

Final Comments

Thanks for the privilege of serving...

While this has not been the easiest job in the world,

it has nevertheless been very satisfying...

both because of what has been accomplished

in making the University

better

stronger

more diverse

and more exciting

than any time in its history

and because of the opportunity to work with the

marvelous people who belong to the Michigan family

who love this place

and who work so hard on its behalf.

Indeed, I view my most significant accomplishment

as that of attracting some truly remarkable people

into leadership positions in Michigan,

and taking great pride in what they have accomplished.

We have what is generally regarded as the strongest

leadership team in higher education today,

and the remarkable progress made by the

University over the past decade is evidence of this.

There are many to be thanked

...the leadership teams, particularly EOs and deans

...faculty

...staff

...students

...alumni

But I would like to thank in particular those

Regents who have supported me and my colleagues

so strongly over the years

Who had the courage to appoint

a very green Engineering professor as dean

...then as provost and finally as president.

One final comment...

Those of you who have attended Michigan or

taught in its classrooms understand well

that there is something quite magical about

this place.

It gets in your blood

...down to the level of your DNA

Bill Hubbard pulled me aside yesterday and noted

that there are very few institutions in our society

worthy of total support and loyalty,

and Michigan is one of them.

Anne and I realized this long ago.

Today, while there is much of the Duderstadts
in this University

there is even more of this University in the Duderstadts.

We are fiercely loyal and dedicated to its welfare,

and although we are stepping aside from the presidency,
we are not stepping aside from our

...love

...loyalty

...or dedication to this great University.

Go Blue!