

Campaign Wrapup

Introduction

You know, Michigan is really a very special place....

It is one of only a handful of universities capable
of truly changing not only higher education,
but the nation and the world.

But, beyond that, the past two days have made
it clear once again the remarkable impact
the University has on the lives of those
who have been drawn to Ann Arbor.

In those short years that each of us
spent on this campus during our
education, we become a member of
the Michigan family for the rest of
our lives...

Role of Alumni

Michigan is a great university, to be sure.

But a university achieves leadership...greatness...

...through its people...

...through their talents and abilities,

...through their involvement and commitment.

The Michigan family extends far beyond those

on our campus for the moment, our students, faculty, and staff

It includes that army of maize and blue,

our 370,000 alumni, and our countless friends throughout the world

Yes, it is clear you have been...

...and will continue to be even more...

...the most critical factor in achieving and sustaining
the greatness of your University.

Your Importance

We really depend on you in many, many ways.

1) First and foremost you are a valued source
of wise counsel to me

and to my fellow administrators and faculty.
Whether it is regarding finance or long range planning,
or politics or public relations,
new programs, concerns about
student life and educational values,
we turn to you for advice and you give it unstintingly.

2) You and our alumni are also a bridge
to the many University constituents,
old and new,
helping us communicate
helping us serve them more effectively,
building understanding and support for our mission.

Your enthusiasm and loyalty draw people to us
wonderful students, new supporters
.... more fans for the team.

Perhaps most significant of all,
you are a constant example in your life,
among your friends, in your communities,
of the special spirit and values of Michigan.

3) Your support is an endorsement of our mission.

You bring the energy and the drive,
the knowledge and experience,
and the personal faith in our public mission
that continually energizes and inspires us.

You fortify and embolden us to stand fast
to hold to our deepest traditions and values.

Your loyalty and support, both material and intellectual,
that allows us to take risks,
seize opportunities, meet challenges.

Opportunity for Impact

Your strong support of your University has always
been important...but perhaps never more so than today.

We live in a time when educated people and

the ideas they produce
are truly the wealth of nations.

Our University is producing a very important
part of that wealth
as we have done for 175 years
as, with your help, we will continue to do
in the new century ahead.

These past two days we have asked you once again
to join us in a grand challenge...a great adventure.

To launch the largest fund-raising campaign in the
history of higher education--necessary to respond
both to the needs and the opportunities before
your University.

To be sure, this will require commitment and sacrifice.
And it will require extraordinary loyalty to and love of
your University.

Yet few things we will ever do in our lives
could make so much difference
and things we do for this University.

This Campaign will impact the University
at an extraordinary time in the history of our nation
and our world...a time when the leadership provided by
institutions such as Michigan are needed more than ever before.

What you contribute now will literally
help give shape and direction to that time.

Especially in these changing times,
life offers few sure things
few opportunities to make a difference in the world.

But when you invest your time, your hard work,
your resources in Michigan,

It is a sure thing.

I know from experience that asking others
to join in lending support may seem daunting.

It is hard work.
But what I have found, and I think what you will find,
is that when you have a cause as good as Michigan
you don't need to worry.
You are doing them a favor
when you offer a chance to join up.
You are offering a chance to be part
of something truly wonderful.

Conclusion

As we conclude, let me convey thanks
...both personally and on behalf of your University
...for joining us these past two days
...for your extraordinary generosity and
commitment in years past
...and for your willingness to respond to this new
challenge for Michigan.

More importantly, many generations who come after us
will have reason to thank you.

The future of the University of Michigan is in your hands.

And now...

Now, let's turn our attention to the big shootout in Michigan Stadium
We have trainers in the next room to tape your ankles
...and I believe most of you have already provided us with your
helmet sizes so your uniforms should be all set
Nobody beats Michigan 5 years in a row!
Let's go for it...and let's Go Blue!