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 severa 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 Reseach 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)
Presidental 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 NCAAs, 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.