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University of Michigan History Timelines



Campus Aerial View, ca. 1947

BY CATEGORY:

[General University of Michigan History](#) - Historical happenings on the broader university level

[Athletics](#) - Important dates in University of Michigan athletic history

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[Diversity](#) - Significant dates in multicultural and gender related history at University of Michigan

[First Minority Graduates and Attendees](#) - overall and by department

[Student Life](#) - Timeline reflecting student culture at University of Michigan

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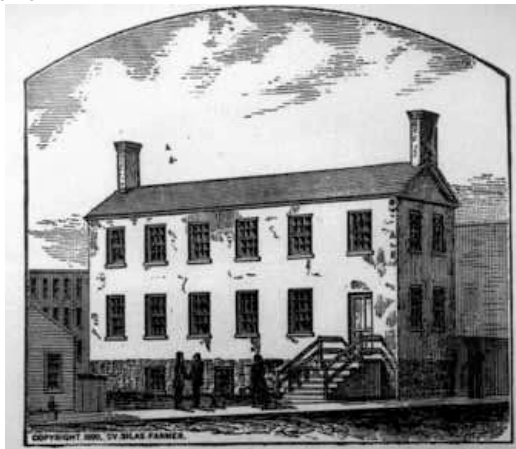
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BY CATEGORY

General University of Michigan History
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General University Timeline

1817 - Legislative act establishes the Catholepistemiad, or University of Michigania.



[Catholepistemiad, Detroit Building](#)

1817 - The Reverend John Monteith appointed the first president of the Catholepistemiad. Fr. Gabriel Richard is appointed vice-president and is the only other member of the faculty.

1817 - The "Temple of Wisdom" [seal](#) is adopted for the University, but no proof exists of it ever being struck.

1821 - The university adopts the official name of "The University of Michigan" and reorganizes to form a board of twenty-one Trustees, including the Governor (chosen from the faculty).

1837 - Michigan joins the Union as the 26th state on January 26. ¹

1837 - Ann Arbor chosen as permanent site for the University of Michigan by a March 20 state act. 40 acres are given to the University by the Ann Arbor Land Company.

1837 - First meeting of the board of regents in Ann Arbor on June 5. The board itself was established by a state act on March 18, 1837.

1837 - The state legislature authorizes the University to establish a Cabinet of Natural History, and in 1882 a new building and a formal museum organization are provided.

1838 - the first book purchased by the UM library was a copy of J.J. Audubon's Birds of North America. In 1838 the Regents authorized \$970 for its acquisition. ²

1840 - Four identical houses built for professors, one will later (in 1852) become the [president's house](#), the oldest existing structure on campus today and the first building in Ann Arbor to have indoor plumbing. ³

1841 - University's first year of classes in Ann Arbor; the student body consists of six freshmen and one sophomore taught by two professors. ⁴

1841 - Mason Hall, the first building, is completed. ⁵

1843 - The first out-of-state and foreign students enroll; out of a class of 53 students, four were from other states and one was from Canada. ⁶

1845 - First commencement held at the First Presbyterian Church; the graduating class consists of eleven men. ⁷

1852 - Henry Philip Tappan inaugurated as first president of the university.



1854- [The university's first observatory](#) opens, largely funded by subscriptions from



[Detroit Observatory of the University of Michigan](#)

Detroit and known as the "Detroit Observatory."⁸

1856 - [First building at a state university designed and equipped solely as a chemical laboratory is built at Michigan.](#)⁹

1857 - First student newspaper, *The Peninsular Phoenix and Gazetteer*, published on the university campus.¹⁰

1863 - Erastus Otis Haven inaugurated as second president of the university.¹¹

1867 - Maize and azure blue adopted as class colors by a student committee and become [official school colors](#) in 1912 by action of the regents.

1869 - Henry Simmons Frieze, professor of Latin, became President pro tempore of the University until 1871.¹²

1869 - Michigan establishes the nation's first university-owned hospital.¹³

1870 - Michigan becomes the first American university to admit students upon graduation from approved high schools rather than examination, and to institute a system of approval of high schools for purposes of regulating the privilege of such certification.¹⁴

1871 - James Burrill Angell inaugurated as third president of the university.¹⁵

1876 - First PhD's are conferred.¹⁶

1880 - Organization and incorporation of the University Musical Society/Choral Union.¹⁷

1880 - [First University Museum building erected](#) (later the Romance Languages building). The New Museums building was erected in 1928.

1880 - Henry S. Frieze as acting president until 1882 while President Angell is on diplomatic missions.¹⁸

1885 - First commencement for all schools and colleges of the University to be held on the same day. Until then, various schools and colleges held independent exercises.

1887 - Henry S. Frieze as acting president until January 1888 while President Angell is on diplomatic missions.²⁰

1889 - Charles Mills Gayley, lit. 1878, writes the words to "[The Yellow and Blue.](#)"²¹



[Original General Library](#)

1890 - [Michigan Daily](#)²² begins publication

1891 - University RECORD established

1894 - Literary Class of '94 is the first to wear academic gowns at a Michigan commencement.²³

1894 - First issue of the *Michigan Alumnus* magazine published.

1894 - Summer courses given for the first time

1897 - *Michiganensian* (the UM yearbook) begins publication.²⁴

1897 - The Alumni Association of the University of Michigan founded.²⁵

1897 - Harry Hutchins becomes interim president until 1898 while President Angell is serving as an envoy in Turkey.²⁶

1898 - "[The Victors](#)" is written by Louis Elbel, a senior music student.²⁷

1902 - *Michigan Law Review* first published.²⁸

1904 - Michigan Union established for male students, alumni, faculty, and regents. Present-day Michigan Union building dedicated in 1920.²⁹

1907 - Lawrence C. Hull, '05 is the first Rhodes Scholar chosen from Michigan.³⁰



1908 - Michigan Union Opera, later renamed MUSKET (Michigan Union Show, Ko- Eds Too), begins performances.³¹

1909 - [Harry Hutchins becomes interim president](#) until 1910 after [President](#)



MUSKET "The Crimson Chest"
Finale, 1910

[Angell's resignation.](#) ³²

1910 - [Alumni Memorial Hall \(now the Museum of Art\) dedicated.](#)

1910 - Harry Burns Hutchins inaugurated as fourth president of the university. ³³

1911 - University of Michigan Extension Service, a division of the University's Academic Outreach Program, is established. ³⁴

1911 - "Varsity" written by Earl Moore, '12, and J. Fred Lawton, '11.

1911 - [Graduate Department formally established with Karl E. Guthe as its first dean.](#) ³⁵

1913 - [Hill Auditorium dedicated](#) ³⁶

1913 - Museum of Zoology becomes an independent unit, headed by Alexander Ruthven. (it began unofficially in 1903)

1917 - A central corresponding committee of alumnae is established, which in 1920 changes its name to the Alumnae Council of the Alumni Association. ³⁷

1919 - The Michigan Union building is opened as a gathering place for men only. ³⁸

1920 - [Marion LeRoy Burton inaugurated as fifth president of the university.](#) ³⁹

1920 - [General Library built \(Old General Library demolished in 1918\).](#) ⁴⁰

1922 - Museums of Anthropology and Paleontology established.



[Clements Library](#)

1923 - [William L. Clements Library of American History erected.](#) ⁴¹

1924 - [Angell Hall completed.](#) ⁴²

1924 - Lawyer's Club completed.

1925 - Alfred Henry Lloyd serves as acting president from February through September after the death of President Burton.

1925 - Clarence Cook Little inaugurated as sixth president of the university.

1925 - [University Hospital, built by Albert Kahn and later known as "Old Main," dedicated.](#) ⁴³

1928 - University Museums building completed ⁴⁴

1928 - [The archeological collections move into Newberry Hall. The museum is named the Kelsey Museum in 1953.](#)

1929 - Affiliation of the Ann Arbor School of Music with the University of Michigan. The school comes under the complete jurisdiction of the university in 1940, with Earl Moore as director. ⁴⁵

1929 - [Alexander Grant Ruthven inaugurated as seventh president of the university.](#) ⁴⁶



[Women's League
Cornerstone Laying](#)

1929 - [The Michigan League is opened as a meeting place for women students, faculty, and staff.](#) ⁴⁷

1929 - On May 24 the Regents vote to change the date on the UM seal from 1837 to 1817. ⁴⁸

1930 - Middle English Dictionary moves to UM.

1930 - Founding of The University of Michigan Press.

1933 - [Law Quadrangle completed.](#) ⁴⁹

1935 - The university mandates the preservation of state and university history with the establishment of the Michigan Historical Collections (now The Bentley Historical Library). ⁵⁰

1936 - [Burton Memorial Tower dedicated](#) ⁵¹

1936 - International Center established with J. Raleigh Nelson as director. ⁵²

1938 - [Rackham Graduate School Building completed by the architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls.](#) ⁵³

1946 - The Museum of Art is established in Alumni Memorial Hall. ⁵⁴



1946 - Willow Run airport is acquired by the University of Michigan.



[Burton Tower](#)

1948 - UM's radio station WUOM goes on the air. Radio broadcasting began on the campus with student broadcasts in 1923. [55](#)

1951 - [Harlan Hawthorne Hatcher inaugurated as eighth president of the university.](#) [56](#)

1954 - Thomas H. Weller, '36, M.S. '37, is the first Michigan graduate to receive a Nobel Prize. [57](#)

1955 - North Campus recognized as a campus geographic area. [58](#)



[Polio evaluation meeting, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., Dr. Jonas E. Salk](#)

1955 - [Salk polio vaccine announced at the University of Michigan on April 12.](#) [59](#)

1956 - Flint College offers University of Michigan instruction, with David French as resident dean. [60](#)

1957 - Undergraduate Library (Shapiro) built by Albert Kahn Associates. [61](#)

1959 - Dearborn Center opens, headed by University Vice President William E. Stirton. [62](#)

1960 - [On October 14 John F. Kennedy announces the concept of the Peace Corps](#) during a presidential campaign stop on the steps of the Michigan Union. [63](#)



[JFK Peace Corps Speech at Union](#)

1964 - [President Lyndon Baines Johnson delivers his "Great Society" address](#) to a crowd of more than 80,000 people gathered for spring commencement in Michigan Stadium on May 22. [64](#)

1965 - Regents approve a merger of the Michigan League and Michigan Union, thus establishing a University Activities Center (UAC). Both buildings become open to all students. [65](#)

1965 - Astronaut Edward H. White, MSE AA '59, Hon ScD '65, becomes the first American to walk in space during the Gemini Four mission commanded by James A. McDivitt, BSE AA '59, Hon ScD '65. [66](#)

1967 - The university celebrates the sesquicentennial of its original establishment in Detroit with the theme "Knowledge, Wisdom, and the Courage to Serve." [67](#)

1968 - University Events Building constructed (renamed Crisler Arena in 1970). [68](#)

1968 - [Robben Wright Fleming inaugurated as ninth president of the university.](#) [69](#)

1970 - Eight story addition (the south building) added onto the Graduate Library. [70](#)

1971 - Astronauts David R. Scott, '49-50, Alfred M. Worden, MA '63, and James B. Irwin, M.S. '57, travel to the moon aboard Apollo 15. [71](#)



[Power Center](#)

1971 - Power Center for the Performing Arts built. [72](#)

1973 - Bentley Historical Library building, home of the Michigan Historical Collections, completed. [73](#)

1974 - Gerald R. Ford, '35 sworn in as the 38th President of the United States. [74](#)

1977 - "Let's Go Blue" written by Joseph Carl, a tuba player in the hockey pep band. [75](#)

1979 - Allan Frederick Smith serves as interim president following President Fleming's resignation. [76](#)

1980 - Gerald R. Ford Library completed. [77](#)

1980 - [Harold Tafler Shapiro inaugurated as tenth president of the university.](#) [78](#)

1982 - Marine Col. Jack R. Lousma, BSE '59, Hon ScD '73, commands third flight of the U.S. space shuttle Columbia. [79](#)

1983 - Alumni Center dedicated. [80](#)

1986 - The new [University Hospital and A. Alfred Taubman Health](#)

[Care Center opened](#) (built by Albert Kahn Associates). ⁸¹

1987 - The University celebrates the sesquicentennial of its establishment in Ann Arbor. ⁸²

1988 - Robben Fleming serves as interim president following President Shapiro's resignation. ⁸³

1988 - James Johnson Duderstadt inaugurated as eleventh president of the university. ⁸⁴

1996 - Homer S. Neal serves as interim president following President Duderstadt's resignation. ⁸⁵

1996 - Lee C. Bollinger inaugurated as twelfth president of the university. ⁸⁶

2002 - B. Joseph White serves as interim president after President Bollinger's unexpected resignation. ⁸⁷

2002 - Mary Sue Coleman inaugurated as thirteenth president of the university and the first woman president. ⁸⁸



Mary Sue Coleman

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST:

[Buildings and Campus Artwork](#) - Histories and online reference sources for University of Michigan campus buildings and artwork

[Notable Faculty and Alumni](#) - Lists of awards, research advances, and honorary degrees

[UM Presidents](#) - Biographical materials, dates of service, photos, etc.

DISCLAIMER

The sources most frequently consulted for the timeline include [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)⁸¹ and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)⁸². If any of the listed events on this page seem to be incorrect, or if you think an event should be added, please send the new information to the [Bentley Reference Staff](#) and provide citations for the sources where the new information was found.

SOURCES

All citations were taken from [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)⁸¹ Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:

1. http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/50sq_program/states/index.cfm?flash=no&state=MI⁸¹
2. "The Historical Record." by Patricia S. Whitesell. *The University Record*, June 11, 1997: http://www.umich.edu/~urecord/9697/Jun11_97/history.htm⁸²
3. [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#), and [President's House page](#).
4. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7) and *Michellaneous*. [written by Jim Albright, designed by Tom Reiner]. Ann Arbor, Mich., Student Alumni Council, c1981.
5. [Mason Hall page](#)
6. "History of Diversity at UM", *Michellaneous*. (see no. 4), and "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan: Important Dates and Events," January 12, 1999
7. *Michellaneous*. (see no. 4), and *A Book of Days: 150 Years of Student Life at Michigan*. [researched and compiled by Nancy R. Bartlett, Kathleen A. Koehler ; edited by Noreen Ferris Wolcott ; designed by Kathleen S. Horn]. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, c1987.
8. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7); [Detroit Observatory website](#)
9. [Chemical Laboratory page](#), History and Traditions: Plaques and Markers, First Medical Buildings, <http://www.umich.edu/pres/history/markers/firstmed.htm>⁸³, and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)⁸¹
10. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
11. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
12. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)", and [Frieze Finding Aid](#).
13. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7), and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)⁸¹
14. "School Accreditation": <http://www.soe.umich.edu/dewey/accrediation/>⁸⁴, and [The University](#)

[of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)[□]

15. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
16. "UM - International History: An Outline," and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)[□]
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18. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)", and [Frieze Finding Aid](#).
19. [Old Library page](#)
20. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)", and [Frieze Finding Aid](#).
21. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
22. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
23. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
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27. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
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30. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
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32. [Hutchins Finding Aid](#)
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34. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
35. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7), and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)
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<http://bentley.umich.edu/uarphome/archt.htm#1910>
39. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
40. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
41. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
42. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
43. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)", and *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
44. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
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47. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
48. *Michigan Alumnus*, June 1, 1929
49. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
50. "About the Bentley Historical Library":
<http://bentley.umich.edu/general/whatisit.htm>
51. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
52. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
53. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
54. UM Museum of Art History: <http://www.umma.umich.edu/about-umma/>[□], and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)[□]
55. [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#), and WUOM Bentley Finding Aid
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59. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7), and [Thomas E. Powers and Brian A. Williams. *Poliomyelitis and the Salk vaccine: a guide to the resources in the Bentley Historical Library*, April 1996](#)
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61. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
62. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
63. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
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65. *A Book of Days* (see no. 7)
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68. "[A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)"
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76. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)"
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<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/history.asp>[Ⓔ]
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79. "Friday Focus: The Right Stuff" by Adam Zuwerink, *The Michigan Daily*, November 20, 1998:
<http://www.pub.umich.edu/daily/1998/nov/11-20-98/news/news20.html>[Ⓔ]
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83. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)"
84. "[Presidents of the University of Michigan](#)"
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Athletics Timeline



[The First UM Football Team, 1879](#)

1860 - Founding of the Pioneer Cricket Club, the first organized sports activity on campus.

1864 - The University Baseball Club is established and the first organized baseball on campus begins.

1873 - Founding of the University Football Association and football becomes an organized sport,

although informal student games were played as early as 1862.

1876 - Baseball Association formed, which later merges with the Football Association in 1878 to form the first student-controlled Athletic Association.

1879 - Michigan plays and wins its first intercollegiate football game, May 30, against Racine College at White Stockings Park in Chicago. ¹

1882 - First intercollegiate baseball game, played against Wisconsin on May 20.

1882 - First African American to play baseball at UM, Moses "Fleetwood" Walker. ²

1889 - Charles Mills Gayley, lit. 1878, writes the words to "[The Yellow and Blue](#)". ³

1890 - First African American to play football at UM, George Jewett. ⁴

1890 - A formal University of Michigan Athletic Association is formed.

1893 - Board in Control of Athletics formed

1896 - University of Michigan Marching Band organized by a student director and begins playing at football games.

1898 - William R. Cunningham, med. 1899, is selected as Michigan's first All-American football player.

1898 - "[The Victors](#)" is written by Louis Elbel, a senior music student. ⁵

1899 - The nickname "[Wolverine](#)" applied to UM football teams first appeared in the Michigan Daily on November 11, 1899. ⁶



Fielding H. Yost

1901 Fielding H. Yost begins his long and remarkable term of service as football coach with his famous "Point-a-Minute" teams. ⁷

1902 - Barbour Gymnasium, a facility specifically for women's athletics, is completed. ⁸

1902 - Michigan appears in and wins the first [Rose Bowl Game](#), January 1, defeating Stanford by a score of 49-0.

1905 - [Women's Athletic Association formed](#)

1908 - Palmer Field, an athletic field specifically for women, is purchased and equipped.

1911 - "Varsity" is written by Earl Moore, '12, and J. Fred Lawton, '11. ⁹

1912 - [The Club house by Ferry Field, now the Marie Hartwig Building, is completed.](#) ¹⁰

1913 - Department of Recreational Sports founded to "coordinate and promote participation in intramural, club and recreational sports among the student body, faculty and staff of the University of Michigan and to manage athletic facilities." [11](#)

1924 - Yost Field House dedicated. [12](#)

1927 - [Michigan Stadium](#) opens on October 1.

1927 - First and last year that live wolverines were paraded in cages at UM Stadium football games. [13](#)

1938 - Herbert O. (Fritz) Crisler appointed head football coach and assistant director of athletics. [14](#)

1940 - Tom Harmon, '41, wins Michigan's first Heisman Trophy. [15](#)

1970 - IM building first opens to women

1974 - Intercollegiate varsity athletic program for Michigan women is established with the introduction of six varsity sports in the 1974/1975 school year. [16](#)

1974 - First UM female cheerleaders. [17](#)

1975 - All athletic facilities opened to both men and women. [18](#)

1977 - "Let's Go Blue" written by Joseph Carl, a tuba player in the hockey pep band. [19](#)

1981 - Women's athletic programs officially admitted into the Big Ten Conference. [20](#)



Tom Harmon, 1940



[1994 UM Women's Tennis team](#)

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST:

[Bentley Online Athletic Exhibits](#) - Exhibits on individual sports, the Michigan Stadium story, the winged helmet, the fight song, History of UM vs. OSU, Michigan Athletic Hall of Fame, etc.

[History of Women's Athletics](#) - An exhibit on the history of women's athletics at the University of Michigan

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SOURCES

All citations were taken from [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)¹² Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:

1. Bentley Football exhibit:
<http://bentley.umich.edu/athdept/football/fbteam/1879fbt.htm>
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6. Note from the Bentley Vertical File: Fimu F84 - Football History: 1883-1939
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8. Some disagreement as to the exact date, other sources suggest 1898 or 1896. "[Chronology of University of Michigan Buildings](#)" and "[A Sporting Chance: Women's Athletics at the University of Michigan](#)"
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11. History note, finding aid for the Department of Recreational Sports (University of Michigan) records 1913-1992, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.
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16. "[A Sporting Chance: Women's Athletics at the University of Michigan](#)"
17. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
18. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
19. *Michellaneous*. (see no. 9)
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Student Life

Departmental History

1837 - The state legislature authorizes the University to establish a Cabinet of Natural History, and in 1882 a new building and a formal museum organization are provided.

1838 - Asa Gray, the first Michigan professor, appointed Professor of Botany and Zoology.

1839 - Professor for Geology and Mineralogy appointed, although the first classes were not taught until 1845.

1841 - Literary Department (Department of Literature, Science, and the Arts) opens with Henry S. Frieze appointed first dean in 1875. It becomes a college in 1915.

1841 - Mathematics begins to be taught at UM.

1846 - The Chair of Modern Languages is established with Professor Lois Fasquelle's appointment, and French language instruction marks the beginning of instruction in modern languages at UM.

1848 - Regents authorize organization of the Department of Medicine and Surgery. The department becomes a school in 1915.



[Old Medical Building](#)



[Mason Hall, 1861 Original University Instructional Building in Ann Arbor, built in 1841](#)

1850 - First courses in medicine taught; Abram Sager is appointed first dean of the Medical Department.

1854 - UM begins to offer courses in engineering. ¹

1854 - Department of Astronomy formally founded with the completion of the Observatory building. The subject had been taught since the beginning of UM.

1857 - History begins to be taught at UM. Although history was taught in ancient languages classes and philosophy, the modern method came into existence in 1857 with the coming of Andrew Dickson White. It later merged with the School of Political Science in 1881 and became an individual department sometime later.

1858 - Department of Engineering formally founded.

1859 - Regents establish Law Department, with James V. Campbell as its first dean. The department becomes a school in 1915. The Law Library is also founded at this time.

1875 - Homeopathic Medical College established with Samuel Arthur Jones as dean. The department is discontinued in 1922.

1875 - College of Dental Surgery established with Jonathan Taft as dean.

1875 - School of Mines established, and includes a course on architecture which grows to become a four-year course in architecture, established in 1906. This unit is designated the College of Architecture in 1931, with Emil Lorch as director. ²

1876 - School of Pharmacy established with Albert Prescott as dean. It becomes a College in 1915. ³



[Prof. James V. Campbell, Law Dept.](#)

1879 - First Professorship of the Science and Art of Teaching (now Education) established at Michigan.

1880 - Department of Economics established. Classes had been taught since the founding of UM.

1880 - Instructorship in Music established in the Department of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ⁴

1881 - Department of Philosophy formed, separating philosophy from theology. Teaching in "moral and intellectual sciences" began in 1837. ⁵

1881 - Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering classes begin to be offered at UM.

1883 - Modern Language Association established to advance the study of modern languages and literatures. ⁶

1885 - First commencement for all schools and colleges of the University to be held on the same day. Until then, various schools and colleges held independent exercises.

1887 - Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures are founded.

1890 - Physics Department established. Courses in physics were first taught in 1843.

1891 - School of Nursing is established within the Medical Department in the form of a two-year training course for nurses directed by Jane Pettigrew. The school becomes an autonomous unit of the university in 1941. ⁷

1891 - Graduate Department established in the Department of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

1892 - Department of Elocution and Oratory (Speech), created by Thomas Trueblood, established and renamed many times until it becomes a part of the Department of Communication in 1979. ⁸

1894 - Literary Class of '94 is the first to wear academic gowns at a Michigan commencement. ⁹



[First Engineering Building at University of Michigan, ca. 1882](#)

1895 - The departments of civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering were organized into a distinct Department of Engineering and Professor Charles Ezra Greene was appointed dean. It becomes a College in 1915.

1898 - Chemical Engineering Department founded.

1902 - *Michigan Law Review* first published.

1908 - Regents establish degree of Juris Doctor.

1910 - Department of Political Science founded. Courses were first taught in 1852.

1911 - Department of Fine Arts established.

1911 - [Graduate Department formally established with Karl Eugen Guthe as its first dean. It becomes a School in 1915.](#) ¹⁰

1913 - [Department of Architecture established, it becomes a College in 1931. Architecture had been a sub-department under the Department of Engineering from 1906-1913.](#)



[Pumas at entrance to University Museums Building](#)

1913 - Museum of Zoology becomes an independent unit, headed by Alexander Ruthven.

1913 - Department of Recreational Sports founded to "coordinate and promote participation in intramural, club and recreational sports among the student body, faculty and staff of the University of Michigan and to manage athletic facilities."

¹¹

1914 - Department of Aerospace Engineering established. (originally called Aeronautical Engineering) ¹²

1915 - Department of Literature, Science, and the Arts becomes a College.

1915 - Department of Geography founded in conjunction with the Department of Geology. Classes were first taught in 1912. Geography separated from Geology in 1923 and became its own department, later to be dissolved in 1982.

1917 - Over the course of 5 months UM discharges half or the

professors from its German department. [13](#)

1921 - School of Education established with Allen S. Whitney as dean. Classes were first taught in 1879. [14](#)

1921 - Department of Physical Education, Hygiene, and Athletics (now Kinesiology) established.

1921 - Department of Rhetoric and Journalism established (Rhetoric became a separate department in 1929 and later merged with the Department of English Language and Literature in 1930).

1922 - Museum of Anthropology organized as an independent unit, and the extensive paleontological collections formally organized in the Museum of Paleontology.

1924 - School of Business Administration established with Edmund E. Day as dean.

1926 - [Department of Library Science created, which in 1969 becomes a separate School within the Graduate School.](#)

1927 - [School of Forestry and Conservation \(now the School of Natural Resources and Environment\) established with Samuel Trask Dana as dean. The Department of Forestry began in 1903 under the Department of Literature, Science, and the Arts.](#)

1928 - Department of Anthropology founded, but had been taught at UM as early as 1892.

1929 - Psychology Department founded. Courses first taught in 1852.

1929 - [School of Music becomes an independent unit.](#)

1931 - Department of Sociology created. Classes were first given in 1881.

1931 - College of Architecture established with Emil Lorch as director.

1933 - Law Quadrangle completed. [15](#)

1935 - Rackham Fund established.

1937 - Newberry Hall is purchased by the University of Michigan. The archeological collections move into Newberry Hall in 1928, and the museum is named the Kelsey Museum in 1953. [16](#)



Rackham Building construction, March 1937

1938 - Rackham Graduate School Building completed. [17](#)

1940 - The Museum of Art and Archaeology (now the Museum of Art) is established. It becomes a separate administrative unit and moves into Alumni Memorial Hall in 1946.

1940 - School of Music established.

1941 - School of Public Health established with Henry Frieze Vaughan as dean. [18](#)

1946 - Departments of Greek and Latin merged into Department of Classical Studies.

1948 - Institute for Social Research founded with Rensis Likert as director. It began with the Social Science Surveys Project in 1946.

1948 - The Phoenix Project begins for exploration of peaceful uses of atomic energy as living memorial to UM's 583 war dead. [19](#)

1948 - The Division of Biological Sciences is formed. Biology classes had been taught at UM as early as 1875 when courses in biology evolved from the Departments of Botany and Zoology. [20](#)

1949 - Fine Arts Library established in Tappan Hall.

1950 - Reorganization creates the School of Natural Resources (originally the School of Forestry and Conservation).

1951 - School of Social Work established with Fedele Fauri as dean. Classes were originally taught in 1921 within the Sociology Department. [21](#)

1954 - Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences founded. [22](#)



Lawyers Club, ca. 1925



[Dr. Donald Glazer, physics instructor, magnetic spectrograph, March, 1951](#)

- 1958** - Department of Nuclear Engineering is established.
- 1959** - Department of Fine Arts changed to History of Art.
- 1961** - The Geology and Mineralogy departments merge to become the Department of Geology and Mineralogy.
- 1963** - Department of Linguistics established.
- 1967** - Residential College established.
- 1969** - School of Library Science becomes a separate school within the Graduate School with Russell Bidlack as dean.
- 1969** - Department of Statistics established.
- 1973** - The executive committee of the Literary college approves the proposal for a women's studies program and the next fall five courses are offered. ²³
- 1974** - School of Art established with George V. Bayliss as dean.
- 1982** - Department of Geography disbanded.
- 2001** - The Department of Biology splits into two separate departments: EEB (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and MCDB (Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology). ²⁴
- 2001** - Division of Kinesiology changed to School of Kinesiology with 4 departments: Movement Science, Sport Management, Physical Education and Athletic Training. ²⁵

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST:

[LSA Departments and Units](#)²³ - Present departments in Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan

[UM Academic Units](#)²³ - Present academic units at the University of Michigan

DISCLAIMER

The sources most frequently consulted for the timeline include [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)²³. If any of the listed events on this page seem to be incorrect, or if you think an event should be added, please send the new information to the [Bentley Reference Staff](#) and provide citations for the sources where the new information was found.

SOURCES

All citations were taken from [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:

1. [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ and the "About the College," College of Engineering website: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/about/>²³
2. *A Book of Days: 150 Years of Student Life at Michigan*. [researched and compiled by Nancy R. Bartlett, Kathleen A. Koehler ; edited by Noreen Ferris Wolcott ; designed by Kathleen S. Horn]. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, c1987.
3. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2), and [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³
4. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2), and [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³
5. "UM - International History: An Outline" and [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³
6. "UM - International History: An Outline" and "Learn More about the Modern Language Association," MLA website: <http://www.mla.org/about>²³
7. [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ and [School of Nursing Finding Aid](#) at the Bentley.
8. [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ and "Anniversary Dates" list, June 2, 1997.
9. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2)
10. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2)
11. [Dept. of Recreational Sports Finding Aid](#) at the Bentley.
12. [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³ and [College of Engineering Finding Aid](#) at the Bentley.
13. "WWI and the Attack on Professors of German at UM" by Clifford Wilcox. *History of Education Quarterly*, Vol. 33 No.1 Spring 1993.
14. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2), and [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)²³
15. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2)

16. "[History of the Kelsey Museum](#)", Kelsey Museum website.
17. "[A Chronology of University of Michigan Buildings, 1840-1999](#)" on the Bentley website.
18. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2), and *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey*
19. *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey* and "[Making UM History](#)" exhibit on the Bentley website.
20. *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey* and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)
21. *A Book of Days* (see no. 2), and *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey*
22. *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey* under Meteorology and the College of Engineering, and "[History](#)" section of the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences website.
23. "[The History of the Women's Studies Program](#)"
24. [UM Program in Biology](#) website
25. [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)

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BY CATEGORY

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Student Life

Diversity at the University of Michigan



[People's Rights Rally, January 1, 1981](#)

1853 - Samuel Codes Watson, medical student, is the first known African American student admitted to the university. ¹

1858 - The first women, Sarah Burger, Harriet Ada, and Augusta Chapin, request admission to UM and are denied. ²

1866 - [Alice Boise](#)

[Wood](#) is the first woman to attend classes as an unregistered student at UM. ³

1870 - Madelon Louisa Stockwell, lit. 1872, is the first woman admitted to the university. She was also the first graduate to marry a classmate in 1872. ⁴

1871 - James Burrill Angell inaugurated as third president of the university and for the next 38 years he and his wife, Sara Caswell Angell, served as staunch supporters for co-education. ⁵

1871 - Amanda Sanford becomes first alumna of UM by graduating from the medical school. Sarah Killgore of Crawfordsville, Indiana graduated with a law degree later on the same day. ⁶

1872 - First Asian student (Japanese) admitted to UM - Saiske Tagai, literature. ⁷

1876 - Mary Henrietta Graham, lit. 1880, is the first known African American woman admitted to the university. ⁸

1877 - First Puerto Rican student enrolls at UM in the Department of Medicine and Surgery '80, José Celso Barbosa ⁹

1878 - First African American to receive MD (Homeopathy), Grace Roberts ¹⁰

1879 - First sorority, Eta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, established at Michigan. ¹¹

1882 - First African American to play baseball at UM, Moses "Fleetwood" Walker. ¹²

1882 - First woman to study engineering was Mary Hegeler who graduated in 1882 with a Bachelor of Science degree. ¹³

1885 - June Rose Colby is the first woman to receive a Ph.D. upon examination. ¹⁴

1890 - George Jewett becomes the first African American to play football at UM. ¹⁵

1890 - Women's League established for women students, alumnae, and faculty. The Michigan League building is dedicated in 1929. ¹⁶

1890 - Ida Gray becomes the first African American woman to graduate in dentistry. ¹⁷

1892 - First Chinese students admitted to UM, Mary Stone and Ida Kahn. ¹⁸

1895 - Marian Sarah Parker becomes the first woman to graduate with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. ¹⁹

1896 - Eliza Mosher appointed first dean of



[Mary H. Graham](#)



Dr. Eliza M. Mosher

women, and becomes first woman faculty member. [20](#)

1897 - First woman instructor in the sciences, Fanny Elizabeth Langdon. [21](#)

1902 - Barbour Gymnasium, a facility specifically for women, is completed. [22](#)

1902 - Association for Mutual Aid of Colored Students is established. [23](#)

1905 - Women's Athletic Association is formed. [24](#)

1908 - A women's athletic field (Palmer Field) is purchased and equipped.

1909 - First Jewish sorority, Alpha Epsilon Phi, is established. [25](#)

1909 - [Alpha Phi Alpha](#) established on April 10 and is the earliest known UM African American fraternity.

1911 - First Jewish faculty member, Louis A. Strauss. [26](#)

1915 - University's first two all women's residence halls, Martha Cook and Helen Newberry, open. [27](#)

1917 - A central corresponding committee of alumnae, which in 1920 changes its name to the Alumnae Council of the Alumni Association, is established. Claire Sanders is the first dean.

1917 - Regent Levi Lewis Barbour establishes the Barbour Scholarships for Oriental women. [28](#)

1921 - [Delta Sigma Theta](#) is founded on April 7, becoming the earliest known UM African American sorority.

1926 - Negro-Caucasian Club founded. [29](#)

1928 - Women's Athletic building completed. [30](#)

1929 - The Michigan League is opened as a meeting place for women students, faculty, and staff. [31](#)

1929 - First woman Regent, Esther Marsh Cram. [32](#)

1929 - First alumnae secretary, Mary Barton Henderson, and the first alumnae scholarship (1930).

1936 - International Center established with J. Raleigh Nelson as director.

1947 - Center for Japanese Studies formed.



Front of the Michigan Union, ca. 1950

1956 - Women permitted to enter the front door of the Michigan Union. [33](#)

1962 - The practice of "In Loco Parentis" as it regards overseeing female students is abolished in the spring.

1963 - Coeducational dormitories are approved beginning with the fall term, and a single director of residence halls is appointed to administer both men's and women's housing.

1964 - The Opportunity Award Program

begins in the fall. [34](#)

1964 - Center for Continuing Education of Women founded. (now called the Center for the Education of Women) [35](#)

1965 - Regents approve a merger of the Michigan League and Michigan Union, thus establishing a University Activities Center (UAC). Both buildings become open to all students. [36](#)

1968 - First male undergraduate nursing students graduate. The first male completed the nursing graduate program in 1964. [37](#)

1968 - Requirements for mandatory residence hall hours for women are eliminated by the Regents. [38](#)

1968 - On April 9, minority students under the Black Student Union take possession of the LS&A building demanding increases in minority enrollment and support services for minority students. [39](#)

[Martha Cook Building](#)

1968 - Barbara Newell is appointed the acting vice president of Student Affairs. She is the first woman to serve as an executive officer. [40](#)



[Campus Protest, late 1960s](#)

1970 - In March, the Black Action Movement (BAM) boycotts classes for two weeks. [41](#)

1970 - Michigan celebrates the centennial of women at the University.

1970 - IM building first opens to women. [42](#)

1970 - Center for Afro-American and Africa Studies begins. [43](#)

1971 - Commission for Women established. [44](#)

1971 - William Monroe Trotter House opens. [45](#)



[UM Marching Band](#)

1972 - Women are allowed to join the marching band. [47](#)

1972 - Henry Johnson as VP for Student Services becomes first African American administrator. [47](#)

1972 - Federal grant enables UM to renovate for wheelchair accessibility. [48](#)

1973 - Intercollegiate varsity athletic program for Michigan women established with the introduction of six varsity sports. [49](#)

1973 - The executive committee of the Literary college approves the proposal for a women's studies program and the next fall five courses are offered. [50](#)

1974 - First UM female cheerleaders. [51](#)

1975 - All athletic facilities opened to both men and women. [52](#)

1981 - Women's athletic programs officially admitted into the Big Ten Conference. [53](#)

1993 - The Board of Regents outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation. [54](#)

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST:

[History of Diversity at UM](#) - Some key events in the history of diversity at the University of Michigan

[Women's Voices: Early Years at UM](#) - A Bentley publication with thoughts from women who attended the University of Michigan from 1870 to 1924

[Women's Athletics Exhibit](#) - An exhibit on the history of women's athletics at the University of Michigan

[Coeducation at UM](#)[□] - A historical account from *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*

[How Michigan was Opened to Women](#) - A personal narrative from the first woman to attend classes at the University of Michigan

[Rules from the Handbook for University of Michigan Women 1921-1922](#) - A reflection on the daily life of women at the University of Michigan

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All citations were taken from [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)[□] Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:

1. Calkins, Laura. "Samuel Codes Watson." *Michigan History*, Vol. 86 No. 1, Jan/Feb 2002, 48-52.
2. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan: Important Dates and Events," January 12, 1999, and "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994"
3. "How Michigan was Opened to Women." Alice Boise Wood. *The Inlander*, April 1896, and "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994"
4. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)[□]

5. "Presidents of the University of Michigan": <http://bentley.umich.edu/uarphone/umpresid.htm>, and *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*[□]
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8. *University of Michigan Daybook: A Book of Days: 150 Years of Student Life at Michigan.* [researched and compiled by Nancy R. Bartlett, Kathleen A. Koehler ; edited by Noreen Ferris Wolcott ; designed by Kathleen S. Horn]. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, c1987, and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*[□].
9. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
10. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*[□].
11. <http://www.umich.edu/%7Etheta/history.htm>[□], and *A Book of Days* (see no. 8)
12. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
13. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*[□].
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17. *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*[□], and "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994," and "Early Diversity in the Health Sciences at the University of Michigan": <http://www.si.umich.edu/HCHS/Retrospex/RetroV1N2/retro1.2a.html>[□]
18. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and Kahn and Stone online exhibit: *The University of Michigan and China: 1845-2006*
19. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering history: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective/>[□], and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*[□].
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21. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*[□]
22. Some disagreement as to the exact date, other sources suggest 1898 or 1896. *Chronology of University of Michigan Buildings*" and *A Sporting Chance: Women's Athletics at the University of Michigan*"
24. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
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25. "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994"
26. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2), and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*[□].
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28. "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994," and *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey*[□]
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33. "History of the Michigan Union": <http://www.umich.edu/~munion/>[□]

34. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
35. CEW History and Background:
<http://www.umich.edu/~cew/aboutcew/hist.htm>[↗]
36. League History: <http://www.umich.edu/~league>[↗]
37. UM Nursing in the News:
<http://www.med.umich.edu/nursing/newsarchive.htm>[↗], and "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
38. [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)[↗]
39. "Born of protest, the U-M's Black Studies program has come of age," by Deborah Greene, Office of U-M Vice President for Communications:
<http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/MT/00/Fal00/mt12f00.html>[↗]
40. "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994," and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)[↗]
41. *A Book of Days* (see no. 8)
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45. The William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center:
<http://www.umich.edu/~mesamss/trotter/index.htm>[↗]
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51. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 2)
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Diversity at the University of Michigan

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BY CATEGORY

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First Minority Graduates and Attendees

Overall University Firsts

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1877 - First Puerto Rican student enrolls, Department of Medicine and Surgery '80, José Celso Barbosa. ⁸

1885 - June Rose Colby is the first woman to receive a Ph.D. upon examination (She received graduate degrees in 1885 and 1886). ⁹

1892 - First Chinese students admitted to UM, Mary Stone and Ida Kahn. ¹⁰

By Department

DENTISTRY

1890 - Ida Gray becomes the first African American woman to graduate in dentistry. ¹¹

ENGINEERING

1857 - William V. Snyder was awarded the first Engineering degree. ²

1887 - The first African-American Civil Engineering graduate was Fred B. Pelham. ¹²

1895 - Marian Sarah Parker becomes the first woman to graduate with a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering. ¹³

1958 - First African American woman to graduate in engineering, Willie Hobbs Moore. ¹⁴

LITERATURE

1870 - Madelon Louisa Stockwell, lit. 1872, is the first woman admitted to the university. She was also the first graduate to marry a classmate in 1872. ⁴

1872 - First Asian student (Japanese) is admitted to UM, Saiske Tagai, literature. ⁶



[Commencement, June 11, 1949. Graduates filing into stands at Ferry Field](#)

1876 - Mary Henrietta Graham, lit. 1880, is the first known African American woman admitted to the university. ²

MATHEMATICS

1914 - Suzan Rose Benedict was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics at UM. ¹⁵

MEDICINE

1853 - Samuel Codes Watson, medical student, is the first known African American student admitted to the university. ¹

1871 - Amanda Sanford becomes first alumna of UM by graduating from the medical school, Sarah Killgore of Crawfordsville, Indiana graduated with a law degree on the same day. ⁵

1877 - First Puerto Rican student enrolls, Department of Medicine and Surgery '80, José Celso Barbosa. ⁸

1878 - First African American to receive MD (Homeopathy), Grace Roberts. ¹⁶

1896 - First Chinese students to earn medical degrees, Mary Stone and Ida Kahn. ¹⁰

NURSING

1968 - First male undergraduate nursing students graduate. The first male completed the nursing graduate program in 1964. ¹⁷

PHYSICS

1918 - First African American to earn a Ph.D. in physics, Elmer Samuel Imes. ¹⁸

1972 - First African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics, Willie Hobbs Moore. ¹⁹

DISCLAIMER

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SOURCES

All citations were taken from [The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey](#)¹³ Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:

1. Calkins, Laura. "Samuel Codes Watson." *Michigan History*, Vol. 86 No. 1, Jan/Feb 2002, 48-52.
2. Engineering Dept. webpage: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective/>¹⁵
3. "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994"
4. [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)¹³, and *A Book of Days: 150 Years of Student Life at Michigan*. [researched and compiled by Nancy R. Bartlett, Kathleen A. Koehler ; edited by Noreen Ferris Wolcott ; designed by Kathleen S. Horn]. Ann Arbor, Mich. : Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, c1987
5. Medical School Timeline: <http://msweb.med.umich.edu/sesqui/timeline/1848-1873.htm>¹⁶, and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)¹³
6. *Alumni Catalogue: Catalogue of Graduates, Non-Graduates, Officers, and Members of the Faculties, 1837-1921.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1923, "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan: Important Dates and Events," January 12, 1999, and "UM - International History: An Outline."
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8. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6)
9. Rackham Chronicle of Graduate Education: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/History/chron.htm>¹⁷, and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)¹⁴.

10. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6), and Kahn and Stone online exhibit: [The University of Michigan and China: 1845-2006](#)

11. [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)[↗], and "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994," and "Early Diversity in the Health Sciences at the University of Michigan": <http://www.si.umich.edu/HCHS/Retrospex/RetroV1N2/retro1.2a.html>[↗]

12. Engineering Dept. webpage: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective/>[↗]

13. Engineering Dept. webpage: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective/>[↗]

14. Engineering Timeline of Achievements: <http://www.engin.umich.edu/150th/timeline01.html>[↗]

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16. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6), and [The Proceedings of the Board of Regents](#)[↗].

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18. UM News release, March 8, 2004, and "A Celebration of Pioneering African Americans in Physics: From Imes to Moore at the University of Michigan": <http://www.physics.lsa.umich.edu/nea/special/imesmoore.asp>[↗]

19. UM News release, March 8, 2004, and "A Celebration of Pioneering African Americans in Physics: From Imes to Moore at the University of Michigan": <http://www.physics.lsa.umich.edu/nea/special/imesmoore.asp>[↗]

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BY CATEGORY

General University of Michigan History
Athletics
Departmental History
Diversity
First Minority Graduates and Attendees
Student Life

Student Life



[Students Studying on the Lawn, 1946](#)

1845 - First fraternities, Beta Theta Pi and Chi Psi, established at Michigan. ¹

1857 - First student newspaper, *The Peninsular Phoenix and Gazetteer*, published on the university campus. ²

1867 - First issue of *The University*

Chronicle, a biweekly student newspaper, published. ³

1868 - First Senior Hop held in November. The last Senior Hop was in 1871.

1869 - The senior class begins the tradition of carrying class canes. It was customary for the seniors to begin carrying their class canes during the month of May preceding graduation. From 1934 the senior classes observed the tradition sporadically, and it more or less died out by the end of the 1930's.

1872 - First "J-Hop" held as the juniors revive the class dance tradition the seniors abandoned the previous year.

1879 - First sorority, Eta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, established at Michigan.

1880 - Organization and incorporation of the University Musical Society/Choral Union.

1884 - University of Michigan Men's Glee Club formally organized, although unofficial men's singing groups may have performed as early as 1846.

1890 - *Michigan Daily* begins publication. ⁴

1891 - University RECORD established.

1896 - University of Michigan Marching Band organized by a student director and begins playing at football games.

1896 - Professor Thomas Clarkson Trueblood forms the Central Debating League for the purpose of encouraging intercollegiate debating among the major universities. Michigan, Chicago, and Northwestern were the first members of this league.

1897 - *Michiganensian* begins publication. ⁵

1900 - "In 1900, when interdepartmental rivalry ran high among the students, the "Lits" [Literature students] raised the class banner, flaunting the numerals of the class, to the top of the University flagpole. The enraged "Laws" [Law School students] enlisted the aid of a sharpshooter from the West, who brought the emblem down at the second shot. During the early 1900's, the practices of haircutting, face-painting, house-raiding, kidnapping - particularly of officers of the rival classes - were common." Read more about [student traditions and rivalries](#). (from *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*, p. 1775)



[Junior Hop, 1920](#)

1902 - Girls' Glee Club founded. The Club came in and out of existence until it was finally discontinued in 1953.

1904 - Michigan Union established for male students, alumni, faculty, and regents. Present-day Michigan Union building dedicated in 1920. ⁶

1904 - First "Cap Night" celebrated on June 11, later to be abolished in 1934. ⁷



[Cap Night, 1916](#)

1905 - Student Council established. ⁸

1906 - Cosmopolitan Club founded. ⁹

1908 - Michigan Union Opera, later renamed MUSKET (Michigan Union Show, Ko- Eds Too), begins performances. ¹⁰

1909 - [Alpha Phi Alpha](#) ¹¹ established on

April 10 and is the earliest known UM African American fraternity.

1919 - The Michigan Union building is opened as a gathering place for men only. ¹¹

1921 - Joseph Bursley becomes the first dean of students. ¹²

1921 - [Delta Sigma Theta](#) ¹³ Sorority founded on April 7 and is the earliest UM African American sorority.

1927 - "Freshman Week" established as a period of preparation for student life for incoming students.



[Senior Swing Out, 1903](#)

1934 - After a long established tradition, Senior Swing-out activities celebrating the first wearing of the cap and gown are discontinued.

1954 - The all-male student council is replaced by the student government council, a co-ed student legislature.

1962 - Tom Hayden, '61, member of Students for Democratic Society (founded by Hayden in 1961), drafts the

Port Huron Statement, which brought national prominence to SDS. ¹³

1963 - Coeducational dormitories are approved beginning with the fall term, and a single director of residence halls is appointed to administer both men's and women's housing. ¹⁴

1964 - Richard Cutler becomes Vice President of Student Affairs on December 1 and establishes the Office of Student-Community Relations, eliminating the positions of Dean of Men and Dean of Women. ¹⁵



[South Quad Dorm under construction, May 1952](#)

1965 - Regents approve a merger of the Michigan League and Michigan Union, thus establishing a University Activities Center (UAC). Both buildings become open to all students. ¹⁶

1965 - Vietnam protests occur during Homecoming.

1967 - Students stage a sit-in against classified research at the Administrative Office Building. ¹⁷

1971 - First "Hash Bash" held on the Diag (April Fools' Day). ¹⁸

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST

[Student Life and Organizations](#) ¹⁹ - A historical account from *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*

[Early Student Rules at UM](#) - Rules adopted for University of Michigan students in 1837

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2. *A Book of Days* (see no. 1)
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11. [A Chronology of UM Buildings](#)", and [The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey](#)¹³
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