

Reunion

Familiar scenes

We all carry certain images of the University of Michigan,
images that are reinforced when we have the opportunity
to return to the campus...

Fall in Ann Arbor....those magnificent football weekends...
Students walking across the Diag, the Engineering Arch, the Blue Front
Or, perhaps, a delightful spring shower...
after all, Ann Arbor just wouldn't be Ann Arbor without
a little rain...

Michigan...the nation's flagship of public higher education
a tradition of excellence

But there have also been changes...

Appearance

Ann Arbor is no longer a small college town...it has now become
a city...

While the Engineering Arch is still there, all the engineers have
moved to the north to their new campus

We have a gigantic new medical center, a new School of Business
Administration, a new College of Engineering...and many other
spectacular facilities...

\$700 M in construction over past 5 years...

Funding base...

In contrast to the days when you attended the University,
today only one out of six dollars required to run the
University comes from state support...the rest comes
from tuition, federal research support,
and, of course, your generosity...

Its attitude toward the world beyond the ivory tower...

Revised policies to encourage rather than constrain
MRC, ITI, CMI, Health Care

But the most important qualities of the University have
remained unchanged...

The quality of our students

The quality of our faculty

Our commitment...indeed, our passion...for excellence.

Nor is it changing in the manner in which it depends on
it alumni...

The Role of Alumni

Key factor: active involvement by alumni...

Not just for financial support...

although you can expect to hear from us even more
frequently

Not just for your efforts in directing outstanding

students to Ann Arbor -- many of them your own children
or grandchildren...

Not just for influence...

although since Michigan produces leaders, many of alumni
have the opportunity to have major impact on UM through
their roles as leaders of government or industry

But beyond that, through your active involvement...

to provide to our students a sense of potential, what the
future holds in store for them...

for our faculty, since by buying in to what we are trying
to do, you provide them with strong evidence of the
profound importance of their activities

In a sense, our alumni play the key role in passing the torch...

in passing from one generation to the next the
Michigan tradition...the tradition of excellence
which we all cherish so deeply.

Concluding remarks

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of this
active involvement...particularly in the years to come
For we at Michigan believe that the next decade
will be a time of extraordinary opportunity
for the University as it prepares to enter the
21st century.

We benefit today from
Exceptional quality of its people --
students, faculty, and staff, and alumni
The potential to attract abundant resources
An unusual ability to control our own destiny...

But we also have many responsibilities
Students
Faculty
State, nation, world...

And we also face many challenges...
foremost among them the challenge of
sustaining our commitment to the achievement
of excellence

The decade ahead will indeed be a time of opportunity,
responsibility, and challenge.

But there is one more word that I believe we should add
to those characterizing Michigan's future: excitement!
I believe Michigan is going to be an extraordinarily exciting
place in the years ahead

Conclusions
Michigan is on the move!
We are committed to strengthening our role of leadership
in education, research, and service.
And, of course, the key in accomplishing this will be your
continued interest, involvement, and support.
Once again, welcome back to Michigan...
And may the force of the maize and blue be with you...
Go Blue!