

Freshperson Welcome (9/1/91)

Welcome

On behalf of the faculty of the University, I
would like to welcome you to Michigan...
and to our family of the Maize and Blue!

Some Questions

Are you all moved in yet?
Have you found where your classes are?
Have you chosen a major?
Have you found Michigan Stadium?
Have you met Shakin' Jake?
Have you had your first gourmet experience with dorm food?
Ah, well you still have a few surprises in store for you...

The Adventure Begins

Well, you actually made it!
All the waiting and wondering and anticipating is over
Now the adventure really begins.
And I promise you that your next few years
will be one of the great adventures of your entire lives.
You will take part in a dialog with some of the great minds
of all times and civilizations.
You will be learning with faculty and graduate students
who are extending the frontiers of knowledge and creativity.
Notice I said learning "with" not "from".
It's important to realize that here at Michigan
you will be teaching as well as learning
in the classroom and outside of it, too.
Your active engagement, your questions,
your ideas and experiences,
your willingness to challenge "accepted" wisdom
your determination to work hard,
to go the extra mile in preparation
is what will inspire your teachers and energize your classmates.

The Challenge

College is also a rare and adventurous period of personal growth.
You will have the time and the freedom
to explore and express your unique talents and individuality
and you will be surrounded with countless opportunities
to meet people who are different from you

to attend so many performances, events, lectures, exhibits,
to participate in so many activities
There will be many, many choices every day
and they are important choices.
You will be meeting friends who will be with you
for the rest of your life.
Quite a few of you will meet the person
who will be your lifetime companion.
Make the most of it all.
It is a "simulation mall" ...
What you do and are, the standards you set for yourselves--
how much you become an active partner in learning--
are what will determine our community's
quality of learning and life in the next few years.

So don't hold back
this is a time in life to give all you have to give and then give more.
to test yourself intellectually and personally
to set the highest goals and then go all out to achieve them.

The Community

You have come to a very special "community".
It may be hard right now to think of Michigan as one community.
because it is so large, so complex, so seemingly impersonal at times.
And it is true that there are many Michigan.
Some of them you will come to know well
Libraries, Gyms, classrooms, Union, **Michigan Stadium**
Others you may rarely if ever encounter
Hospitals, nuclear reactor, research ship, observatory.
But we are a true and united community nonetheless
bound together by fundamental values,
traditions, common purposes.
As in any community, you will get out of it
as much as you put in.
Being a member here is not a passive thing.
You have to work at it.

You will enjoy special privileges as a member of this community.
And, as always, with special privileges go special obligations.
One way to meet your obligation

is to find a way to give something back.
There are literally hundreds of organizations and activities here
that offer you the chance to serve, to make a difference,
to help others, to leave things better than you found them,
whether here on campus or in the wider community.
To volunteer to serve others is a very Michigan thing to do.
It has been a key part of our tradition from the beginning 175 years ago.
I urge each one of you will take your place
in that long line of Maize and Blue,
I hope that you will reach out in this way to give something back
and that this will be the beginning of a lifelong commitment
to use your talents and your Michigan education
to make the world a better place.

The Pride

This has been an incredible year...demonstrating once again
that our "Go Blue" spirit is alive and well!

- 1) Sunrunner: US Championships, 3rd in world
- 2) Genetic Medicine: cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, cholestyrol
diabetis, Jonas Salk...
- 3) Child and Material Health Care Center (Tony Novello)
- 4) NSFnet, NREN, ANS Inc
- 5) NSF Laser Center
- 6) International Impact: MBAs, ISR
- 7) Operation Desert Storm: 50 served,...
Project Michigan: Stealth technology, satellite sensing, smart bombs
- 8) Sports: 3rd Big Ten Championship, Gator Bowl
#1 recruiting classes in nation in both football and basketball
Schembechler, Nederlander, Tisch
Brigette Venturi
- 9) Commencement: President and Mrs. Bush
Describe preparations, event
JJD and AMD: State Dinner...meeting the Queen

A typical year...but that's what you've come to expect
from your alma mater...

UM Leadership

- Prototype of comprehensive university
- True realization of Jeffersonian model of public university

Concluding Remarks

Michigan is an exciting, challenging...sometimes

frustrating...but always rewarding place.

Let me wish you the best as you start the fascinating
and rewarding process of a Michigan education!

Good luck!

Go Blue!!!