

Bringing Back the

Arch of Old Main



Eric Kaldjian (left) and his brother, Lauris, on graduation day in June, 1989.

When Eric Kaldjian (M.D. 1989, Residency 1994) and his brother Lauris (M.D. 1989), who is a year younger than he, received their medical degrees from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1989, they had both the future and the past on their minds. Their tassels and gowns were symbols of the careers they envisioned in medicine and science – Eric is now director of pathobiology in worldwide preclinical safety at Parke-Davis in Ann Arbor; Lauris is pursuing a doctorate in medical ethics at Yale University.

U-M history professor, were part of the group leading the fight to save the arch, carved from blocks of Indiana limestone.

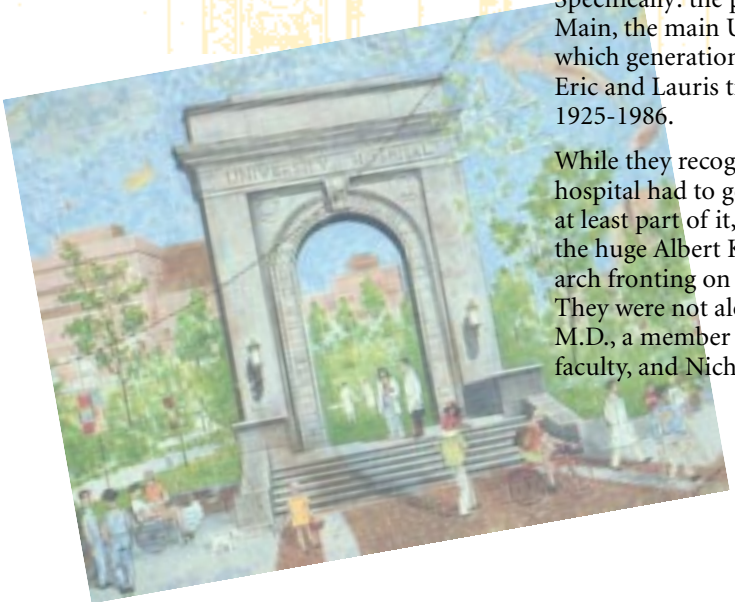
Yellowed *Ann Arbor News* clippings saved by Eric at the time chronicle the effort: (“U-M urged to save Old Main,” “A last-minute appeal to save part of Old Main,” “Arch of triumph wins reprieve,” “Entry arch will live on as tribute.”)

Eric is very pleased that the Medical Center Alumni Society is now asking alumni/ae to contribute gifts to support the reconstruction of the arch in approximately the same place where it once stood. The plan calls for a plaza to be constructed to support the arch, and those who contribute gifts of \$1,000 or more will have their names permanently inscribed at the site.

For more information about making a gift, alumni/ae may call the office of the Medical Center Alumni Society at 998-7705. [m](#)

The little yellow buttons (Beat the Ball!) they had attached to their gowns pointed to an interest in the past. Specifically: the past symbolized by Old Main, the main University hospital in which generations of physicians like Eric and Lauris trained from the years 1925-1986.

While they recognized that the outdated hospital had to go, they wanted to save at least part of it, and most especially the huge Albert Kahn-designed entry arch fronting on Observatory Street. They were not alone: Richard Judge, M.D., a member of the cardiology faculty, and Nicholas Steneck, Ph.D., a



Lithograph, by noted lithographer Emil Weddige, commemorating Old Main and anticipating the restoration of the Arch.

