

Congressional Breakfast - Wednesday, March 24, 1993
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Welcome

Good morning, and welcome to all of our alumni and friends.
Special welcome to our speaker Congressman Ford.

I'd like to thank the University of Michigan alumni club of Washington, D.C., for sponsoring today's event. In particular, the co-chairs for this year's breakfast, Mike Waring and Bob Horn, deserve thanks for organizing the event.

There are about 7,000 Michigan alumni in the greater Washington area, and they are influential in law, business, government, the media, and other professions, as well as in their communities. We're proud of what you're doing.

Talking Points

Since I came and spoke at last year's event, some incredible things have happened at Michigan.....

Not only have we repeated some amazing feats in athletics
...we're still on the road to the Final Four
after that incredible overtime victory over UCLA
and one of the best seasons in our history
...this weekend Michigan will also start on the road
to the Final Four in hockey with the regional round
at Joe Louis on Saturday.

Of course, all of this excitement comes on the heels of
...our fifth Big Ten football champion in a row...
...including an undefeated season and
...a Rose Bowl win over Washington
Big Ten championships and national rankings in
...men's and women's cross country
...men's and women's swimming
...women's gymnastics
and so on...

But our achievements in academics have been
extraordinary, too...

We have moved up to number one in the nation in
research activity, to \$346.5 million, ahead of MIT,
Stanford, Harvard and Wisconsin.

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.

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All of our other health professional schools
were ranked in the top ten nationally

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 faculty have been leading the way in the exciting
field of genetic research. They have already discovered
the genes that cause cystic fibrosis and

neurofibromatosis, and they are close to pinpointing the gene that causes breast cancer. The world's first clinical gene therapy trial to treat human disease was performed at our medical center.

And, as you may have heard, this morning it was announced that the Michigan team has discovered the gene responsible for Huntington's disease, a true landmark discovery.

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...and are world leader's in the field of ultrafast lasers and optics. Their efforts were written up in last week's Business Week because of the major implications for the telecommunications industry.

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 10 million users throughout the world!

A group of graduate engineering students designed CARMEL, the robot which won first place in the Artificial Intelligence Robotics Competition in July.

And we're ready to defend our national solar car race title. Next week the official unveiling of our solar car, *Maize & Blue*, takes place. A team of over 100 students majoring in Business, Engineering, Communication, and Graphic & Industrial Design have designed and built *Maize & Blue* for this June's Sunrayce and this November's World Solar Challenge.

We're working on significant new initiatives in the area of undergraduate education, including new curriculum in the sciences and math. We're looking for ways to improve the productivity and quality of undergraduate faculty and teaching assistants, as well as the degree to which students are challenged during their undergraduate years.

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.

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

...pretty remarkable

...but also what we expect from Michigan

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"...

Student Body

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.

Community service is a frequent theme in higher education discussions today, and the idea that service enriches education is strongly supported at Michigan.

A related study coming out of our Institute for Social Research shows that students who take part in community service in conjunction with coursework end up earning better grades than students who spend all their time cracking the books.

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.

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.

Conclusion

Before I turn the floor over to Bob Forman again, I'd like to conclude my remarks by expressing my appreciation to the Michigan Congressional delegation, and in particular to Congressman Bill Ford.

When it comes to higher education issues, you have been a pinnacle of leadership. We salute your dedication and accomplishments, and we look forward to working with you as we all continue to strive for improvements in higher education.

March 16, 1993