights, anti-war, and liberation movements continued to ripple through American society, even as violence and intolerance reigned.

And I wasn't having much fun as a psychology major, unable to comprehend this swerve into chaos. By 1972, I was feeling like I just needed to finish school as soon as possible and find my way “out there.” I enrolled in Psychology 474, Introduction to Behavior Modification, without many expectations. A new book by Harvard behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner — “Beyond Freedom and Dignity” — was making waves and I

wanted to know more about this emerging field of behavior modification. Teaching that trimester was James V. McConnell. He was to mark a turning point for me in my U-M studies.

McConnell was already (in)famous around campus and nationally for his Journal of

Biological Psychology

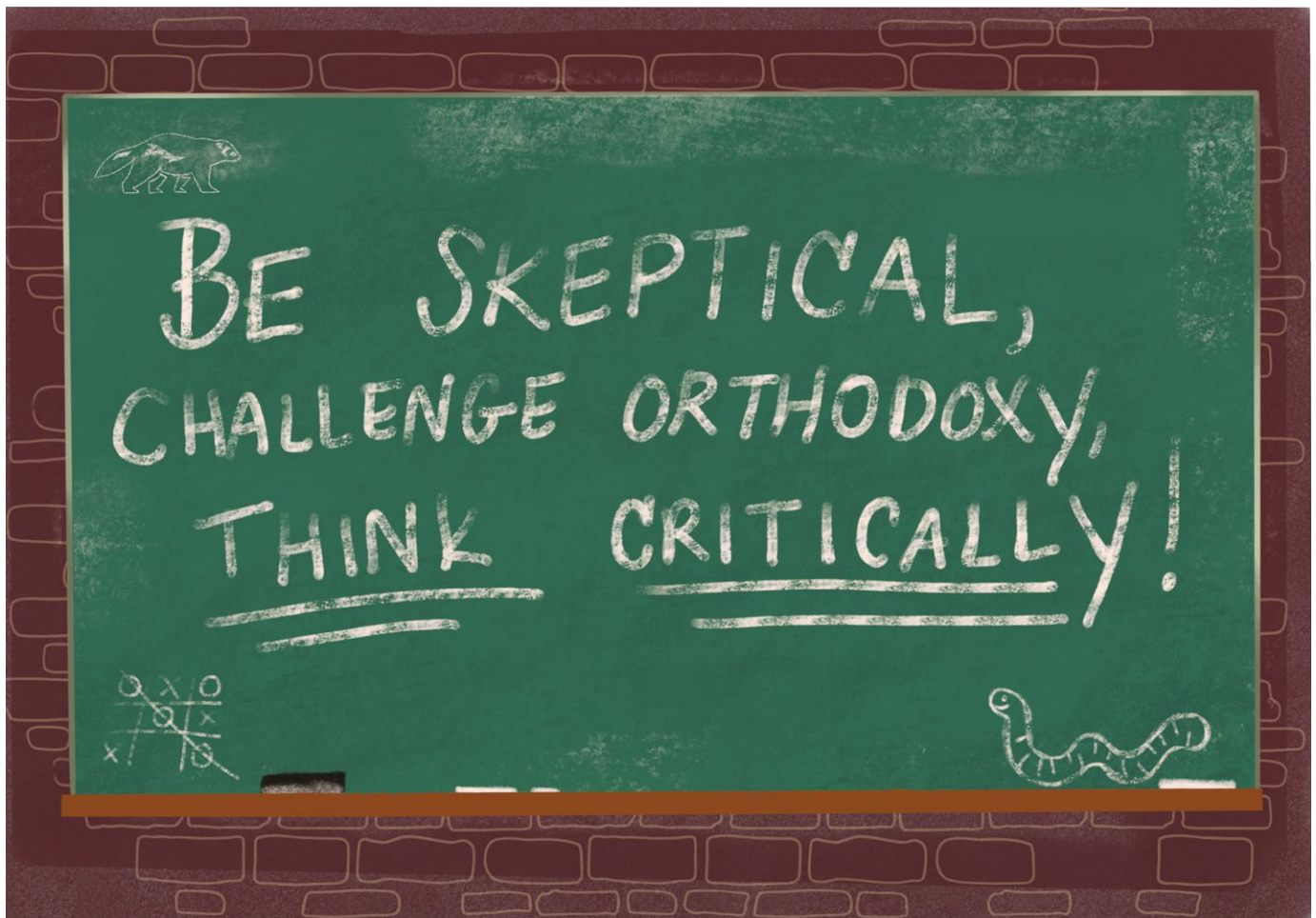
which was co-published (upside down and backwards) with the Worm Runner's Digest, a satirical “journal” of pseudoscience masquerading as serious research. Each of the articles was flawed in sometimes obvious, sometimes obscure ways. A reader had to think critically and systematically about the content before discovering the fatal flaws in theory or methodology that signaled “fake.”

The first day of class in January 1972 with McConnell set the tone. He sat to the side of the rows of desks as students filed in, seemingly oblivious to their passing. Minutes ticked by and he made no move. Then, he suddenly rose and walked over to an unsuspecting student and, standing over them without introduction, asked, “Why did you come here today?” The perplexed student muttered a response, something like, “Because I'm signed up for this class.”

McConnell responded, “And why did you sign up for this class?” And the inquisition went on and on and on until finally the embarrassed and baffled student responded to one of McConnell's endless questions

**“THAT'S WHAT
WE'RE HERE
FOR — TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY WE DO
WHAT WE DO.”**





with, “Uh, I don’t know..”

“BINGO,” shouted McConnell, and handed the confused student a candy bar. “That’s what we’re here for — to understand why we do what we do.”

The candy bar was, of course, intended as positive reinforcement for bearing up under his questioning and would reappear during succeeding classes when McConnell would employ his Socratic Q&A to encourage students to examine their own beliefs and assumptions. At first, it all seemed so staged and unfeeling. But between discussions of operant vs. classical conditioning, positive vs. negative reinforcement, and extinction, it started to dawn on me and my fellow classmates that McConnell was challenging basic assumptions about human behavior, autonomy, and freedom (à la Skinner).

“Be skeptical; challenge orthodoxy; think critically” were McConnell’s bywords. In his psychological view, much (or all) of human behavior was predetermined by how one’s expectations of rewards and punishments had been shaped by the environment. He openly challenged

psychoanalysts to “prove” they could cure their patients using behavioral measures. Antisocial and aberrant behaviors were the result of environments which rewarded such behavior, but these behaviors could be modified by changing the environmental conditions of those so affected.

I started to look at social upheaval not as inherently malicious but the result of a predictable and omnipresent set of conditions that could be changed to make a better world. Most importantly, I started to see a future for myself in psychology. Oh — and I got an “A”.

In an ironic epilogue, James McConnell was partially deafened when the 10th known package bomb from Ted Kaczynski, MA’64, PhD’67, — the Unabomber — arrived at his Ann Arbor home in 1985. Social violence may be predictable but is not always preventable.

BRUCE FLYNN, ’72, a third-generation Wolverine, is retired and hails from Sonoma, California.



all seasons

For the Joys of Senior Living



Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care

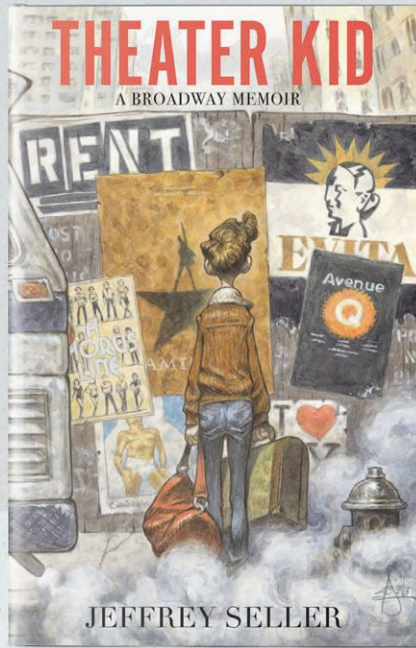


Locations in

Ann Arbor, MI • Birmingham, MI • Naples, FL
Oro Valley, AZ • Rochester Hills, MI • West Bloomfield, MI

ALLSEASONSLIVING.COM





THEATER KID: A BROADWAY MEMOIR

by Jeffrey Seller, '86, Simon & Schuster, 2025

In a sea of manicured content that falsely claims to go “behind the scenes,” Jeffrey Seller’s, ’86, memoir of his life in the theater truly delivers. Raised in a loving but chaotic family in Oak Park, Michigan, in the 1970s, Seller quickly discovers his attraction to the stage. But it’s not just performing; it’s the putting on and the production. A Sunday school teacher organizing the annual Purim play at Temple Israel captures his attention when she “talks about being ‘professional.’ This isn’t just ‘fun,’ it is serious. Her sense of focus, of mission, grabs me,” Seller writes.

From Michigan to the Great White Way where he initially toils as a booker before making the leap to producer, Seller retraces the many steps that ultimately led to his producing “Rent,” “Avenue Q,” and other shows that won a total of 22 Tony Awards. Along the way, he shares stories like what went into transforming “Rent” from an initially inspiring but ramshackle “collage” of ideas into a singular Broadway success, and even what he wrote to Lin Manuel-Miranda to convince them that he should produce “Hamilton.” In the letter, Seller harkens back to “Adventureland,” which is not only the first play that he ever produced — in the fourth grade, about “fun, danger and plenty of adventure” — but also a state of mind: it’s “where I wanted to be [then] and it’s where I want to be now.” Manuel-Miranda, of course, says yes.

Seller also opens up about his fraught relationship with his adoptive parents, his bittersweet reconnection with his birth family, being gay in the era of AIDS, finding and losing love, and more. In his retelling, these struggles aren’t tragedies, but essential elements of his journey that make the many moments of triumph even sweeter. As it becomes apparent that “Rent” is going to be a runaway success, Seller reveals how it feels to realize a lifelong dream of being a Broadway producer: “not just amazing” and “right,” but “like my outside is finally matching my inside.” As a reader, you want to stand up and join in the ovation. — MATTHEW BENZ, '98

Outside Women

by Roohi Choudhry, MFA'11,
The University Press of
Kentucky, 2025

Roohi Choudhry’s, MFA’11, riveting debut novel, follows two women facing similar dilemmas, a century apart:

Hajra, a young activist and scholar forced to flee Pakistan after a targeted attack in 1989, and Sita, who was lured away from her home in 1890s India into indentured servitude.

Leverage

by Amran Gowani, '03,
Atria Books, 2025

In this satirical financial thriller, Ali “Al” Jafar is faced with an impossible ultimatum when his biggest investment loses \$300 million. The fast-paced novel explores the dark side of the finance industry, written by former Wall Street analyst Amran Gowani, '03.

Taps

by Joseph Harms, MFA'18,
Todos Contentos & Yo
También Press, 2025

“Taps” is comprised of five poetry collections — “Bel,” “Nous,” “Goety,” “Youel,” and “Funest” — from U-M lecturer Joseph Harms, MFA’18. Together, they represent nearly a decade of work from the National Poetry Series Award finalist.

Tackling Global Health Challenges With Artificial Intelligence

AKBAR WALJEE, MDRES'05, MS'07, IS COLLABORATING WITH SCHOLARS ACROSS THE GLOBE TO IMPROVE CANCER DIAGNOSES AND MATERNAL-CHILD HEALTH WITH THE HELP OF MACHINE LEARNING.

By the time he was 13 years old, Akbar Waljee, MDRES'05, MS'07, had learned multiple computer programming languages. His mom worked at a vocational college in Nairobi, Kenya, where Waljee was born, and he'd enrolled in one of the college's programming courses. A local magazine even featured his accomplishments.

Now, Waljee leverages his computer skills as the director of U-M's Center for Global Health Equity, collaborating with researchers across the globe to harness machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve global health outcomes. His most recent project offers hope for more effective detection of colorectal cancer, which the World Health Organization reports is the second-deadliest cancer in the world.

"We have the technological advancements here to perform colonoscopies and other tests, but what about lower-income countries with fewer clinicians? We're exploring how AI can improve diagnosis in resource-limited areas," Waljee says.

MICHIGAN BEGINNINGS

After graduating from the Emory School of Medicine, Waljee came to the University of Michigan in 2003 as an internal medicine resident and gastroenterology fellow, joining his wife, Jennifer Waljee, '96, MPH'98, MS'07, MDRES'11, MDFEL'12. During his fellowship, Waljee also earned a master's degree in health and health care research

through Rackham Graduate School.

"What was very unique about the School of Public Health's approach is that you worked on your area of interest instead of just textbook exercises," Akbar Waljee recalls. "And you actually moved your



OUR RESEARCH HAS REALLY ONLY EMERGED BECAUSE U-M HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THESE HIGH-RISK, HIGH-REWARD PROJECTS THAT ADVANCE HEALTH CARE."

research forward by learning all the skill sets you need."

Waljee also developed an algorithm during his fellowship to help doctors accurately dose inexpensive medications for

inflammatory digestive disorders like ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. His efforts have saved patients thousands of dollars and preserved funding at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Ann Arbor Health Care System, where Waljee began working as a research scientist and staff physician in 2009.

In 2018, Waljee had a heart attack. His father had died of a heart attack when Waljee was 11 years old, and heart disease runs in his family. At the time, he'd been working at the VA Hospital and as an associate professor at Michigan Medicine, but this life-altering health scare inspired his commitment to work more in Kenya on health globally.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

An opportunity to collaborate with Kenyan scientists emerged for Waljee with the opening of U-M's Center for Global Health Equity. Founded by former department of internal medicine chair Tachi Yamada, HDSC'15, and Leslie Yamada, the center is dedicated to improving health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries.

With Tachi Yamada's mentorship, Waljee and colleagues at Aga Khan University in Nairobi earned a \$6.5 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to use machine learning and data science to improve maternal, child, and mental health care outcomes in Kenya.

Waljee emphasizes the collaborative nature of his work with international partners, in particular Amina Abubakar, director of Aga Khan University's Institute for Human Development.

"These projects emerged from our collaborators' analyses of their country's needs, and they're the ones really doing the work," Waljee explains. "We might bring financial capital to the table, but we never want to ignore our partners' intellectual capital."

ENCOURAGING SPEEDY DIAGNOSES

While colon cancer can be preventable or treatable with regular screening, patients in lower-income countries can lack access to colonoscopies or swift diagnoses. As Waljee explains, in some areas of Africa, there may be one pathologist per million people. By the time a clinician works through a backlog of biopsies and delivers results, a patient's colon cancer may have advanced.

At 12 years old, Akbar Waljee, MDRES'05, MS'07, was featured in a local magazine for his computer skills. Today, he's using new technologies to improve health care outcomes.



A few of Waljee's Aga Khan University collaborators, Mansoor Saleh and Shahin Sayed, identified delayed colon cancer diagnosis as an issue of concern. U-M professors Ulysses Balis and Arvind Rao, MA'07, PhD'08, had already developed AI technologies to identify cancer from digital images. Together with other collaborators, the research team received a \$750,000 NIH grant in 2023 to advance colorectal cancer diagnostics.

The collaborators ran studies in urban and rural areas of Kenya to test AI's ability to detect colon cancer from images of patients' biopsies. AI diagnoses may help pathologists prioritize patients with cancerous biopsies, speeding up diagnostic procedures and potentially saving lives. So far, the technology has been accurate, and the team has plans to test it next on breast cancer.

"Our research has really only emerged because U-M has been very supportive of these high-risk, high-reward projects that advance health care," Waljee says. "Now the question is, can we expand this across countries and across disease states?"

For Waljee, global health and his work with U.S. veterans intersect. As he noted, some parts of the United States experience illness rates similarly to lower-income countries. His efforts with underserved communities in Kenya and Michigan inform his approaches to improving health outcomes across the globe.

"To be honest, I'm not sure I would have been as successful anywhere besides U-M," Waljee says. "I've come to rely on the collegiality across Michigan Medicine and the entire University. There's such a passion and dedication and wealth of talent here that's been instrumental to my success. I wouldn't be doing this any other place."

JEN DEMOSS, '09, is a freelance writer based in Petoskey, Michigan.

U-M'S CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY

The Center for Global Health Equity brings together U-M faculty, staff, and students with external partners in pursuit of novel global health solutions that can positively impact individuals and communities in low- and middle-income settings. The center offers internal and external grant support for researchers, as well as a variety of opportunities for student engagement, and has partnered with 45 institutions and organizations across 17 countries to advance interdisciplinary solutions through equitable partnerships, research, and education since its founding in 2020.

Supported projects include:

- > Assessing the environmental risk factors for **esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in Ethiopia's Somali region** — an area with a high burden of the deadly disease and little research done to support preventive interventions.
- > Developing a **parent-/caregiver-facing digital vaccine card and registry in urban Kenya and rural Uganda** to improve vaccine equity by reducing reliance on paper-based records that hinder accurate estimation and timeliness of vaccinations.
- > Improving the **identification of treatable neonatal jaundice in northern Ghana** with a handheld identification tool to guide future large-scale implementations and policy development.



- ♥ **NCAA Michigan Collegiate Pet Gear!**
- ♥ **Pet Jerseys, bandanas, collars and leashes!**
- ♥ **Flip Travel water bottles, bowls, toys and trucker pup lids!**

Buddy Bleu is an Alum '90!



INSTAGRAM
@buddy.bleu



Shop @ buddybleu.com
info@buddybleu.com



EMBRACE YOUR WOLVERINE PRIDE

Life Members of the Alumni Association play a crucial role in ensuring the connection to the University of Michigan remains strong and enduring. It's more than just a membership; it's a lifelong bond with a place woven into your DNA.

**Become a Life
Member today!**



M | ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

1950s

MOLLY SCHRADER, '54

Enjoying life as a retired dental hygienist. Hailing from Richardson, Texas, Molly can often be found with friends and her stuffed wolverine at a local sports bar to cheer on Michigan football. She also serves as a member-at-large on the U-M Club of Dallas leadership board. 📷

1960s

PAMELA BLAIR, '64, MSW'69

Authored "The Reluctant Womb: Life Before Roe v. Wade" (Stepping Stone Books, 2025). Based on real experiences from Pamela's life, the novel follows three young women attending U-M in the 1960s and the ramifications when two of them become pregnant. Hailing from Berkeley, Calif., Pamela has been a Broadway dancer, a social worker, a solo traveler through Africa and the Middle East, a single mother, a psychologist, a mountain-climber, and is now a writer after retirement. A serial dog mom, she is the adoptive mother of Luc, a rescue cockapoo. 📷

HOWARD W. MIELKE, MS'67, PHD'72

Honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who in August. The award recognizes his accomplished research and education career, most prominently as a research professor in environmental signaling in medicine at Tulane University's School of Medicine. His writing has been included in the journals Medical Research Archives, GeoHealth, and The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Howard's work, including testifying before a U.S. Senate hearing in 1984, directly contributed to the mandated 90 percent reduction of lead in gasoline in 1986. 📷

G. SPENCER MYERS, '67

Authored two books recently. The thriller novel "The Girl with Red Nails" (NY Book Publishers,

CAN YOU GUESS THAT GRAD?

ALEXA I. CANADY, '71, MD'75, HDSC'24



Answer to question on page 8.

It was the summer after **ALEXA I. CANADY, '71, MD'75, HDSC'24**, completed second grade. Canady wanted to spend time with her grandmother, who was a professor at Lane College in Tennessee, but had traveled to their home near Lansing, Mich., to both visit the family and take a course in aptitude testing. When one of her grandmother's assignments called for a subject to take a test, Canady volunteered, and the course professor wanted to see more. This ultimately uncovered that Canady's school teacher was switching her excellent test scores with the lesser scores of a white student. The teacher was fired, Canady skipped the third grade, and a new confidence powered her through the rest of her life. Canady's path led to her becoming the first female African American neurosurgeon in the U.S. Her career included serving as chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

For a list of other notable U-M grads, visit alumni.umich.edu/notable-alumni.

2025) follows an EPA official who finds himself embroiled in a conflict between a revenge-seeking eco-terrorist and billionaires steering the world toward catastrophe. His other book, the part-memoir, part-guide "We Are Playing Roulette With Your Future: Lessons of a Post-War, Hippie-sympathizing, Eco-friendly Entrepreneur" (NY Book Publishers, 2025) is framed as Spencer apologizing to his grandson's generation for the environmental damage of the preceding generations, and advising on what they can do. Hailing from Boynton Beach, Fla., Spencer regularly writes on environmentalism, both for creative works and on real-world science. 📷

GENE RONTAL, MD'67

Authored "A Minor Operation" (Book House Publishing, 2025). The mystery thriller follows a police surgeon and his wife after their newborn daughter is kidnapped from the hospital, leading to a desperate race against time and the uncovering of a wider conspiracy. Gene is an experienced head and neck surgeon, author of five previous novels and more than 50 scientific articles, and has contributed to publications including National Geographic and Time magazine. He is currently a professor at the U-M Medical School. 📷

EDD TURY, '68

Authored his debut novel, "2084: The Obesity Farms" (Booklogix, 2024). The satirical science-fiction thriller follows a man trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of his father while surviving in a dystopian U.S. with a literal "fat tax." Hailing from Charlevoix, Mich., Edd's poetry, short stories, and essays have appeared in Dunes Review, The Ann Arbor News, and other outlets. 📷

1970s

GAREY GABEL, '71

Authored "The Constitution Kids" (Mascot Books, 2025). The novel follows three teenagers as they embark on a time-traveling, world-hopping adventure, encountering historic figures and learning about the importance of the U.S.

Constitution. Hailing from West Bloomfield, Mich., with his wife, **LISA GABEL, MBA'95**, Gary has enjoyed a long career leading people in personal and professional development. He formerly served as chair of the National Council on Education and Human Development at The George Washington University. His current memberships include Mensa and the Oakland Schools Education Foundation's board of trustees. 📧

SUE HINKIN, MA'73

Authored "The Snake Handler's Wife" (Literary Wanderlust, 2025). The latest entry in the "The Vega & Middleton Novels" detective thriller series, the story follows series-mainstay Lucy Vega as her life is turned upside down by the sudden arrival of the adult, cult-influenced daughter of Vega's significant other. Hailing from Colorado, Sue has worked in higher education and as one of the earliest female TV news photographers. She is a former cinematography fellow of the American Film Institute. Her work has been recognized by the Colorado Humanities Center and Colorado Authors Guild. Sue loves her friends and family, growing things, and long walks with her puffy white rescue dog, Harley.

DAVID LALUMIA, MSW'74

Serving as executive director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. The organization, one of many nationwide, works to help older Americans and their caregivers live quality lives with independence and dignity. David hails from Eagle, Mich. 📧

HAZEL ROSE MARKUS, PHD'75

Elected to the American Philosophical Society in May. Founded in 1743 by statesman and scientist Benjamin Franklin, the organization is the oldest learned society in the U.S. It honors extraordinary accomplishments across a variety of fields and works to "promote useful knowledge." Hazel is a professor of behavioral sciences and faculty director of SPARQ, an outreach "do tank," at Stanford University.

JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS'75

Honored with the 2025 Michigan Dental Association Public Relations Award in February. Hailing from Traverse City, Mich., Jessica has dedicated much of her career to expanding access to dental care and equity in dental education. A member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2008, recognizing her becoming the first American Indian female dentist upon graduation in 1975. 📧

BILL RITCHIE, MMUS'77

"Semi-retired" from the Omaha Symphony in 2023, following a 40-year career as assistant principal bass. Over the past two years, he has continued to perform in Omaha, Neb., and serve as a substitute performer in Michigan, Indiana, Alabama, Iowa, and South Dakota. Bill also performs with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra. Bill's honors include the 2024 Outstanding Private Studio Teacher of the Year by the Nebraska Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Hailing from St. Joseph, Mich., Bill and his wife, Patty, both continue to perform and teach. 📧

SUSAN P. RYAN, '77

Authored "Brainstorm: Navigating Life With Chronic Migraine" (Armin Lear Press, 2025). The medical memoir shares Susan's personal experience exploring most migraine management strategies, both mainstream and off the beaten path. Through it all, she finds that hope and humor are invaluable in being an advocate for one's self and others. Hailing from Michigan, Susan spent much of her professional life in the medical field, including the last 25 years as a heart valve specialist for Medtronic. After retiring early, she received her master's in writing from Spalding University in Kentucky. Susan enjoys living near Lake Michigan with her 62-pound companion, Vinny Van Poodle. 📧

NEAL STULBERG, MMUS'78

Served as conductor for West Coast premiere of "Schoenberg in Hollywood" in May. The opera, composed by Tod Machover and directed by Karole Armitage, explores the journey of Austrian-born composer Arnold Schoenberg during his time in Los Angeles, where he navigated the tension between his artistic vision and Hollywood's cinematic allure. Neal serves as a professor of conducting and director of orchestral studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. From 2014-18, he served as chair of the school's music department. He has enjoyed a prolific career in piano and conducting, and has performed in and led orchestras across the U.S. and internationally.

GARRY COLE, '79

Authored "Are We Old Yet?: A Casual Conversation About Aging" (2025). The book provides an optimistic outlook through 35 chapters, outlining a number of science-supported strategies for aging well. Hailing from Detroit, Garry serves as vice president of client solutions for marketing firm SSDM. He continues to research the topic of aging and shares his findings through his blog and speaking engagements. 📧

SEAN F. COX, '79

Joined the panel of Detroit-based alternative dispute resolution firm JAMS in July. Sean is a retired judge of 30 years in the justice system, including serving as chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2022-25. Based in the Detroit Resolution Center, Sean serves as a mediator, arbitrator, and neutral evaluator for business commercial, civil rights, construction, education, employment, governmental, insurance, and personal injury matters.

WENDY GEE, '79

Authored her first novel, "Fleet Landing" (Books Fluent, 2025). The thriller follows the partnership between an agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and a TV reporter

as they're forced to work together to investigate a deadly string of arsons. Hailing from Lewes, Del., Wendy enjoyed a long career in the U.S. Navy, and now spends time dedicated to community volunteering and writing.

1980s

HOWARD FRANK, MBA'80

Authored "Chameleon: The True Story of Michael John Parrish" (2025). The nonfiction book chronicles the background of the titular Parrish, his murder of his girlfriend and infant son, and the ensuing trial and conviction that brought up questions of mental health and intent. Hailing from Bethlehem, Penn., Howard's writing explores the complexities of mental health issues, drawing from his own experiences and the extensive research.

RONALD RADANO, MA'81, PHD'85

Authored "Alive in the Sound: Black Music as Counterhistory" (Duke University Press, 2025). The book examines the history of African American music in U.S. and world history, recontextualizing it under the lens of "value" and what that means over time. Ronald is a professor emeritus of African cultural studies and music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

LEIGH VINOCUR, '82

Authored "Never Let Them See You Sweat: How Science Can Help Us Harness Stress for Success" (Hamilton Books, 2025). The book, part-memoir and part-self-help, draws on Leigh's experiences as a medical doctor and single mother to assist other women through daily stress and times of extraordinary challenge. Hailing from Maryland, Leigh is an emergency physician, award-winning medical advisor in the media, corporate, and health care sectors, and national spokesperson for the American College of Emergency Physicians. 📧

GERALD JENSEN, '83

Contributed to research of, and participated in the honoring of, his grandfather Tom Watson, who successfully managed the

Sunderland A.F.C. soccer club from 1889-96, guiding the Wearsiders to their first three league championships before making the switch to Liverpool F.C. in 1896 and leading the Reds to their first two titles in 1901 and 1906. Watson remains Liverpool's longest-serving manager. Gerald hails from Warren, Mich., where he has enjoyed a prolific career as a guitarist, photographer, teacher, and writer. 📷

ROSANNE CIAMBRONE, '85

Joined the Chicago office of law firm Dykema as a member in May. She specializes in business reorganization, financial restructuring, bankruptcy law, and commercial litigation.

MICHAEL HAMMER, '85

Finishing his seventh year as CEO of law firm Dickinson Wright. He manages the firm, which has 23 offices nationwide, from its Ann Arbor, Mich., office. Michael is a 30-year veteran of the firm. He specializes in general counsel services, financial restructurings, bankruptcy, distressed acquisitions and sales, and commercial disputes and litigation. 📷

SCOTT E. PAGE, '85

Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in May. Founded in 1836, the organization works to honor accomplished figures in scientific fields and provide policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. Scott is a professor across a variety of business and social science fields in both LSA and Ross. His research focuses on the function of diversity in complex social systems, the potential for collective intelligence, and the design of institutions for meeting the challenges of a complex world. 📷

JACQUELIN M. LALOR, '86

Earned her master's of business administration from the University of Denver, along with the Excellence in Academics award from the faculty in addition to acceptance into Beta Gamma Sigma, in June. 📷

JOHN BUKOWSKI, MPH'87

Authored his third novel, "Bad Pennies" (PathBinder Publishing, 2025). The medical thriller, a sequel to "Project Suicide" (PathBinder Publishing, 2022), follows a disgraced scientist as he works to stop the vengeful plot of a ghost from his past. Hailing from Tennessee, John's fiction and nonfiction work has been published in numerous collections and literary magazines, including Makarelle and Land Beyond the World, and recognized with awards and high honors. He makes use of his background in medical writing, scientific research, and public health to add authenticity to his work.

JANE AIKIN, PHD'88

Authored "The Library of Congress: From Jefferson's Vision to the Digital Age" (Georgetown University Press, 2025). The book, the first comprehensive history of the Library of Congress, draws on a wealth of primary and secondary sources to weave a narrative of the individuals, events, and controversies that have shaped the history of the national institution. Hailing from Washington, D.C., Jane previously served as director of the research division at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

JENNIFER BERNE, '88

Selected as the president of Wisconsin's Madison College in May. She brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education as a faculty member, researcher, academic leader, and community college provost. She previously served as provost of Oakland Community College in Michigan.

KATHERINE GOLD, '89, MSW'95, MD'01, MDRES'05, MS'06

Spotlighted by the American Academy of Family Physicians in the organization's "Family Doc Focus" series. The feature, "Improving maternal outcomes is personal for Michigan FP," shares Katherine's own journey through a personal health crisis into social work and health care. Hailing from Ann Arbor, Katherine is an associate

professor of family medicine and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the U-M Medical School.

LISA HOFFMAN, '89

Co-founded Tied with a Bow with **KIM RATKIN, '90**. The Chicago-based company specializes in creating customized, festive, donatable centerpieces for any occasion. Through their efforts,

Tied with a Bow has partnered with more than 20 nonprofit organizations, extending the joy of their client's events to communities in need.

1990s

LUCY LIU, '90

Honored with the Career Achievement Award from Italy's



Gerken Named President of Ford Foundation

In July, the Ford Foundation announced its next president would be the dean of Yale Law School, **HEATHER GERKEN, JD'94**. Her tenure begins in November. At Yale, Gerken was the school's first female dean and prioritized addressing economic barriers to the legal profession and increasing access for underrepresented students. Gerken previously served as a professor at Harvard Law School and was an associate at Jenner & Block, where she litigated voting rights cases and helped reach a significant settlement in a housing desegregation case. Gerken has clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter and Judge Stephen Reinhardt in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Founded in 1936 by the Ford family and eventually moved to operate independently from Ford Motor Co., the Ford Foundation is one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations. It works to "strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement."



Sasson Serves Major Tennis Wins

Pro wheelchair tennis player **GUY SASSON, '06** (right), filled his trophy cabinet this year. After winning the quad singles wheelchair championship at the 2024 French Open, Sasson won the title again this year. Sasson's 2025 opponent, Niels Vink, played at his side to claim the quad wheelchair doubles title at the same event, as well as at the 2025 Wimbledon Championships in London and the 2025 U.S. Open Championships. Sasson was severely injured in a snowboarding accident in 2015. Through physical rehabilitation, he was able to walk with assistance by the next year, and began competing in wheelchair tennis. At the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, Sasson, representing Israel, earned the bronze medal in quad singles.

Locarno Film Festival in August. She also presented "Rosemead" from director Eric Lin at the festival; Lucy produced and performed in the film. With an acclaimed career spanning more than 30 years, Lucy's other on-screen projects include the films "Charlie's Angels" (2000), "Kill Bill: Volume 1" (2003), and "Presence" (2024), the TV series "Ally McBeal" and "Elementary," and voice-acting in the "Kung Fu Panda" franchise. She also works behind the camera as a director and producer, exhibits as a multimedia visual artist, and serves as a human rights advocate.

KIM RATKIN, '90

Co-founded Tied with a Bow with **LISA HOFFMAN, '89**. The Chicago-based company specializes in creating customized, festive, donatable centerpieces for any occasion. Through their efforts, Tied with a Bow has partnered with more than 20 nonprofit organizations, extending the joy of their client's events to communities in need. 📧

SCOTT GOLDSHAW, '92

Co-founded the Philadelphia-based law firm Goldshaw Greenblatt Pierce in March. Scott has been practicing employment

law and litigation since 1996, representing employers and employees across business, labor, and discrimination matters.

RICH NAHA, '92

Honored alongside his wife, **GINA FRATARCANGELI, '95**, with their business, Surf Synergy, being voted as the top international spa in Travel + Leisure's 2025 World's Best Awards in July. Located in Costa Rica, Surf Synergy works to provide an inclusive experience of health, wellness, and community.

LAURA S. FAUSSIE, JD '93

Joined the Troy office of law firm Butzel Long as a shareholder in July. She specializes in the defense and counseling of businesses across a variety of industries in a variety of matters, including breaches of contract, business torts, real estate litigation, and employer-employee disputes.

PETER MORVILLE, MILS '93

Authored "Animals are People" (Semantic Studios, 2024). The novel follows a farm girl who experiences visions of inhabiting the consciousness of animals, and a philosophy teacher on a mission to help her. In 2024, Peter also co-founded Sentient Sanctuary, a nonprofit think tank and animal sanctuary in Scottsville, Va. Peter has enjoyed a long, award-winning career working in, and writing about, the fields of information architecture and user experience. His work has been covered by NPR, The Economist, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal.

WENDY WOLFERSTEIG, PHD '93

Retired as a research professor emerita from Arizona State University (ASU) after 29 years. She served as director of evaluation and partner contracts at the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center from 2008-23. In addition, the ASU School of Social Work selected her for the 2025 Distinguished Community Faculty Impact Award.

MARIA WEN ADCOCK, '94

Authored "My Name is Ai Lin"

(Sleeping Bear Press, 2025). Inspired by Maria's daughter and illustrated by Yu Ting Cheng, the children's book follows a young girl as she teaches her classmates the importance of respecting a person's name not just as an identity for themselves, but as a symbol of their family's heritage and legacy. Hailing from New York City, Maria is the founder of the award-winning parenting blog Bicultural Mama. She has appeared on Bloomberg News, Newsday, and other news and talk programs, and is a board member of Multicultural Kid Blogs, an organization supporting diverse parenting bloggers. 📧

CARLA BARTLETT, '94

Began hosting "Stir the Coco" on Bloomfield Community Television (BCTV) in May. The show, also available on BCTV's YouTube channel, shares tools, techniques, and information, as well as bringing on guest experts, to help viewers sustain brain plasticity and keep cognition healthy and sharp. Carla is a Spanish teacher at Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. She has more than 30 years of teaching experience and being a language coach for celebrity clients.

DEREK DOUGLAS, '94

Honored, alongside his colleagues on the Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago gun violence prevention initiative, with the 2025 Civic Catalyst Award from Leadership Greater Chicago in April. Derek is president of the Civic Committee and the Commercial Club of Chicago. Prior to that, he served as vice president for civic engagement and external affairs for the University of Chicago.

GINA FRATARCANGELI, '95

Honored alongside her husband, **RICH NAHA, '92**, with their business, Surf Synergy, being voted as the top international spa in Travel + Leisure's 2025 World's Best Awards in July. Located in Costa Rica, Surf Synergy works to provide an inclusive experience of health, wellness, and community. 📧

**LYNDA LISABETH, '95,
MPH'97, PHD'03**

Named interim dean of the U-M School of Public Health in June, succeeding **F. DUBOIS BOWMAN, '95**, who became the president of Morehouse College. Lynda is a professor of epidemiology and senior associate dean for faculty affairs in the U-M School of Public Health and a research professor of neurology in the U-M Medical School. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of strokes in the U.S. with a focus on stroke health disparities in the Mexican American population. She has been involved in strategic planning efforts for the National Institute for Neurologic Disorders and Stroke surrounding the advancement of stroke research and the elimination of stroke disparities.

DANIEL HEARSCH, '96, MBA'07

Named global co-leader of the automotive and industrial practice of New York City-based consulting firm AlixPartners in July. Daniel has worked at the firm for more than 14 years.

QUAN BARRY, MFA'97

Authored "The Unveiling" (Grove Press, 2025). The novel follows a Black film scout as her job has her join a luxury Antarctic cruise in order to survey the environment. After disaster strikes, she is among a group of survivors stranded in the dangers of both the Antarctic and human nature. Quan is an award-winning novelist, poet, and professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

MATTHEW CYBERT, '97

Named an assistant vice president of law enforcement at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in March. Matthew joined the bank after dedicating more than 25 years to the U.S. Secret Service.

ETHAN HANDELMAN, '97

Named executive director of the Boston-based Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation in April. The organization is a public-private community development

financial institution that provides project financing and technical expertise for community-based and other nonprofit organizations engaged in effective community development in Massachusetts. Ethan's career has been dedicated to affordable housing and housing finance in the public and private sectors. Most recently, he was appointed by President Joe Biden in 2021 as the deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Multifamily Housing Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to that, Ethan was a senior policy analyst at the Federal Housing Finance Agency in the Office of Housing and Community Investment, which oversees the affordable housing mission activities of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks. 

**CHRISTINE FERNANDEZ
OWEN, '97**

Named a co-head of projects real estate for the U.S. for international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright in April. In this position, Christine represents developers, owners, operators, and service providers in matters involving the development and construction of wind, solar, and energy storage projects. She is also an adjunct professor at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law in Chicago.

VERONICA REYES-HOW, '99

Had her television series pilot, "Mother, May I Have a Kidney?," selected for a world premiere at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, as part of the Tribeca NOW program, in June. The comedy drama follows a designer after his cancer diagnosis spurs him to repair the relationship with his estranged mother. Veronica is the creator, writer, and executive producer of the project, which works to tell an unconventional story of family, forgiveness, and organ donation. Hailing from New York City, Veronica is enjoying her performing arts journey after a career pivot from tech consulting.

2000s

GABRIEL H. SCANNAPIECO, '00

Named co-chair of the life sciences industry team at Washington, D.C.-based law firm Golden Gregory in June. As a former assistant director at the U.S. Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Branch, Gabriel applies his federal experience to life sciences clients navigating regulatory changes amid the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's restructuring and the Department of Justice's shifting enforcement priorities.

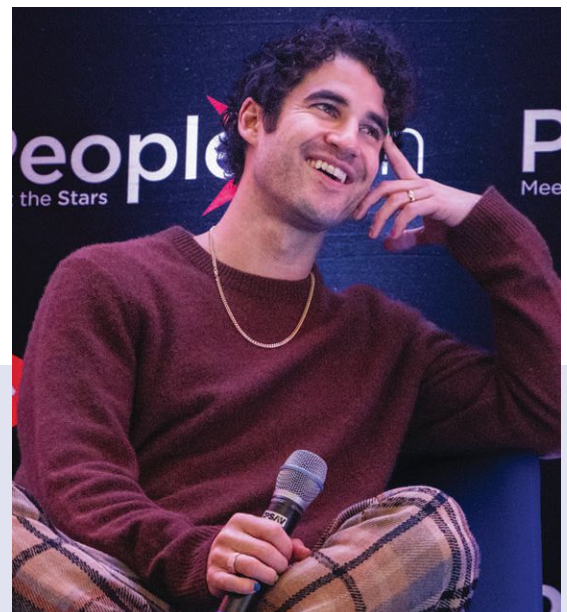
IAN DOUGLASS, '01

Honored with a 2025 Webby Award for his contribution as

creative consultant on "Leroy Smith: Michael Jordan's Myth" in April. Directed by Emio Tomeoni and available on YouTube, the documentary chronicles how the titular Smith was impacted by the popular narrative of basketball icon Michael Jordan's high school days. Ian is a prolific and award-winning sports and professional wrestling journalist and book author. 

REBECCA JO KINNEY, '01

Authored "Mapping AsiaTown Cleveland: Race and Redevelopment in the Rust Belt" (Temple University Press, 2025). The book analyzes the importance of region in racial formation and redevelopment as it traces a history of racial



Two Tonys for Criss

Earlier this year, actor **DARREN CRISS, '09**, was honored with his first Tony Award nominations — which became his first Tony wins in June. Criss won the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for his performance playing Oliver in the Broadway romantic comedy "Maybe Happy Ending." In addition, as co-producer of the musical, Criss was honored when the production won the Best Musical award. Criss's past television roles include Fox's "Glee" and FX's "American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace."

segregation and neighborhood diversity. It challenges ideas about the invisibility of Asian Americans in the urban Midwest by linking the contemporary development of Cleveland's "AsiaTown" to the multiple and fragmented histories of Cleveland's Asian American communities from the 1940s to the present day. Rebecca is an associate professor in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University.

BENJAMIN TAUSIG, '02

Authored "Bangkok After Dark: Maurice Rocco, Transnational Nightlife, and the Making of Cold War Intimacies" (Duke University Press, 2025). The book follows the life and career of queer Black jazz pianist Maurice Rocco, an American ex-patriate living in Bangkok, to tell the history of transnational encounters between Thais and Americans during the long Vietnam War. In doing so, Benjamin shows how these encounters, which included musical collaborations, romantic and sexual relationships, and new labor, identity, and geopolitical configurations, remade Thailand in crucial and enduring ways. Benjamin is an associate professor of music at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

JONATHAN ALLOY, MBA'03

Named a Fulbright Scholar in September 2024 and subsequently spent a few months designing communication strategies for the Technical University of Vienna in Austria. Since 2007, Jonathan has served as a product manager and digital design and marketing consultant. Since 2022, he has served as a justice of the peace for Westport, Conn., and as an EMT for the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Services since 2024.

SAM HUSZCZO, '03

Honored with the 2025 National Investment Advisor of the Year from the Midwest Region award from InvestmentNews in June. Sam is the founder and chief investment officer of SGH Wealth Management. Outside

of work, Sam is active with Leaders for Kids, an advisory board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. He is also involved with the finance committee for the Detroit Economic Club and regularly speaks at financial literacy workshops across Metro Detroit. He has appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg TV, Fox Business News, CBS, and other outlets. 

JONAS LAMB, '03

Promoted to professor of library science, and continues to serve as an access services and Open Education librarian, at the University of Alaska Southeast in July. He also authored the poetry collection "What Turtle Blood Tastes Like" (Finishing Line Press, 2025).

BISI ALLI, '04

Authored "Tayo and the Super Produce Pals at the Grocery Store!" (2025). The children's book, illustrated by Shaheed Saadiq, follows a boy and his mother on a colorful grocery store adventure where fruits and veggies come alive to teach healthy eating habits. Inspired by grocery store adventures with her own child, Bisi blends research-backed medical insight with playful storytelling to encourage everyday behaviors that support lifelong wellness. Hailing from Phoenix, Bisi is founder and principal of WellNEST Medicine and has more than a decade of direct patient care experience as a physician.

MATTHEW SCHIPPER, PHD'06

Honored with a Research Faculty Mentor Award from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research in June. Matthew is a research professor of radiation oncology and biostatistics at the U-M School of Public Health, where he works on multidisciplinary teams to develop and apply statistical methods that can improve the quality and length of life for patients with cancer or other illnesses. In addition to advising 24 graduate student research assistants, he has supported the training of fellow faculty, clinical

residents, graduate students, and research staff.

BROCK A. WILLIAMS, MBA'06

Named chair of the board of The Head-Royce School, a private K-12 college-preparatory institution, and joined the board of trustees at the Oakland Museum of California. Brock leads the U.S. Channel Store Operations team for Apple. He has previously held roles at Target, Nike, and Accenture, among other companies. 

CLAUDIA CLARK, MSW'07

Authored "Hannah's Call To Care: How One Girl Discovered the Power of Protecting Wildlife" (2025). The children's book follows a young girl from New South Wales as she educates both kids and adults about the most pressing threats to Australia's native wildlife while highlighting simple, practical actions people can take to help protect these vulnerable species. Hailing from Berlin, Claudia is an author, speaker, and activist focused on social justice and democracy.

JACLYN GOODRICH, '07, PHD'11

Honored with a Research Faculty Achievement Award from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research in June. As a research associate professor at the U-M School of Public Health, Jaclyn's work aims to identify hazardous environmental factors and their health impacts in populations that are underrepresented in research efforts or are burdened by higher toxic exposure levels due to their occupation or the region where they live.

ANNEETH KAUR HUNDLE, MA'07, PHD'13

Authored "Insecurities of Expulsion: Afro-Asian Entanglements in Transcontinental Uganda" (Duke University Press, 2026). The upcoming book examines the 1972 expulsion of 80,000 South Asians of Ugandan heritage from Uganda, its immediate aftermath, and the continuing impacts on global Afro-South Asian connections in the context of race, ethnicity, religion, caste, gender, and sexuality.

Anneeth is an associate professor of anthropology and the presidential chair in Social Sciences to Advance Sikh Studies at the University of California, Irvine.

DAVID R. AGRAWAL, MA'09, PHD'12

Began serving as a professor of economics at the University of California, Irvine, in August 2024. The move follows his time as an assistant and associate professor at the University of Kentucky. 

JESSICA ANAND, MS'09, PHD'13

Honored with a Research Faculty Mentor Award from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research in June. Jessica is a research assistant professor at the Edward F. Domino Research Center within the U-M Medical School's pharmacology department. She has mentored 19 undergraduate and four graduate students since 2014. She also serves on several committees designed to support outreach and training for other pharmacological scientists. Jessica's research focuses on developing fentanyl-derived antagonists as potential antidotes to rescue people who have overdosed on fentanyl.

MARLIN JACKSON, '09

Hosted, as founder of the Fight for Life Foundation, the third annual Building Dreams Champions Breakfast in June. The event recognized Indianapolis-area students, educators, volunteers, and community partners who supported youth over the past school year. The breakfast also featured the "Voices From the Classroom" panel discussion, moderated by event emcee Olivia West, the in-game host for the NBA's Indiana Pacers and the WNBA's Indiana Fever. Marlin, a former cornerback for the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, founded the Fight for Life Foundation in 2007 to support the development of underserved youth. In 2018, the foundation helped create the Building Dreams platform to equip program administrators with the data they need to support teachers and students with resources to improve classroom management and understand underlying student behavior issues.

ADAM WOOD, '09

Welcomed daughter Nora Kay Wood into the world, alongside her mother, **SARA KAY WOOD, '11**, on July 7. The family hails from Colorado Springs, Co. 

2010s

SHOSHANNAH LENSKI, MS'11

Named the inaugural executive director of the Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility in July. The newly formed initiative is designed to create a resilient, renewable-powered local energy system. Shoshannah most recently served as associate director of the U-M Center for Sustainable Systems and previously held several executive roles at DTE Energy, including director of gas strategy, director of enterprise performance management, and director of infrastructure renewal operations. Additionally, she has served as a consultant for the Boston Consulting Group. 

SARA KAY WOOD, '11

Welcomed daughter Nora Kay Wood into the world, alongside her father, **ADAM WOOD, '09**, on July 7. The family hails from Colorado Springs, Co. 

KAILLE MEGUIAR, '13

Earned her master's of public health from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., in May. Her thesis research analyzed the evaluation of psychological outcomes in adolescent and young adult cancer survivors and caregivers. Kaille serves as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

STACY RILEY BURGESS, '14, MPH'18

Founded Healthy Rides Flint-Genesee in July. Located in the heart of the Flint College Cultural neighborhood, the non-emergency medical transportation service provides safe, timely, and dependable transportation for individuals across Genesee County, Mich. Its mission is to reduce missed appointments and support overall health and wellness in the region.



CLASS CAPSULE

1993-94

> September begins with a **total student enrollment of 51,164** across the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses; down from 1992-93 but slightly higher than the three-year average from 1989-92. Minority students make up 22.8 percent of the population, marking a record-high proportion to date.

> On November 12, **Drake's Sandwich Shop** (pictured) announces its closure. A community and student mainstay of nearly 70 years, the eatery operates at limited capacity before finally closing shop in early 1994.

> Winter hits the U.S. with **record-breaking cold** in January. For the first time, the Burton Bell Tower's clock malfunctions due to the freezing weather, remaining stuck at 10:37 for days. U-M classes are not canceled.

> Designed and sculpted by Leonard Baskin, the **Holocaust Memorial** is dedicated on March 13. Its plaza, next to the Rackham Graduate School, is dedicated to Raoul Wallenberg, '35.

> The Wolverines earn ice hockey glory by becoming the **regular-season and tournament champions** of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association in March.

> "Cathy" cartoonist **Cathy Guiswite, '72**, serves as the keynote speaker for Spring Commencement.

EMILY REGAN BYRNE, '14

Spotlighted by a story in the Jackson Hole News&Guide in April. In the article, the first in a series of similar testimonials, Emily shares her experience as a Wyoming small business owner and the challenges in navigating the economic climate

and increasing cost of tariffs. Her business, Rise Centered, uses structural and electronic components from China and Bosnia to create clocks.

MEGAN KELYNACK, MA'14

Authored the article "A Cooperative and Collaborative Way to Brainstorm" in the

November 2024 issue of Association for Talent Development magazine. In addition, she spoke at the Learning Guild's Learning and HR Tech Solutions conference in April 2024. Her session, "Fostering Creativity: Brainstorming Begins With Questions," dealt with challenges that teams typically face when coming up with new approaches to solving problems in the workplace. Hailing from Ann Arbor, Megan is a senior learning and development specialist at Ford Motor Co.

PHIL SCHERMER, '14

Founded Project Healthy Minds in 2022. The nonprofit organization works to improve access to and affordability of mental health care, as well as to destigmatize discussion of mental health topics and seeking help. To that end, Project Healthy Mind's digital platform has helped more than 400,000 people and worked with many celebrities to reach young people. Project Healthy Minds has been spotlighted in numerous national media outlets such as Axios, The Today Show, CNN Business, and The Hollywood Reporter. While at U-M, Phil founded MUSIC Matters, a student-run nonprofit that built one of the first social impact lifestyle festivals in the U.S. Phil continues to serve on the MUSIC Matters board of advisers. Phil hails from New York City.

JORDAN STEIGER, '14

Honored with the 2025 National Emerging Social Work Leader Award from the National Association of Social Workers in May. The honor recognizes Jordan's work as a senior program manager for clinical affairs and workforce at the American Hospital Association in Chicago. In this role, she promotes the integration of physical and behavioral health services, reduces the stigma of deaths of despair, and advocates for the mental well-being of the health care workforce. Her work also addresses the complex challenges that patients and families seeking high-quality behavioral health services can face in the nation's health care delivery system. 



1

Andrea Fischer Newman, '79, withstood the winds at the “top of the world” to fly the Block M at the North Pole this past August.



3

Jeffrey Piell, '88; Meredith Aland Berlin, '90; Jay Berlin, '88; Hilda Harris Piell, '89; JD'92; and Lynn Saunders Jackson, '89, represented Michigan as they biked by the 15th-century town hall of Gouda, Netherlands.



6

Ellen Kasselmann, '88, took a bucket-list trip with her daughter, **Samantha Kasselmann, '21**, to Peru's Machu Picchu in May.

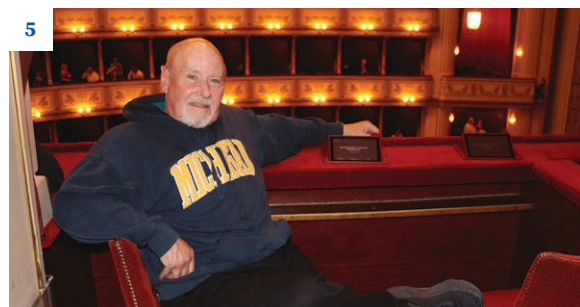


2



4

Ken Close, MA'81, attended a performance of “Carmen” at the Vienna Opera House during a recent trip to Austria.



5

In May, the U-M Men's Glee Club gave a rousing concert to 200 attendees in Midtown Manhattan, including a song conducted by Patrick G. Gardner, a former director. Three club alumni posed with Gardner (left) at the event's reception: former publicity manager David Moreland, former president **Sky Lance, '83**, and former vice president **Dave Tucker, '84**.



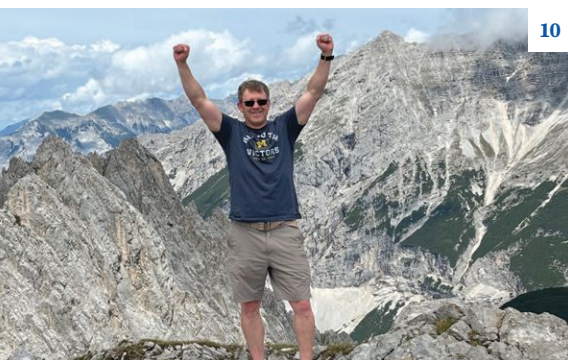
8

Diane Land, DDS'90, her husband, Tim, and their son, Ben, visited Bayterek Tower during their trip to Astana, Kazakhstan, in July.



7

Doris Rubenstein, '71, and **Candy Campbell Amos, '71**, were dorm mates in Mosher-Jordan and Stockwell residence halls from 1967-69 and are still friends. Their hats added even more color when they visited the Como Park Conservatory in St. Paul, Minn.



10

Current U-M student **Anya Renzi** and **Shari Krasnow-Renzi, '88**, took a mother/daughter trip to Curacao for scuba certification and hiked to the top of Mount Cristoffel.



9

Proudly representing U-M, **Dave Barris, '91**, hailed from up in the Nordkette range of the Alps in Innsbruck, Austria.

EMMA AMADOR, PHD'15

Authored "The Politics of Care Work: Puerto Rican Women Organizing for Social Justice" (Duke University Press, 2025). Focusing on the experiences and contributions of social workers, care workers, and caregivers, the book helps chronicle the impact of Puerto Rican women's involvement in political activism for social and economic justice in Puerto Rico and the U.S. throughout the 20th century. Emma is an assistant professor of history at the University of Connecticut. Her work has been published in the journals *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, and *Modern American History*.

SHUYING LI, MMUS'15, AMUSD'18

Released "The Last Hive Mind" (BMOP/sound, 2025). The album, performed by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project with conductor Gil Rose, consists of five of Shuying's orchestral compositions themed around encompassing points in her personal and artistic journey. Shuying serves as an assistant professor of music at California State University, Sacramento. Previously, she directed the composition and music theory program at Gonzaga University and served as research faculty at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Shuying's accolades include awards and grants from OPERA America, the Fromm Music Foundation, and the Alice M. Ditson Fund. She founded the Four Corners Ensemble, dedicated to championing new works and cross-cultural storytelling.

HALEY SCHAFFER, '15

Founded the San Francisco-based independent wealth advisory firm Waypoint West alongside her brother, **BROOKS SCHAFFER, '16**, in August. The venture builds on the legacy of their father, **JAMES R. SCHAFFER, '81**, who founded the original Waypoint firm in Ohio more than 20 years ago.

GRACE NOPPERT, PHD'16

Honored with a Research Faculty Recognition Award from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research in June. Grace is a research assistant professor at the Institute for Social Research's Survey Research Center. Her research focuses on how social factors shape individual health over time.

BROOKS SCHAFFER, '16

Founded the San Francisco-based independent wealth advisory firm Waypoint West alongside his sister, **HALEY SCHAFFER, '15**, in August. The venture builds on the legacy of their father, **JAMES R. SCHAFFER, '81**, who founded the original Waypoint firm in Ohio more than 20 years ago.

KEVIN CLINE, '17

Welcomed daughter (and future Wolverine) Margaret Louise Cline into the world alongside her mother, **ANNA CLINE, '19**, on April 23. The proud grandparents are **DONALD, '86**, and **SUSAN CLINE, '86**. The family hails from Chicago. 📖

ANNA CLINE, '19

Welcomed daughter (and future Wolverine) Margaret Louise Cline into the world alongside her father, **KEVIN CLINE, '19**, on April 23. The proud grandparents are **DONALD, '86**, and **SUSAN CLINE, '86**. The family hails from Chicago.

2020s

ROSA VASQUEZ ESPINOZA, PHD'21

Authored "Spirit of the Rainforest: How Indigenous Wisdom and Scientific Curiosity Reconnects Us to the Natural World" (Gaia, 2025). Combining scientific learnings with Rosa's personal experience from her grandmother and growing up near the Amazon rainforest, the book works to uncover one of the most unexplored and naturally rich regions on Earth. In addition, Rosa was honored, in September, with the UNESCO-Al Fozan International Prize for the Promotion of Young Scientists

in STEM. Rosa is an award-winning chemical biologist, conservationist, artist, and National Geographic Explorer. She is the founder of Amazon Research Internacional, Peru-based nonprofit dedicated to conserving Amazonian biodiversity, ecosystems, and indigenous knowledge.

NATE GENDICH, '22

Married his wife, Bonnie, on June 28. Most of Nate's groomsmen were also U-M alumni: **NATHANIEL BLOWERS, '21**; **BRANDON GARZEZ, '21**; **LUKAS STAUFFER, '21**; **RANDY RODICH, '22**; **RILEY VAUGHT, '22**; and **A.J. NASHARR, '23**. Since Bonnie attended the University of Oklahoma, the couple were excited to attend the Wolverines vs. Sooners football game in September. 📖

GREGORY GROPPER, '22

Earned his master's of music from the Manhattan School of Music in May 2024. He has also enjoyed many operatic roles recently: the titular lead in Ullmann's "Der Kaiser von Atlantis," the lead in Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" for the Berlin Opera Company, and performing both "Gianni Schicchi" and "La Boheme" for the Opera Company of Middlebury in Vermont. In addition, Gregory performed in "La Boheme" for the Premiere Opera Vocal Arts Institute in Puglia, Italy, in July. 📖

RIMA SAAD, '22

Participated in the summer associate program of law firm Plunkett Cooney from May to August. The 12-week program, hosted in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Mich., office, allowed her to work directly with firm partners and associate attorneys on legal assignments and enjoy professional development opportunities. Rima is studying to earn her law degree from Michigan State University, where she also serves as treasurer of the Middle Eastern Law Student Association and is a student evaluator in the law school's legal writing department.

NISHIL TALATI, PHD'22

Honored with a Research Faculty Recognition Award from the U-M Office of the Vice President for Research in June. An assistant research scientist in the College of Engineering, Nishil works at the intersection of hardware and software for AI and data analytics, addressing challenges in performance, scalability, and energy efficiency in modern computing.

ABEDNEGO T. SAAH, '23

Became licensed as an insurance agent through World Financial Group in August. He hails from Fargo, N.D. 📖

EMMA HAMMOUD, '24

Honored with the inaugural Richard Russel Butzel Core Values Scholarship from Detroit-based law firm Butzel Long in May. The \$15,000 award recognizes Emma's embodiment of "excellence, drive, trust, and teamwork." After completing law school at Michigan State University, Emma plans to begin her career in Detroit, where she will build a practice focused on complex commercial litigation and appellate advocacy, reflecting legal excellence and public service. 📖

Whether you've landed your dream job, started or expanded your family, published a book, or adopted a pup that watches every Wolverine game by your side, let us know what you've been up to lately by submitting a Class Note.

📖 designates an Alumni Association member at press time. Submit class notes by emailing them to classnotes@umich.edu or sending them to Class Notes, Michigan Alum, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1007.

Class Notes do not preclude further editorial consideration and may be shared across University of Michigan platforms.

The Alumni Records Office compiles this list, which Michigan Alum publishes as a service to our readers. To notify U-M and Michigan Alum of alumni/student deaths, contact Alumni Records at 888-518-7888 or dev.aro@umich.edu. The obituaries listed here were submitted by July 31, 2025.

1930-39

HENRY BACHRACH II, '39, JUN. 06, 2025

1940-49

JANE WILSON KESSLER, '40, JUL. 21, 2025

MORTON ABNER MINTZ, '43, JUL. 28, 2025

SHIRLEY MAE WILEN, X'44, MAY 01, 2025

RICHARD E. WINELAND, '44, MD'46, MAY 03, 2025

FERN-AILEEN IMSE, '45, JUN. 23, 2025

BARBARA HELEN COOPER, '47, APR. 04, 2025

ALLENE FROST, '47, MAY 29, 2025

WILLIAM ROBERT KIESSEL, '47, MSE'48, PHD'53, MAY 23, 2025

MARION H. WALSH, '47, MA'48, JUN. 17, 2025

SALLY B. CHERRY, '48, APR. 18, 2025

PHILIP SPANGLER KAPPES, JD'48, APR. 13, 2025

HELAIENE J. KNICKERBOCKER, '48, JUN. 18, 2025

JAMES HENRY LORENZ, '48, MAY 25, 2025

HARRIET L. ROSENTHAL, '48, MAY 07, 2025

COLENE SMITH WONG, '48, MAY 05, 2025

MARJORIE S. HENDRICK, '49, JUN. 29, 2025

JOSEPH IRVIN LAIRD, '49, APR. 02, 2025

LOIS HOPP MARK, '49, JUL. 11, 2025

RAYMOND N. OKONSKI, '49, MBA'50, NOV. 12, 2021

MARY RANDOLPH TEPOORTEN SAX, MA'49, MAY 22, 2025

1950-59

DAVID GEORGE ANDERSON, '50, MD'53, MDRES'58, JUL. 11, 2025

ROBERT GEORGE ANDRUS, '50, JUL. 06, 2025

HELENE D. BLEECKER, '50, JUL. 10, 2025

WILLIAM K. BREHM, '50, MS'52, HLLD'13, JUL. 30, 2025

EDITH M. DANIEL, '50, MALS'51, JUL. 20, 2025

MARJORIE D. JOHNSON, '50, JUN. 17, 2025

FRANK WESLEY KISER, '50, JUL. 11, 2025

NORYNE C. LOCKWOOD, '50, MAY 10, 2025

HARRY CLAY MCCREARY JR., '50, APR. 25, 2025

DONNA OAS, '50, APR. 20, 2025

GEORGE ROBERT SMOLAK, '50, MSE'51, JUL. 13, 2025

JAMES THOMAS, '50, MAY 23, 2025

GEORGE JOHN BAIBAK, '51, MD'55, JUL. 25, 2025

HAROLD JOSEPH BOUTIN, '51, MBA'52, MAY 27, 2025

HORTENSE KLEITMAN KLEITMAN SNOWER, '51, APR. 03, 2025

JAN CHRISTEN MOELLER, '51, MD'54, MAY 23, 2025

RENA TE HELEN MURPHY, '51, MA'52, JUN. 16, 2025

JAMES ROGER NIXON, '51, DDS'55, MAY 20, 2025

HENRY T. SANDERS, '51, JD'54, MAY 12, 2025

EDGAR OTTO SCHULTHEIS, '51, JUL. 09, 2025

MARTHEEN C. WANTY, '51, APR. 19, 2025

ROBERT B. WATKINS JR., MMUS'51, APR. 06, 2025

ANTHONY VINCENT ANDOLINA, MSE'52, MAY 30, 2025

MARIAN D. BLAHNIK, '52, APR. 22, 2025

CAMILLA DUNCAN CLONEY, '52, JUL. 07, 2025

PATRICIA H. GEISENDORFER, '52, JUL. 10, 2025

DANIEL LEO GEREB, '52, APR. 27, 2025

GEORGE CLINTON HEWENS, MA'52, JUL. 01, 2025

RUSSELL E. LEESER, '52, APR. 12, 2025

MYRTLE S. MCLAIN, '52, MD'66, JUL. 06, 2025

BARBARA B. MILLER, '52, JUL. 29, 2025

FAYNE JOYCE PETOK, '52, JUL. 08, 2025

PATRICIA ABOWD SAKER, MMUS'52, JUL. 17, 2025

MARTHA JANE SIVIER, '52, JUN. 13, 2025

JAMES S. SLOSBERG, '52, MAY 05, 2025

ANN R. YULL, X'52, MAY 30, 2025

JOY FISHEL EATON, '53, JUL. 20, 2025

JAMES EVANS FOX, '53, JUL. 03, 2025

MARK WILLIAM GRIFFIN, JD'53, MAY 22, 2025

RALPH NORMAN HABER, '53, JUN. 04, 2025

DONALD MERRILL HURST, '53, DDS'60, APR. 01, 2025

JOHN IVAR IVERSON, '53, JD'58, MAY 07, 2025

WILLIAM LLEWELLYN JAMES, '53, APR. 23, 2025

SONDRA NAOMI MARKOWITZ, '53, APR. 22, 2025

GORDON CRAIG SHARP, '53, MAY 18, 2025

LEONARD SHERWIN SIMON, '53, MAY 07, 2025

MIRIAM J. VELLUCCI, '53, APR. 05, 2025

R. WILLIAM BARKER, JD'54, JUN. 06, 2025

GEORGE GLEN BECKWITH, '54, APR. 01, 2025

HEWLETTE S. CRAWFORD JR., '54, MWM'57, MAY 21, 2025

NANCY W. DUBOC, '54, JUL. 09, 2025

FRANCES SKAFF ELLIS, '54, MAY 20, 2025

EVA KRIPKE, '54, JUN. 12, 2025

DONALD EUGENE MASTERS, '54, MS'55, JUN. 21, 2025

PETER NELLIST REED, '54, APR. 09, 2025

FREDERIC M. SCHERER, '54, MAY 25, 2025

PHEBE NAN ALLEN, '55, MAY 25, 2025

RON K. BHADA, '55, MSE'57, PHD'68, APR. 29, 2025

WILLIAM BROWN, MBA'55, JUN. 22, 2025

PAUL ELMER COOLEY, MD'55, JUL. 21, 2025

ELSIE CAROLYN FISHER, '55, MAY 23, 2025

STEPHEN JACOB JELIN, '55, JUL. 08, 2025

JOHN M. LAANSMA, '55, MAY 02, 2025

ELIZABETH E. LEITH, '55, JUL. 24, 2025

THOMAS MAX LEOPOLD, '55, JUL. 02, 2025

MELVIN MUNK, DDS'55, APR. 10, 2025

CURTIS TRUMBULL ATKISSON JR., '56, JUL. 19, 2025

EARL JOHN AURELIUS, '56, APR. 15, 2025

ROBERT PLUMMER BAUGHMAN, X'56, APR. 03, 2025

LAWRENCE A. CAPRA, '56, MAY 29, 2025

RICHARD EGIDIO CARPINO, MPH'56, JUN. 18, 2025

MILO LAWRENCE DANZEISEN, DDS'56, JUL. 20, 2025

CAROL ROSE HUNTER, '56, APR. 04, 2025

CAROLYN W. JONES-CLARK, '56, APR. 19, 2025

NORMAN WILMARTH KIEL, '56, JUN. 28, 2025

JOAN AILEEN KING, '56, JUL. 23, 2025

MICHAEL W. LAMMERS, '56, JUL. 08, 2025

RICHARD GUSTAV LASSY, '56, MAY 03, 2025

BERNARD JOHN OZINGA, DDS'56, APR. 27, 2025

CHARLES HERSH SACHSE, '56, MAY 01, 2025

MORTON SIEGEL, '56, MAY 21, 2025

JOSEPHINE M. BEACH, MA'57, MAY 22, 2025

CLARE J. BISMUTH, '57, APR. 29, 2025

FREDERICK CARL CHAMBERLIN, '57, MAY 29, 2025

ROGER L. COLE, '57, MA'58, PHD'63, JUL. 06, 2025

GEORGE CHARLES DAVIDSON, '57, JUL. 01, 2025

MARSHALL SALVATORE GRILLO, '57, JUN. 25, 2025

GAILLE DIANE GRISSOM, '57, JUL. 14, 2025

SALLY L. GUSTKE, '57, APR. 18, 2025

CARL HERBERT HAAG, MA'57, PHD'61, APR. 23, 2025

EDWARD CARL HANPETER, JD'57, JUL. 25, 2025
 ROBERT PAUL HASPER, X'57, APR. 24, 2025
 PHILIP MELVIN HILL, '57, APR. 05, 2025
 CARL HERBERT HIRSCH, '57, MAY 05, 2025
 JOYCE CAROL JACOBI, MA'57, JUL. 11, 2025
 THOMAS MORIMER KASTNER, MSE'57, MAY 01, 2025
 HERBERT KAUFER, '57, MD'59, MDRES'64, MAY 26, 2025
 ROBERT B. LYNN, '57, APR. 04, 2025
 LEE ROBERT MARKS, '57, JUL. 08, 2025
 CYRIL MOSCOW, JD'57, APR. 08, 2025
 WALTER W. NAUMER JR., '57, JD'62, APR. 09, 2025
 LYDIA ANN OLSON, '57, APR. 01, 2025
 JOHN LEONARD PALLIN, '57, MS'59, MAY 02, 2025
 LOUIS JOSEPH PANSKY, MPH'57, MAY 22, 2025
 DALE PAUL SCHAFFER, MA'57, JUL. 05, 2025
 RONALD PAUL SHAFFER, DDS'57, MS'67, JUN. 15, 2025
 BAILEY I. SILVERMAN, '57, MSW'59, JUN. 27, 2025
 THOMAS G. VANGESSEL, '57, JUL. 06, 2025
 FREDERICK JAMES ALLEN, '58, MAY 21, 2025
 CORNELIUS ARTHUR BARNETT, '58, MBA'59, APR. 24, 2025
 RICHARD S. BENEDEK, JD'58, JUL. 05, 2025
 JULIE WASS BROMLEY, '58, APR. 12, 2025
 HUGH WHITE DEANE, '58, MBA'59, APR. 09, 2025
 CAROL PICKER FRANK, X'58, MAY 21, 2025
 JOHN WHITFIELD HILLYER, '58, APR. 28, 2025
 LYNN ELMER HOWELL JR., MD'58, JUL. 07, 2025
 THOMAS ELLIS HUNTER, '58, JD'61, JUL. 19, 2025
 JONATHAN EDWARD MAIRE, '58, JUN. 12, 2025
 RAYMOND LEE PAINE, '58, MD'64, APR. 17, 2025
 CECIL ROY PETERSON, MSE'58, MAY 13, 2025
 DONALD FRANK REMBIESA, '58, APR. 20, 2025
 THOMAS SKIMMING, '58, APR. 19, 2025
 DANIEL ANDREW SWANTKO, '58, MAY 10, 2025
 ADRIAN M. WENNER, MS'58, PHD'61, MAY 01, 2025
 WARD OTIS WINER, '58, MSE'59, PHD'62, MAY 25, 2025
 PAUL CHARLES AITA, X'59, JUL. 12, 2025
 ALTHEA JEAN BUEHLER, '59, JUL. 20, 2025
 LARRY THOMAS BURCH, '59, MD'64, MAY 12, 2025
 MARGARET M. BURNS, MALS'59, JUN. 05, 2025
 FREDERICK DONALD CHECKWICZ, MA'59, APR. 20, 2025
 ROBERTA DEMOTT-FRIBERG, MS'59, JUN. 30, 2025

ROLAND WEST DEYOUNG, MD'59, APR. 09, 2025
 VIRGINIA L. DOW, MA'59, JUN. 11, 2025
 JOYCE PETERS EATON, '59, JUL. 19, 2025
 ROBERT C. FINKBEINER, '59, MBA'60, JUN. 16, 2025
 BERTEL JAMES FROYSLAND, MA'59, MAY 01, 2025
 SUZANNE DEE GREEN, '59, JUN. 27, 2025
 NORMA M. HARRIS, '59, MAY 26, 2025
 THOMAS LEROY HEALY, MS'59, MAY 24, 2025
 CHARLES SHEPARD HEARD, MMUS'59, MAY 25, 2025
 WILLIAM S. HOBBS, '59, MAY 19, 2025
 DONALD LEON HOLLEY, MSE'59, JUN. 08, 2025
 ELIZABETH YOUTSEY JACOBSON, '59, APR. 06, 2025
 BARBARA ANN KALE, '59, JUL. 27, 2025
 JOAN C. KENDZIOR, '59, JUL. 15, 2025
 JOHN CLARKE MAURER, '59, APR. 13, 2025
 JUDITH N. OSMUN, '59, MAY 31, 2025
 RICHARD KARL PLEBUCH, MSE'59, APR. 14, 2025
 JAMES R. RUBENSON, '59, MBA'61, APR. 15, 2025
 SUSAN SCHULER, '59, JUL. 02, 2025
 MARJORIE LOUIS SCOTT, '59, MAY 11, 2025
 HAROLD WALTER SLAWSBY, '59, JUL. 05, 2025
 BONNIE J. SLOAN, '59, MAY 04, 2025
 JAMES EDWARD STRALEY, DDS'59, APR. 11, 2025
 SUSAN WARTELL, '59, APR. 30, 2025
 GUY ERRIT WYNN JR., '59, MAY 10, 2025
 MARION WALTER ZEMBAL, MBA'59, JUL. 11, 2025

1960-69

CHARLES JOHNSTON ANDREWS, '60, MAY 24, 2025
 JOSEPH S. BAYLIS, '60, APR. 01, 2025
 FRANK PAUL BAZELI, MA'60, MAY 29, 2025
 BETTY L. BERNARD, '60, JUN. 25, 2025
 ROBERT S. BICKNELL, MSE'60, JUL. 19, 2025
 SUSAN EUNICE BOYSE, '60, APR. 11, 2025
 JANE K. BURGER, '60, APR. 26, 2025
 JOAN BELLE CLAEYS, '60, JUN. 09, 2025
 GARRETT HOWARD EVANS, '60, MSE'66, JUL. 23, 2025
 LLOYD CALVIN FELL, '60, JD'63, JUL. 17, 2025
 WILLIAM H. GARZKE JR., '60, MAY 17, 2025
 DONALD LEE GOLDMAN, JD'60, APR. 09, 2025
 VERNON EUGENE GRINNELL JR., '60, JUN. 15, 2025
 DUDLEY HUGHES, JD'60, APR. 06, 2025

MARY JUNTUNEN, '60, JUL. 10, 2025
 RUBY EDNA KUHL, MA'60, MAY 09, 2025
 MELVYN LEVITSKY, '60, MAY 17, 2025
 SANDRA LOVEGROVE, '60, MAY 01, 2025
 DONALD MAXWELL, JD'60, JUL. 03, 2025
 JOHN BLACK MORGAN, '60, MMUS'62, MAY 25, 2025
 THOMAS NEWHOF JR., '60, MSE'61, JUN. 24, 2025
 WILLIAM GERALD PARK, '60, MAY 20, 2025
 GLENNA J. PAUKSTIS, MA'60, MAY 18, 2025
 JOAN PESTKA, '60, JUL. 03, 2025
 JOHN PIGOTT, JD'60, JUN. 24, 2025
 MARIE ANTOINETTE RAKOLTA, '60, JUN. 17, 2025
 LAURA H. SHERIDAN, '60, MAY 25, 2025
 GEORGE EPHRAIM SOKOLSKY JR., MS'60, MAY 05, 2025
 GILBERT FRANKLIN ASHER, '61, JUN. 09, 2025
 JUDD LOREN BACON, JD'61, MAY 01, 2025
 PATRICIA ANN POMBERT BALDWIN, '61, JUN. 23, 2025
 ELIZABETH D. BARLOW, MA'61, MPA'75, JUN. 17, 2025
 LAWRENCE GEORGE BRENOWITZ, '61, JUL. 17, 2025
 CARMELA BURTELL, '61, JUL. 07, 2025
 DAVID ROLAND CARPENTER, '61, MS'62, JUL. 21, 2025
 BERKLEY THOMAS COOKE, MBA'61, APR. 01, 2025
 ARLENE COOPER, '61, MAY 22, 2025
 JAMES ALBERT DAMM VI, '61, MBA'62, MAY 12, 2025
 GURMIT SINGH DHALIWAL, MSE'61, APR. 17, 2025
 WILLIAM S. FARR JR., JD'61, APR. 25, 2025
 LEAH BELLE FULTON, '61, APR. 03, 2025
 CHARLES FREDRICK HOSLER JR., '61, JUN. 07, 2025
 GREGORY JOSEPH KAISER, '61, MA'63, MAY 01, 2025
 CHARLES ALVIN KLEINSCHMIDT, '61, JUL. 19, 2025
 VERNON JAY LANINGA, MSW'61, JUL. 17, 2025
 RUTH SHALES MCCUTCHEON, '61, JUN. 02, 2025
 JANET ANN MITCHELL, '61, APR. 01, 2025
 JOE DEAN NELSON, '61, JUL. 15, 2025
 JOAN MURRAY O'BRYAN, '61, MA'61, APR. 27, 2025
 JAMES BOYD PANNEBAKER, JD'61, APR. 28, 2025
 SUSAN ELIZABETH POLLINS, '61, JUL. 15, 2025
 DIANE WEGENER ROSENZWEIG, '61, JUN. 19, 2025

JOHN LOUIS ROSER, MBA'61, JUN. 30, 2025
 BETTY J. SARDELIS, '61, MALS'71, APR. 24, 2025
 LOUIS MELVIN SHELBURG, '61, JUN. 25, 2025
 ROBERT ROSS STEVENS, '61, MWT'62, APR. 01, 2025
 FREDERICK G. VANKOUGHNET, '61, MAY 25, 2025
 PHILIP EDWARD VEENHUIS, MD'61, MPH'90, MAY 05, 2025
 RONALD WARDHAUGH, MA'61, JUN. 08, 2025
 ROBERT WILLIAM WIRGAU, '61, MCP'62, APR. 14, 2025
 ROBERT ISADORE WOELFEL, '61, MAY 15, 2025
 RICHARD HARRY ALLEN, MALS'62, PHD'64, JUN. 22, 2025
 DAVID CHARLES ANDING, '62, MAY 27, 2025
 KATHERINE E. BENEDICT, '62, JUL. 02, 2025
 GILBERT F. BOYD, '62, APR. 18, 2025
 DOROTHY JANE BREMER, '62, MAY 31, 2025
 FREDERICK MARTIN BRUBAKER, '62, MBA'64, MAY 25, 2025
 WILLIAM MICHAEL BRUKOFF, JD'62, JUL. 21, 2025
 ZOE CHIOS CARMODY, MS'62, APR. 06, 2025
 CONAN J. CASTLE, PHD'62, APR. 12, 2025
 DENNIS EDWARD FLODEN, '62, MA'63, JUL. 03, 2025
 ADELAIDE R. FU, MALS'62, JUN. 02, 2025
 MILDRED MAY GILLIES, '62, JUN. 21, 2025
 DAVID JOHN IMMONEN, MBA'62, JUL. 31, 2025
 FRANCES ANNE LAIRD, '62, JUN. 08, 2025
 BETSY MAUREEN LEE, MA'62, MAY 04, 2025
 JAMES WILL LIESENER, MALS'62, PHD'67, MAY 10, 2025
 JILL LOY MACY, MA'62, APR. 27, 2025
 KARL CHESTER OBERDORF, '62, APR. 09, 2025
 ELLEN LAMBERT PRITSKER, '62, MAY 07, 2025
 NANCY A. RASMUSSEN, MA'62, JUN. 26, 2025
 MARGARET J. SMITH, MA'62, APR. 29, 2025
 RICHARD HOWARD SMITH, '62, APR. 20, 2025
 JAMES LEWIS SPILLAN, '62, MA'65, PHD'71, JUN. 15, 2025
 EDMUND VALENTINE WHITE, '62, JUN. 03, 2025
 ROCHELLE WEISS ZEGART, '62, JUL. 22, 2025
 KENNETH NORTON ZEGART, '62, MD'64, MAY 06, 2025
 JAMES JOSEPH ALLAN, '63, APR. 16, 2025
 PAUL AESOP ATTAR, '63, JUL. 20, 2025
 RAYMOND CHARLES BERNREUTER, MD'63, MBA'87, MAY 05, 2025
 WILLIAM LEE BRINCK, MSE'63, APR. 27, 2025
 ELIZABETH P. CARLISLE, MA'63, JUN. 01, 2025
 MOLLY ANN FARIES, MA'63, JUN. 11, 2025
 PETER MASON GRAMS, '63, JUL. 11, 2025

MICHAEL A. HARRISON, PHD'63, JUN. 07, 2025
 HELEN MARIE HOLMES, MA'63, MAY 24, 2025
 KATHRYN ELINOR KOENIG, PHD'63, JUN. 12, 2025
 WILLIAM COLEMAN MELVIN, '63, MBA'63, JUL. 23, 2025
 ANTHONY RIKER MICHEL, JD'63, JUL. 03, 2025
 ROBERT MOORE ONEAL, MDRES'63, MDRES'66, APR. 22, 2025
 PAUL GERHARD OSTERBECK, '63, MSE'65, JUN. 24, 2025
 JAMES OTTO PATTERSON, MA'63, MAY 06, 2025
 JAMES HARLAN RICH JR., JD'63, MAY 24, 2025
 RICHARD ALAN ROSE, '63, MBA'64, MAY 26, 2025
 PATRICIA TE SCHAEFER, MALS'63, APR. 02, 2025
 RICHARD ROBERT SKOSKI, '63, JUL. 18, 2025
 WEBB ANTHONY SMITH, JD'63, APR. 02, 2025
 GEORGINE MARY STEUDE, MDRES'63, APR. 18, 2025
 DOUGLAS GARY STOW, MMUS'63, JUL. 02, 2025
 ROBERT E. TAPERT, MBA'63, JUL. 18, 2025
 MELITA VEDEJS, '63, MAY 11, 2025
 EDWARD HUGO WAHL, '63, MBA'65, JUN. 11, 2025
 JOSEPH PAUL WALDEN, MA'63, JUN. 13, 2025
 WAYNE WILLIAM WAYENBERG, '63, MSE'65, JUL. 21, 2025
 JAMES MICHAEL WECHSLER, '63, JUL. 12, 2025
 DOUGLAS WEBB WHITNEY, JD'63, APR. 23, 2025
 THOMAS EARL ALFORD, MALS'64, JUL. 01, 2025
 BARRY PHILLIPS BOSWORTH, '64, PHD'69, JUN. 01, 2025
 RICHARD JUDSON COWLES, MBA'64, MAY 06, 2025
 DONALD LEE DANIELSON, MSC'64, JUN. 23, 2025
 KEITH ELMER EGGERT, '64, MAY 09, 2025
 JOHN STANLEY GUENTHER, '64, JUL. 31, 2025
 JOAN PAGE HARRIS, MA'64, PHD'67, JUL. 12, 2025
 LOWERY FAULKNER HARRISON, '64, MWT'66, JUN. 16, 2025
 STEVENS WOODS HILYARD, MALS'64, APR. 27, 2025
 KATHY DUNN JACKSON, MA'64, MAY 22, 2025
 LOLA M. JONES, MSW'64, MAY 13, 2025
 ROBERT WILLIAM KYNAST, '64, JUL. 06, 2025
 JOHN THEODORE LAETZ, '64, APR. 24, 2025
 SIMONE MOLA, MSE'64, JUL. 31, 2025
 LAWRENCE RILEY TINDALL, '64, JUN. 22, 2025

DAVID ALDEN VOIGHT, '64, MBA'65, JUN. 29, 2025
 GEORGE ARTHUR WADE, '64, MS'66, MDRES'73, MDRES'77, JUN. 04, 2025
 FRANCES C. WHEELER, '64, MAY 15, 2025
 KARL MARTIN WIRT, '64, JUL. 30, 2025
 LUCINDA D. ALT, '65, JUN. 16, 2025
 EARLY WAYNE BLAND, MSW'65, APR. 01, 2025
 ROBERT LANGE DITZ, '65, MSE'66, MAY 19, 2025
 RONALD E. FERGUSON, MAS'65, JUL. 02, 2025
 MAXENE ELIZABETH GAFFNER, '65, JUN. 23, 2025
 JOHN ELIOT GATES, JD'65, MAY 13, 2025
 DOUGLAS A. GLOWE, '65, APR. 09, 2025
 JOHN ALBERT HENKE, '65, MD'69, MDRES'74, MAY 19, 2025
 TIMOTHY ROY HICKEY, MA'65, PHD'69, MAY 21, 2025
 LORAIN ELIZABETH HOLZHAUER, MA'65, JUN. 02, 2025
 J. ROBERT JUMP, MS'65, PHD'68, JUL. 12, 2025
 JAMES M. KEFAUVER, JD'65, APR. 12, 2025
 C. DOUGLAS KRANWINKLE, JD'65, APR. 15, 2025
 DONALD WILLIAM KRUSKY, MS'65, JUL. 12, 2025
 THOMAS WALTER MAST, '65, MBA'66, JUL. 15, 2025
 MICHAEL S. MATHEWS, JD'65, MAY 17, 2025
 ANDREW M. MCCOMB, '65, APR. 12, 2025
 KENNETH R. NORGAN, '65, MA'71, JUN. 09, 2025
 JOSEPH MERLE PARSONS, '65, MAY 25, 2025
 JAMES R. POCKLINGTON, DDS'65, JUN. 02, 2025
 NIMROD RAPHAELI, PHD'65, APR. 16, 2025
 WILLIAM O. VAN DONGEN, '65, JUN. 10, 2025
 THOMAS ALLEN WEBBER, '65, APR. 19, 2025
 RICHARD L. WILSON, MS'65, PHD'68, MAY 26, 2025
 FRED LOWE WOODWORTH, JD'65, MAY 31, 2025
 MALCOLM DAVID BACCHUS, '66, MD'70, APR. 26, 2025
 STEVEN ROY BECKERT, '66, MSE'70, MAY 06, 2025
 JUDY RUTH BERGMAN, '66, APR. 12, 2025
 MICHAEL THOMAS BODLEY, '66, MD'70, JUN. 14, 2025
 MARK ARNOLD CHESLER, PHD'66, JUN. 05, 2025
 KENNETH M. COBB, MLARCH'66, JUN. 21, 2025
 DOUGLAS MARSHALL CROWLEY, JD'66, MAY 15, 2025
 LESLIE WURN EDMONDSON, MS'66, MAY 11, 2025

MARILYN KAY ESSENBURG, '66, MAY 14, 2025
 NEAL ALLEN GODBY SR., MPA'66, JUN. 04, 2025
 PHILIP A. GRASHOFF JR., '66, APR. 12, 2025
 PATRICIA A. KELIHER, '66, JUL. 06, 2025
 GREGORY M. KERKORIAN, MMUS'66, JUL. 30, 2025
 ROBERT A. KOMINSKI, '66, APR. 14, 2025
 JOHN BARRY KOOPS, MA'66, PHD'75, APR. 09, 2025
 WREATHABELLE LEONARD, '66, APR. 23, 2025
 PHYLLIS J. LINDBLADE, '66, MA'69, JUL. 21, 2025
 JANET LOUISE LUKE, '66, JUN. 20, 2025
 CHARLES M. MALCHO, '66, JUL. 04, 2025
 GARY DON MAYNARD, MD'66, MDRES'71, JUL. 14, 2025
 ROBERT M. MEISNER, '66, JD'69, JUL. 26, 2025
 NORMAN P. PETERSON, MD'66, MS'72, MDRES'72, APR. 26, 2025
 THOMAS STANLEY POSTEK, '66, MBA'67, JUL. 16, 2025
 JEREMIAH REEDY, MA'66, PHD'68, MAY 28, 2025
 MARVIN LESTER ROSINE, '66, JUL. 17, 2025
 SHARON ANN SHANNON, MA'66, MAY 21, 2025
 HARVEY WAYNE SLAGER, '66, MAY 23, 2025
 RONALD LEIGH SMITH, '66, MSE'72, APR. 13, 2025
 ROBERT EWELL SMITH, '66, JUN. 21, 2025
 BESS STAMPS, MA'66, MA'81, JUN. 11, 2025
 ROBIN WARNER, '66, MAY 06, 2025
 DAVID C. ALLISON, MD'67, JUL. 17, 2025
 MARY ELLEN S. BEARDEN, '67, JUN. 02, 2025
 STEPHEN JEFFREY BLISS, '67, JUL. 22, 2025
 JAMES LEROY CONLEY, MA'67, MAY 16, 2025
 GARY BRYAN COOPER, MPH'67, JUN. 14, 2025
 LEE HAROLD DILLON, '67, JUL. 01, 2025
 JOHN HARVEY DUIVEN, DDS'67, JUL. 21, 2025
 CONRAD EDWARD EGAN, MSW'67, JUN. 09, 2025
 SANDRA ANN GADDY, '67, JUN. 07, 2025
 MICHAEL WILLIAM HARRIS, JD'67, APR. 16, 2025
 ROGER ANDREW HEIMBUCH, MSE'67, PHD'70, APR. 04, 2025
 DOLORES MARGARET HIBBARD, '67, JUN. 25, 2025
 EVELYN KAY KRAMER, MA'67, JUL. 09, 2025
 SUSAN G. LUMPP, '67, MAY 06, 2025
 M. RAYMOND MATUZA, MBA'67, MAY 30, 2025
 DONALD EARL MIELKE, '67, MAY 21, 2025
 DOUGLAS LEE NORLAND, '67, MBA'68, MAY 02, 2025

MARTHA JANE PITUCH, MPH'67, PHD'79, JUN. 01, 2025
 SHERWOOD JEROME PRATTER, JD'67, MAY 20, 2025
 NANCY JEAN AMIDEI, MSW'68, APR. 08, 2025
 STEPHEN AUGUST, MD'68, DEC. 25, 2022
 MIMI JEAN BRUDER, '68, JUL. 27, 2025
 NATALIE TRIX CAMPBELL, '68, MS'84, JUL. 01, 2025
 LINDA LEE COOPER, '68, MAY 06, 2025
 GAIL FRANCES FLATT, '68, MA'72, JUN. 10, 2025
 JAMES FILE FORSYTH, MA'68, APR. 04, 2025
 WILLIAM N. GROSS, JD'68, JUN. 05, 2025
 JANICE MARIE GUERRIERO, '68, APR. 13, 2025
 JAMES MARK HAULE, '68, JUN. 07, 2025
 JAMES GORDON HOWELL, '68, MAY 18, 2025
 CAROL ANN KEAGLE, '68, MAY 28, 2025
 CHARLES JOSEPH KOWALSKI, PHD'68, APR. 27, 2025
 ROBERT RALPH LOHRMANN, '68, APR. 02, 2025
 THOMAS CLAY MANCHESTER, JD'68, APR. 03, 2025
 JAMES WALTER MUSOLF, MMUS'68, JUL. 29, 2025
 ANNE LOUISE REMALEY, '68, JUN. 21, 2025
 RICHARD ERIC RESNICK, '68, JUN. 22, 2025
 LAWRENCE H. STIFFMAN, MPH'68, PHD'78, MAY 15, 2025
 SALLY ANNE WILES, '68, MAY 03, 2025
 MARGARET N. CARPENTER, MALS'69, MAY 14, 2025
 FREDERICK RICHARD DARIES, '69, APR. 25, 2025
 CRAIG RICHARD DYKSTRA, '69, JUN. 01, 2025
 FRANK F. FITCHKO, MA'69, PHD'85, MAY 20, 2025
 COLLEEN ANNE FOSTER, '69, JUL. 06, 2025
 ROBERT THOMAS HERKNER, MA'69, JUN. 12, 2025
 SALIM NAJIB JAHSHAN, '69, MSE'72, PHD'77, JUL. 24, 2025
 FRANCES JOAN MALINOFF, '69, MAY 19, 2025
 GEORGIA NELSON MARNETT, '69, JUN. 22, 2025
 RANDOLPH A. STANO, DDS'69, JUL. 16, 2025
 VALERIE JACKSON SUTER, MS'69, MAY 22, 2025
 EMMANUEL M. TENDERO, MDRES'69, APR. 26, 2025
 JAMES MARTIN TERVO, '69, JD'72, JUL. 08, 2025
 GERTRUDE H. WARKENTIN, MSW'69, MAY 19, 2025
 RICHARD WEADOCK JR., MS'69, APR. 20, 2025
 ANN MCGUIRE WHEELER, MMUS'69, MAY 27, 2025

1970-79

BRUCE FREDERICK CURRIE, '70, MA'71, PHD'73, MAY 01, 2025
 ROBERT D. DRENNAN, MA'70, PHD'75, APR. 18, 2025
 GWENDA G. GUTHRIE, '70, MA'71, MAY 16, 2025
 JOEL JAMES JOHNSON, '70, APR. 14, 2025
 TIMOTHY R.B. JOHNSON, '70, MA'71, MDRES'79, MAY 27, 2025
 DEBORAH MAE KARSOE, '70, APR. 27, 2025
 JOHN EDWARD KEMME, '70, MAY 07, 2025
 CHERALYN RUTH KENDEL, MA'70, APR. 24, 2025
 RICHARD ARTHUR KIRBY, MPH'70, APR. 11, 2025
 CIDAMBI K. KUMAR, PHD'70, JUN. 02, 2025
 CATHERINE M. MCCARTHY, '70, JUN. 30, 2025
 MICHAEL J. MONTAGUE, '70, MS'72, PHD'74, MAY 17, 2025
 WINSTON SIDNEY MOORE, JD'70, JUN. 03, 2025
 MARY B. PORTER, MA'70, JUL. 05, 2025
 ROWLAND ERNEST RICKERT, '70, APR. 07, 2025
 JOSEPH H. RYU, MSW'70, MAY 25, 2025
 DOUGLAS J. SCRIPPS, MMUS'70, JUL. 20, 2025
 RODNEY JOEL SUMPTER, '70, APR. 29, 2025
 EVELYN JOAN WECKERLY, MA'70, MAY 21, 2025
 JOEL WAYNE BENSON, '71, JUL. 11, 2025
 MARGARET ANN BERTRAM, MA'71, JUN. 30, 2025
 WILLIAM H. BOUDREAU, '71, APR. 09, 2025
 NANCY LAMBETH BOZDOGAN, MSW'71, MAY 20, 2025
 KENNETH LAVERN BRADY, '71, APR. 28, 2025
 RONALD G. BROWN, '71, JUL. 11, 2025
 MICHAEL A. BUCHANAN, '71, JUL. 05, 2025
 WILLIAM HENRY CHARLES, MLL'71, APR. 26, 2025
 RACHEL L. CRARY, '71, JUL. 21, 2025
 BRIAN LEIGH DUNNIGAN, '71, MA'73, APR. 10, 2025
 GLEN DANIEL FILLION, '71, JUN. 27, 2025
 MARGARETA J. JACKSON, MS'71, APR. 30, 2025
 THOMAS GEORGE KRAEGER, '71, JUL. 04, 2025
 CHERYL LINDA LANG-GRAGG, MPH'71, JUN. 28, 2025
 DONALD M. LAZARUS, MA'71, JUL. 08, 2025
 CAROLYN S. MANN, MA'71, MALS'73, APR. 23, 2025
 STEVEN KENT MARCY, MA'71, JUL. 23, 2025
 CHRISTINE K. MATHER, PHD'71, JUL. 16, 2025
 AUDREY D. MELLICHAMP, MS'71, MAY 08, 2025
 JOETTA MAE MIAL, '71, MA'73, PHD'89, JUN. 24, 2025

ANNIE JOYCE MOOTY, MPH'71, JUL. 11, 2025
 MICHAEL T. O'BRIEN, '71, MAY 04, 2025
 TERESA MAE POULOS, '71, APR. 27, 2025
 DONALD G. ROCKWELL, '71, JUL. 17, 2025
 POLLY ANN ROULHAC, MA'71, APR. 20, 2025
 HARRY EUGENE WOOD, MS'71, JUN. 05, 2025
 RICHARD DOUGLAS WRIGHT, MA'71, APR. 05, 2025
 JOHN ABBOT YOUNG, MD'71, MAY 08, 2025
 GARY CHARLES ALLEN, '72, APR. 05, 2025
 JOHN GEORGE CONSTANT, MA'72, PHD'75, JUN. 07, 2025
 ARLEY GORDON CURTIZ, MMP'72, MAY 05, 2025
 DAVID A. DOMZAL, '72, JUN. 12, 2025
 CONSTANCE K. FALES, '72, MAY 12, 2025
 JAMES HARDING FOWLER, MA'72, JUN. 23, 2025
 MELISSA C. HARTRIDGE, '72, MSW'74, JUL. 07, 2025
 JEANNE H. HENRY, '72, MA'75, MAY 26, 2025
 ROGER LLOYD HOLTZ, '72, JUN. 03, 2025
 LAWRENCE PAUL JAMES, '72, MAY 20, 2025
 CYNTHIA ALISON KABZA, '72, APR. 03, 2025
 MICHAEL M. LUCKEY, MA'72, PHD'78, JUL. 15, 2025
 FREDERICK CARL MALONEY, '72, MAY 31, 2025
 DIANE ELIZABETH MITCHELL WHITING, '72, JUN. 26, 2025
 JOSEPH G. REDHAGE, MBA'72, MAY 25, 2025
 ALEXANDER J. SAGADY, '72, MAY 19, 2025
 GEORGE W. SCHNETZER III, MDRES'72, MAY 25, 2025
 OTIS WALLER STOUT, '72, JUL. 07, 2025
 CYNTHIA BENNETT SWARTZ, '72, MALS'74, MAY 15, 2025
 YOSHIHIKO YAGI, MS'72, PHD'76, JUN. 28, 2025
 JANET MARIE ALLEN, '73, APR. 14, 2025
 THEODORE GEORGE BALDYGA, MUP'73, MAY 14, 2025
 RICHARD HALL BECK, MPH'73, APR. 10, 2025
 LARRY RAY BRIGHT, MALS'73, APR. 03, 2025
 GARY KEVIN BROWN, '73, MAY 18, 2025
 RONALD DEAN BRUNNER, '73, MAY 18, 2025
 MICHAEL COURLANDER, '73, APR. 20, 2025
 LEON MICHAEL DEPALMA, MSE'73, PHD'77, JUN. 27, 2025
 CONSTANCE EINSTADTER, MSW'73, JUN. 05, 2025
 THOMAS E. ELSON, MF'73, JUL. 21, 2025
 ALBERT T. HAHN JR., '73, JUL. 08, 2025
 PATRICIA ANN HALLIBURTON, '73, MA'74, MSW'86, APR. 13, 2025
 JOHN WILLIAM HYSSELL, MD'73, MDRES'77, APR. 06, 2025

WILLIAM RICHARD KEYE JR., MDFEL'73, APR. 10, 2025
 GUSTAV LEROY KIENITZ, '73, JUL. 24, 2025
 E. ALRICK KLEMETT, MBA'73, JUL. 12, 2025
 BRUCE M. LAVOY, '73, APR. 08, 2025
 RONALD C. SHUMAN, '73, JUN. 16, 2025
 MAYNARD LEE TIMM, '73, MAY 31, 2025
 SONIA WOLFF VOGL, PHD'73, MAY 03, 2025
 PAULA JANE WELLING, '73, MAY 06, 2025
 LLOYD HENRY DIEHL III, '74, JUN. 22, 2025
 SCOTT P. FOSTER, MA'74, APR. 29, 2025
 HAROLD D. KANE, '74, JUN. 21, 2025
 NANCY B. LEACH, '74, MAY 21, 2025
 HENRY W. LILLY, '74, APR. 01, 2025
 JOHN DALE MOODY, MSW'74, APR. 29, 2025
 HAYDON A. MOORMAN, MD'74, MHSA'80, MAY 18, 2025
 L. JOE MORAVY, MBA'74, MAY 18, 2025
 BRENDA SUE PARKES, '74, MPH'75, JUL. 22, 2025
 MADALYN W. REITZEL, MA'74, MAY 21, 2025
 DOROTHY MELVIN ROSE, MSW'74, JUL. 05, 2025
 ESSIE MANUEL RUTLEDGE, PHD'74, JUN. 01, 2025
 SANDOR H. SHOICHET, '74, JUN. 12, 2025
 DEBBIE ZLATIN, MSW'74, MAY 08, 2025
 MICHAEL H. CANGEMI, '75, DDS'79, JUN. 05, 2025
 RONALD LAWRENCE DIDOMENICO, MSE'75, JUL. 22, 2025
 KATHLEEN J. FEENSTRA, '75, MAY 31, 2025
 MARGARET HALBEISEN, '75, MS'80, MAY 10, 2025
 M. BROOKS KINDEL, X'75, MAY 21, 2025
 SANDRA C. LAMMY, MPH'75, JUL. 15, 2025
 CHRISTINE C. MILLIMAN, '75, MBA'89, APR. 07, 2025
 MICHAEL T. ORHANEN, DDS'75, APR. 15, 2025
 KENNETH STOUTENBOROUGH, MDFEL'75, MDRES'75, JUN. 24, 2025
 DAVID H. SUSALLA, '75, JUN. 09, 2025
 LEON JOHN TRUMBauer, '75, JUN. 24, 2025
 RICHARD EVAN WATSON, '75, JUN. 28, 2025
 REBECCA S. BONNELL, MPH'76, JUL. 29, 2025
 WAYNE ARTHUR BRIER, '76, APR. 04, 2025
 RONALD PETER DAGOSTINO, '76, APR. 12, 2025
 JUDITH ANN EASTON, '76, MAY 01, 2025
 RONALD W. GREKUL, PD'76, MAY 17, 2021
 DUANE DOUGLAS HARRISON, MD'76, MDRES'80, JUN. 29, 2025
 H. ROGER KING, MALS'76, MAY 25, 2025
 DOROTHY N. KOBBS, '76, APR. 27, 2025
 GARY CHESTER LULENSKI, MDRES'76, JUL. 28, 2025

MICHAEL GERARD MACK, '76, APR. 02, 2025
 LEON DAVID OOSTENDORP, MD'76, MAY 01, 2025
 ROBERT EARL PARKS, MALS'76, MAY 12, 2025
 DONALD PAUL POTTER, MHSA'76, MAY 31, 2025
 MICHAEL VINCENT REED, JD'76, APR. 18, 2025
 SHARON ANDREWS ROWLEY, '76, APR. 07, 2025
 SANDRA LEA SAMONS, MSW'76, APR. 20, 2025
 LAWRENCE CURTIS TOTTY, MPH'76, JUL. 19, 2025
 ELIZABETH F. ADDINGTON, '77, JUN. 05, 2025
 DAVID MICHAEL DESILVIO, '77, APR. 10, 2025
 SHARON FROMME MCDONALD, MPH'77, JUL. 21, 2025
 JOHN DAVID PIGULA, MS'77, MAY 01, 2025
 JOSEPH MATTHEW RAINEY, MSW'77, MAY 03, 2025
 BARBARA J. RICHARDSON, '77, OCT. 12, 2024
 HELEN RINEHART UETE, '77, MA'78, APR. 23, 2025
 TOM VIS, MBA'77, APR. 23, 2025
 JOHN ROGER AXE, PHD'78, MAY 20, 2025
 LARRY CHARLES COPPARD, PHD'78, APR. 07, 2025
 ALBERT JOHN LOUGHTON, PHD'78, JUL. 01, 2025
 LAWRENCE ROY MARANTETTE, MBA'78, JUN. 27, 2025
 DAVID BRYAN PEUGH, MBA'78, MAY 08, 2025
 PATRICK BRIAN SHEAHEN, '78, MAY 16, 2025
 JOHN ROBERT WILLIAMS, '78, MSW'81, JUL. 19, 2025
 ROBERT EMERSON WOLLACK, MSW'78, APR. 20, 2025
 JOAN ELAINE BISHOFF, '79, MAY 23, 2025
 MICHAEL JUDE BYRNES, '79, MAY 30, 2025
 PENNY J. FAUSEY, '79, JUL. 04, 2025
 M. ANNETTE HORAN, JD'79, JUN. 30, 2025
 MARGARET A. LEROY, MS'79, APR. 27, 2025
 MARY ELLEN MATRAS, MA'79, APR. 24, 2025
 ELIZABETH A. SAYRAF, '79, JUN. 30, 2025
 KEVIN EUGENE TOMPKINS, '79, MAY 31, 2025

1980-89

ELEANOR M. BYINGTON, MA'80, PHD'86, APR. 13, 2025
 MARSHA K. CHURCH-HERRING, '80, MPP'83, SEP. 08, 2008
 JOHN PATRICK COYNE, MBA'80, JUL. 15, 2025
 RAYMOND CRAIG DANIELS, MSW'80, MAY 10, 2025

JOHN DONOVAN, '80, APR. 14, 2025
 DION FRISCHER, MA'80, PHD'85, JUN. 15, 2025
 LOUISE PRANGE, '80, FEB. 06, 2025
 SUZANNE ELIZABETH ROCKIND, '80, APR. 13, 2025
 DAVID B. FERRISS, '81, JUN. 01, 2025
 SHARON MARIE LEAVENS, '81, JUL. 17, 2025
 HELEN ROSE OLDING, '81, JUN. 29, 2025
 MARSHALL L. PARKS, X'81, MAY 21, 2025
 JOAN O. ROBINSON, MS'81, APR. 30, 2025
 CATHERINE MARIE STONEHOUSE, '81, JUL. 11, 2025
 ALVIN R. FREEDMAN, MHSA'82, JUL. 26, 2025
 SUSAN GLOVER, '82, JUL. 18, 2025
 NEIL F. GRIFFUS, '82, APR. 17, 2025
 ROBERTA HOPE HAMBURGH, MA'82, APR. 17, 2025
 TIMOTHY MARK HAN, DDS'82, JUN. 14, 2025
 CURTIS K. LI, MDFEL'82, JUL. 04, 2025
 TIMOTHY M. MONAGHAN, '82, MAY 19, 2025
 MARK LESTER EDWARDS, '83, APR. 01, 2025
 MARY A. JOHNSON, MPH'83, JUN. 17, 2025
 MARK OLEM LISS, '83, MAY 20, 2025
 JAMES C. NISSEN, '83, MMUS'84, AMUSD'90, APR. 27, 2025
 CRAIG LEE CARPENTER, EDD'84, APR. 06, 2025
 CHARLES S. DESMOND, '84, JUN. 28, 2025
 DIANNA L. FRENCH, '84, JUN. 18, 2025
 MARTIN JOHN GRIFFIN, '84, JUL. 12, 2025
 BUEL VERNON HALL, '84, APR. 07, 2025
 DAVID M. MLODZIK, '84, APR. 27, 2025
 JOHN POLLINS IV, '84, NOV. 09, 2024
 MARK ALLEN PUSKAR, MS'84, PHD'86, JUL. 15, 2025
 NANCY LOUISE ROLPH, '84, MAY 30, 2025
 MARSHA S. VANHAECHE, MSW'84, JUN. 04, 2025
 BENJAMIN JAMES VERNIA, '84, JUN. 15, 2025
 WILLIAM A. COPI, '85, APR. 01, 2025
 PATRICK G. HESCH, '85, JUN. 26, 2025
 KEVIN M. LEE, '85, APR. 14, 2025
 DELORAS MAAS, MSW'85, APR. 14, 2025
 MAUREEN T. ROSSER, '85, APR. 26, 2025
 BARBARA L. WALKER, '85, APR. 19, 2025
 MICHAEL S. ELLIS, MBA'86, MAY 29, 2025
 CAROLYN ANN GOETZ, '86, MAY 04, 2025
 CHARLES HEMMING JACOBY JR., MA'86, APR. 01, 2025
 KIMBERLY C. MARKEY, '86, APR. 01, 2025
 MICHAEL ROBERT MOORE, PHD'86, MAY 11, 2025
 JOHN M. PARK, '86, MD'90, MDRES'95, MAY 13, 2025

ELLEN FAE RAINIER, MS'86, MAY 21, 2025
 CHARLES YDOATE, MBA'86, JUN. 06, 2025
 ROCHELLE L. COOKE, MSW'87, MAY 13, 2025
 ROBERT K. FLOWERS, '87, APR. 02, 2025
 MARY K. JOHNSON, MSW'87, MAY 01, 2025
 NANCY JANE KAUFFMAN, '87, JUL. 02, 2025
 SALLY DRUSKOVICH ORR, DDS'87, MAY 07, 2025
 JOSEPH DAVID ROBINSON, '87, JUL. 13, 2025
 COLIN JOHN BALL, PHD'88, JUL. 18, 2025
 MICHAEL JOHN DAVIDSON, X'88, MAY 06, 2025
 MICHAEL LEE FAIGEN, '88, MAY 12, 2025
 KERY MURAKAMI, X'88, MAY 01, 2025
 TERRI LYNN SMITH, '88, JUN. 17, 2025
 JEFFREY A. TAVORMINA, '88, JUN. 22, 2025
 CAROL LYNN TOWAR, '88, MAY 29, 2025
 PAMELA JO VANWAGNER, '88, JUL. 25, 2025
 BRENT A. WALLACE, '88, JUL. 03, 2025
 MARJORIE TERESA DECAPITE, '89, JUL. 04, 2025
 PATRICK CHARLES HOULIHAN, '89, MAY 18, 2025
 MUSADDIQ NAD NAZEERI, '89, JUL. 20, 2025

1990-99

CAROL L. BLAIR, '90, APR. 11, 2025
 VERA MICAL, '90, MAY 22, 2025
 BARBARA A. CRAWFORD, '91, MSW'92, MAY 08, 2025
 DAVID WILLIAM KINDELBERGER, MS'91, APR. 17, 2025
 MARK EDWARD MEYERS, '91, JUN. 10, 2025
 MICHAEL N. FLORIDA, '92, JUL. 01, 2025
 DAVID C. GREGG, MA'92, JUN. 26, 2025
 SHERRY JEAN CYRUS KEENER, '92, APR. 18, 2025
 JANET E. DUVENDECK, '93, JUN. 09, 2025
 LISA MARIE MAIN, '93, MAY 25, 2025
 SEAN M. RIVARD, MDRES'93, MAY 10, 2025
 JENNIFER KAYE ZAPINSKI, '93, JUN. 02, 2025
 BRIAN EDWARD DOYLE, MBA'94, APR. 12, 2025
 TERESA LYNN WOODRUM, MS'94, APR. 25, 2025
 BEAT MARKUS GEISSLER, MBA'95, APR. 08, 2025
 ELIZABETH RACHAEL HEBERT, '95, MAY 02, 2025
 NANCY J. BIDLACK, '96, MS'00, JUL. 24, 2025
 HEATHER LEE FOUNTAIN, '96, MAY 19, 2025
 NANCY F. DAVIDSON, '97, JUN. 03, 2025
 MADGE CASSELMAN MARKS, '97, MAY 20, 2025
 KAREN ANN BEIKERT, JD'98, JUL. 14, 2025

CARIANNE JEFFERS-WCISEL, '98, JUL. 16, 2025
 IRENE M. MCNAMARA, '98, JUN. 01, 2025
 JAY L. KEELER, '99, MS'10, APR. 30, 2025

2000-09

CHADWICK ANDREW GEISTER, '00, JUL. 10, 2025
 JENNIFER T. HANLON, MPH'00, JUN. 24, 2025
 THOMAS M. MAYS, MBA'02, JUL. 15, 2025
 KRISTINE A. COCHRANE, X'03, MAY 08, 2025
 ROSTISLAV LEYKIND, '04, JUL. 02, 2025
 VANESSA DENISE PAWLAK, '04, MAY 15, 2025
 LORI RAE BJORNSON, MS'06, JUL. 17, 2025
 JASON RAYMOND DENNY, '09, APR. 30, 2025
 ADRIAN D. SAMS, '09, JUN. 23, 2025

2010-19

JEFFREY JOSEPH DALY, MBA'10, JUL. 09, 2025
 KAY F. MUHAMMAD, MPA'12, APR. 30, 2025
 PATTON MANUEL ALLISON, PHD'13, APR. 28, 2025
 KATHERINE ELIZABETH FIDLER, MSW'13, APR. 09, 2025
 LINDSAY ANNE PEELER, MBA'14, JUN. 19, 2025
 PAXTON MICHAEL PLUM, X'15, JUN. 03, 2025
 ROBERT DAVID RUTA, '17, MAY 16, 2025

2020-25

HEATHER IRISH, MS'21, APR. 10, 2025
 JADRIENNE J'NAE HORTON, MPH'23, MSW'23, MAY 23, 2025

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

FOR 55 YEARS, BONSAI ENTHUSIASTS HAVE BEEN HONING THEIR CRAFT — AND THEIR TREES — AMONG AN EVER-GROWING COMMUNITY.

> On the second to last Saturday in August, Matthaei Botanical Gardens turns into a miniature forest of elm trees, trident maples, scott pines, rocky mountain junipers, and yew trees — tiny versions of their 60-foot-tall brethren lining tables elegantly set with black tablecloths.

This is the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society's annual show.

The society started in 1970 when Dexter, Michigan, resident Mary Westman placed an ad in the Ann Arbor News, inviting people to meet at her home — a tree farm run by her husband, complete with a bonsai forest she managed. Fifteen people attended the first meeting, and the group's membership had doubled by the following year.

These days, the bonsai society has grown to more than 200 members who meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month between February and October. The group holds programs — talks and lectures from people prominent in the bonsai community — to educate members, who come from all walks of life and all ages. Among them are doctors and artists, as well as general plant enthusiasts.

The society has hosted moss specialists, pottery experts, and a teacher in yamadori, the art of collecting bonsais from wild trees. While it's illegal to collect from public lands in Michigan, you can get permits to collect from the wilderness in many states.

Michael Bruneau is a bonsai technician at the Matthaei Botanical

Gardens and has been a member of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society since 2022, serving now as the annual show chairman. Bruneau says there are “a thousand little things” to keep in mind when nurturing and shaping bonsai, but the most important is to simply keep the tree alive.

“It looks complicated, [but] it's not particularly complicated. It's a little bit of horticulture, a little bit of art, a little bit of common sense,” he says. “If you're going to start, start by keeping the tree alive.”

Some bonsais live year-round in the botanical garden's conservatory, but from May to October, the major display is within the Melvyn C. Goldstein Bonsai Garden. Many Ann Arbor Bonsai Society members volunteer to maintain the collection housed within it. For many years, the collection was without a permanent home and was rarely displayed, instead rotating through unsuitable greenhouses where conditions were never quite right for the small trees.

In 2023, several members of the society and Melvyn Goldstein, '59, MA'60, donated funds and more than 125 trees to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens to create the Melvyn C. Goldstein Bonsai Garden. The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society has been meeting in the garden ever since, and Goldstein continues to donate new bonsai.

As the society's membership continues to grow, so does the impact the group — and the trees — have on the people who nurture them.

“I get a lot of connection to nature from bonsai,” Bruneau says. “There's a thing called plant blindness, where people don't recognize plants in the natural world and don't find them either interesting or worth their time. With bonsai, you just start to notice different aspects of plants and trees, like branching and leaf structure — a lot of things people don't really pay attention to.”

JESSE KLEIN, '15, is a freelance writer based in California.



▲ Bonsai tree on display at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

What it Means to Give Like a Victor

Every Wolverine has their “why” — it always leads back to the legacy of Maize and Blue.

“It is always so bonding to share a ‘Go Blue!’ with a passing stranger who happens to have a U-M sweatshirt on. Even more bonding is the shared opportunity to give like a victor, allowing U-M to continue offering such a meaningful, creative, and professional four-year college experience.”

Anne Smith Towbes, '69, MA'70, Life Member

“I support the Alumni Association because I believe in giving back to the organization that helped shape and support me along my path. The Association extends my U-M experience well beyond my graduation, offering lifelong guidance, resources, and connections that fuel my and my fellow alumni's success and make a difference in the world. By contributing, I help ensure that this spirit of support and excellence continues for generations to come.”

Andre Zoldan, '97, Life Member

“I owe everything to Michigan. As a business school grad, U-M gave me challenge, confidence, and a skill set that took me to an executive-level position in banking and finance. Now, my husband and I support students at Michigan wishing to achieve similar goals.”

Melissa Demos, '80, Life Member



Continue the tradition of generosity and join the thousands of alumni who choose to support the Give Like a Victor Fund.





200 Fletcher St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1007

YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S):

YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES:

ANN ARBOR'S PREMIER HOTEL



The Bell Tower Hotel combines superb accommodations with gracious service, capturing the true essence of a luxury boutique inn.

Bell Tower Hotel

300 South Thayer, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Across from Hill Auditorium on the University of Michigan Campus
(734) 769-3010 (800) 562-3559 BellTowerHotel.com

A DAHLMANN PROPERTY

SCAN TO BOOK
BellTowerHotel.com

