

Welcome to the 1996 Seminar Series for Women of Michigan. Welcome as well to the Renaissance Campus of the University of Michigan, since it is on this campus that we teach the creative disciplines of the University...art, music, architecture, engineering. In fact, later today we will have lunch in a spectacular new facility, the Media Union, where computer technology is used to merge these disciplines into exciting new forms.

This morning we are going to focus on a topic of particular importance to the University and our broader society: the role of women.

Throughout the 175-year history of the University of Michigan, it has played a leadership role as both the flagship and the pioneer in public higher education. Furthermore, it has often served as a catalyst in our society for ideas fundamental to the nation's development. As the University prepares to enter its third century, it is clear that sustaining this tradition of leadership will be the inclusion of women as

full and equal partners in all aspects of the life and leadership of the University.

In this regard, it is important to understand both the history of women at the University of Michigan and the present challenges they face in our institution. Women themselves have consistently and persistently been the leaders in the long struggle at Michigan to achieve equality for women, to recognize women's contributions, and to foster an environment in which women can succeed. We have benefited from a long line of women leaders who have pulled, pushed, and sometimes dragged the University along the path to equality for women.

We are deeply indebted to the many women who--from 1858, when Sarah Burger first applied for admission to the University, to the present day--have dedicated untold effort, overcome formidable barriers, and endured considerable hardship and sacrifice to make the University a better, fairer,

more intellectually challenging, more diverse, and enriching place for us all.

Three women made history in 1858 when they submitted their applications for admission to the University. After great controversy and heated debate on the topic, the University denied them admission and did not reverse its stance until after the Civil War. Finally in 1867, the State Legislature declared: "The high objects for which the University of Michigan was organized will never be fully attained until women are admitted to all its rights and privileges." In 1870, three years after this declaration, Madelon Stockwell became the first woman to enter the University. Many followed in her pioneering footsteps.

Let me add a very interesting historical note. Later today we will see under construction an extraordinary new facility for the University, the Lurie Belltower, which will house one of the finest carrillons in the world. This tower is the last work of the great American architect, Charles Moore, former dean

of architecture at Yale, UCLA, and Texas and designer of some of our nation's most wonder facilities, including the Sea Ranch in northern California and the University of California Santa Cruz. Charles Moore was not only a graduate of the University of Michigan, but his great-great grandfather was a Regent of the University in the late 19th century. In fact, it was his grandfather who introduced the resolution admitting women to the University. As Charles Moore told the story when he received an honorary degree several years ago, his father was a learned man, and he introduced the resolution in Latin. He knew that few of his colleagues understood Latin, yet he also knew they were too vain to admit it and would approve his resolution without challenge.

He was right. It worked. Women were admitted. And their numbers and impact have grown throughout the years. In fact, this year, for the first time in our history, the number of women undergraduate students exceed the number of men at the University.

The progress of women at Michigan has been due to many people and institutions. Important among these institutions has been the Center for the Education of Women, founded in 1964. And important among these leaders has been Carol Hollenshead, director of the Center and chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Women's Issues.

It is my pleasure to introduce Carol to you to kick off today's seminar.

Yet we continue to face many challenges, as we will learn today.