

The Year Past

- We indeed have a great deal to be thankful for in 1992
This has been an incredible year...demonstrating once again
that our "Go Blue" spirit is alive and well!
- But our main claim to attention is still academics
and we have had a pretty spectacular year there, too.
Last month it was announced that UM has moved ahead
of MIT in the magnitude of our research activity...
to assume the ranking as America's leading
research university...and let me assure you,
this particular #1 ranking won't be lost next week...
...it will last at least a year!
- Speaking of national championships in a revenue sport
...Business Week ranked Michigan #1 in nation
in Executive Education
- USN&WR Rankings:
Undergraduate education: 8th in reputation
(behind only UC-Berkeley among publics)
...39th in expenditures...
- We are one of only 3 universities in America with
our four major professional schools...
law, medicine, business, and engineering
...all ranked in the top ten...indeed, in the
top 5 in most cases...
(Stanford and Cornell being the others)
- And we continue to be the world's leading
university in the social sciences...
with fields such as political science,
psychology, sociology, and economics
being ranked among the top programs
in the nation.
- Our medical scientists continued their revolutionary work
in mapping and identifying genes
responsible for devastating diseases such as
cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, and breast cancer.
(You've probably read about this work, which frequently
makes the front pages of the New York Times and
Wall Street Journal.)
- World's first clinical trials in using modified
human genetic material to treat human disease
(hypercholesterolemia and malignant melanoma)
...and the first clinical trials for treating cystic fibrosis
have been approved and will start at Michigan in
several months.
- Michigan chemist Gary Glick has recently discovered
that lupus antibodies can change the shape of DNA,
and his research will help to develop new drugs
to prevent tissue damage from lupus.
- Michigan scientists and engineers managed to build
the world's most powerful laser...operating at 55 terawatts!
- UM experiments were carried on five of NASA's space shuttle
missions, including the HRDI satellite developed by the UM
Space Physics Research Lab...and, unfortunately, the
tethered satellite experiment that was "hung up" in early
August.
- UM was selected by the Environmental Protection Agency as
the national center for education on environmental issues.
- Michigan, in partnership with IBM and MCI, continue to
operate and expand the National Research and
Education network, the computer network that now
links together over 4 million users throughout the world!

UM Libraries Catalog Online:

UM library became one of first major research libraries
in the nation to have its entire public card catalog
online (6 million volumes listed)

Minority enrollments at highest level ever:

Minority students rose to almost 7,000 or 22% of enrollment
African American students rose to 2,600 or 8%,
surpassing the earlier peak of 1976.

For the fourth consecutive year, UM has achieved a
record in hiring faculty of color, with 60 hired
in past year.

Our students and faculty also deeply engaged

in using their knowledge to address some of the most
critical problems in our society...for example, earlier
this fall ABC-TV honored two of our women faculty as
ABC "Person of the Week"...

...June Osborn,

chair of the President's Commission on Aids

...Catherine McKinnon,

perhaps the foremost legal scholar
on the laws governing sexual harassment

UM received a \$30 million gift to found

the William Davidson Institute, to assist nations
in making transitions from command- to
free-market economies.

Already some of our Business students and faculty
working in Eastern Europe to help privatize
commerce and industry

Faculty Honors and Awards

MacArthur Awards: John Holland, Ann Ellis Hanson
(making 5 such "genius" awards in the past three years
...Alice Fulton, Sherri Ortner, Ruth Behar)

Presidential Faculty Fellow: John Mitani

National Academy of Science: Melvin Hochster

American Academy of Arts and Sciences: 8 scientists

National Science Board: JJD re-elected in May
to two more years as Chairman

And, last fall the University of Michigan became the
first university in America to exceed \$1 million
in its annual United Way fund drive...

...all the more remarkable in view of the great
economic hardships we are experiencing in our state.

It was a pretty good year in athletics as well...

Football: Big Ten Champion, Rose Bowl

Basketball: NCAA National Champion Runnerup (Final Four)

Hockey: CCHA Champion, Final Four

Swimming: Big Ten Champions

Men's, 2nd in NAAs, Women's, 5th in NCAA

Cross Country: Big Ten Champions, 3rd in NCAA

Olympic Games: Medals...

Gold: Mike Barroman

And the list goes on and on and on...

...pretty remarkable

...but also what we expect from Michigan

How many fans of college sports would give anything
for a year like our Michigan teams have had...

And how many university alumni would give anything
if their university had a year like Michigan's...

And yet, excellence and extraordinary performance
and accomplishment is something we take for
granted at Michigan.

Perhaps that's the obligation, the burden, when
one is "the leaders and best"...

Appendix: National Rankings

The Gorman Report ranked
UM #3 in UG education (behind Harvard and Princeton)
UM #3 in Grad/Prof Education (behind Harvard and UC-Berkeley)

USN&WR

Undergraduate
8th in reputation
39th in funding
Professional
Business: 5th (only public in top 10)
Law: 7th (only one of 2 publics in top 10)
Engineering: 6th
Aerospace: 5th
Electrical: 5th
Environmental: 2nd
Industrial: 3rd
Mechanical: 5th
Nuclear: 2nd
Medicine: 11th (only 1 other public in top 10)

Sciences:

Geology: 6th
Mathematics: 8th
Health Professions
Dental: 3rd
Pharmacy: 6th
Nursing: 4th (only slightly behind 1st)
Health Services Administration: 1st

And speaking of undergraduates,
there's good news on recruitment and admissions.
Despite a continued decline in the pool of
eighteen year-old applicants nationwide,
recruitment efforts at Michigan have actually resulted
in an increase of applications over last year.
The number of applications continues to rise,
tripling over the past 15 years.
Our most recent figures show that over 18,000 applicants
vied for about 4,700 positions in the freshman class.
The focus continues to be on the enrollment of
well-qualified, underrepresented minority students and top scholars,
as well as on the academically outstanding young people
who traditionally make up the student body.
We expect great things from the class of 1996.
After all, 64% are from the top 10% of their high school class,
and 83 of them are National Merit finalists.
They also make up a valuable part of
the approximately 4,500 University of Michigan students
involved in community service activities, either through programs
such as Project SERVE, Project Community;
through student organizations, residence halls, or fraternities and sororities.
Finally, it also worth noting that the composition of our student body
continues to change in keeping with our commitment to diversity.
Historically, Michigan has faced such challenges before.
We were the first major institution in the nation
to admit women, and one of the first to admit African Americans.
By any standard, the University is a better place because we are willing to change.