

THE MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE

Gifts in support of medicine at Michigan

Taubman Gift Advances ALS Research

Twenty years ago, retail pioneer and philanthropist A. Alfred Taubman lost a good friend to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – a horrifying fatal disease that’s better known as ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The memory of watching New York Senator Jacob Javits slowly succumb to the nerve-killing condition has never left Taubman’s mind. That memory has motivated him to support ALS research at the University of Michigan Medical School and beyond for some time. Now, he has greatly increased that support with a new \$5 million gift to Michigan. In addition, Taubman will contribute his share of the royalties from his new book, *Threshold Resistance*.

The gifts will support ALS studies led by neurologist and researcher Eva Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., who is the Russell N. DeJong Professor of Neurology and whose lab has already received two \$1-million gifts from Taubman. Feldman is considered a national leader in ALS treatment and research, and heads the U-M Program for Neurology Research and Discovery.

Together with a group at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, led by Martin Marsala, M.D., associate professor of anesthesiology, Feldman and her team will work on several scientific fronts to try to stop or slow the disease. Working at first with animals, then ALS patients, they hope to make quick progress. Among the weapons they will deploy against ALS are genetic tools to keep nerve cells from dying, new ways of delivering promising drugs and genes directly into nerve cells, and a potential treatment based on injecting stem cells into the spinal cord.

“It’s hard to imagine a more devastating disease than ALS,” says Taubman, “and we have some of the highest incidence rates in the



Eva Feldman and Alfred Taubman

Photo: Gregory Fox

country right here in Michigan. Dr. Feldman and her team are doing miraculous work, and it’s important that they have the resources to build on their momentum. I’m not a doctor or a scientist, but I am an optimist who believes in the extraordinary possibilities of modern medicine. This is important work that must continue.”

Feldman calls the gift a major boost to research. “Mr. Taubman’s generous funding allows us to venture into exciting new territory with stem cells. It gives our patients great hope that our new research with our California colleagues will translate the promise of stem cell technology into the reality of therapy for ALS patients.”

—Kara Gavin

For more information on the Taubman gift:
www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2007/alsgrant.htm

Audio-Digest Foundation Supports CME Programs

The Audio-Digest Foundation has established an endowment to support continuing medical education at the University of Michigan. The foundation produces CME programs for physicians and other health-care professionals in partnership with CME providers across the country.

Gift Honors Two Generations of Darling Family Physicians

David P. Darling, of Berkeley, California, is establishing, through a charitable remainder trust, the Cyrenus G. Darling Sr. and Jr., M.D., Professorship in the Department of Surgery. The gift honors Darling’s father and grandfather, both of whom received their medical training at the University of Michigan. Darling’s father served on the faculty of the Medical School, and his grandfather went on to significant roles in medicine in the Detroit area.

Gratitude Prompts Kahn Gift

D. Dan Kahn, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, has made a \$1-million gift supporting capital and construction needs in the Cardiovascular Center clinical building. Kahn’s generosity is in gratitude for the medical care provided by Kim Eagle, M.D., to Kahn’s wife, Betty. In recognition of the gift, the Ambulatory Care reception area on level three of the center will be named the D. Dan Kahn and Betty Kahn Patient and Family Reception.

Kligmans Support Cardiac Care

The cardiac surgery staff room is being funded through a gift from Gary and Karen Kligman of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in gratitude for surgery performed on their daughter, Amelia, by Edward Bove, M.D., the Helen F. and Marvin M. Kirsh Professor of Cardiac Surgery. In addition, the Kligmans have included the Congenital Heart Program in their estate plan. ➤

Photo: Martin Yvoet



The main entrance lobby of the new Cardiovascular Center is graced dramatically with a beautiful bronze sculpture, commissioned for the space by Doug and Laurie Valassis of Lake Bluff, Illinois. Created by artist Jane DeDecker in her studio in Colorado and entitled "My Heart Is in Your Hand," the piece evokes the shape of a heart through the curved elongated bodies of a man and a woman connected by clasped hands.

Ravitz Foundation Uses Presidential Match to Fund New Professorship

The Ravitz Foundation has made a gift of \$1 million to establish a professorship in the Medical School. The gift amount will be matched by the University as part of President Mary Sue Coleman's program to help create new professorships during The Michigan Difference Campaign, completing the \$2-million endowment. The Ravitz Foundation was established as part of the estate of Edward Ravitz, a Kalamazoo native. During a 30-year period, he amassed a fortune as a residential developer in southeastern Michigan and elsewhere in the Midwest. The foundation has previously funded, for a renewable term of five years, the Ravitz Professorship in Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases.

George Schnetzer Honors U-M Training with Scholarship Gift

George W. Schnetzer III, M.D. (Residency 1972), and Mary H. Lhevine, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, have endowed the George W. Schnetzer III, M.D., and Mary H. Lhevine Scholarship Fund. The gift honors the impact faculty and staff had on Schnetzer's career during six years of oncology training at the U-M.

Photo: Marie Frost



Patricia E. Schemm, of Sarasota, Florida, continues to support the Ferdinand Ripley Schemm Endowed Merit Scholarship Fund in memory of her late brother, who performed his surgery residency at the U-M Medical School and was a leading researcher in treatments for edema in the 1940s. The fund supports promising incoming medical students, and may be renewed by maintaining a "B" average or better. Pictured here are Schemm Scholars Dionesia Adraktas, Sarah Carlson, Tatnai Burnett, Roland Hernandez and Laura Chromy.

Garry Betty's Legacy for Adrenal Cancer Research



When former EarthLink CEO Garry Betty was diagnosed with adrenal cancer in late 2006, he was determined to use his experience to help others and to find a cure. So he established the Garry Betty Foundation, which recently made a \$400,000 gift to the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center for its adrenal cancer program.

"Throughout his life, Garry was an intense competitor and an eternal optimist who believed in the power of the human spirit," says Kathy Betty, Garry's widow. "Those very qualities led Garry to establish the Garry Betty Foundation after being diagnosed. He was determined to not only beat the odds against this rare form of cancer, but to help others as well."

Betty, who died on January 2 at the age of 49, joined EarthLink as president and CEO in 1996, and took the company from a small regional Internet service provider with fewer than 100,000 subscribers to a national brand with more than 5 million subscribers.

The first \$200,000 of the gift will be used to create the Garry Betty Scholars Program, which will pay for international researchers to come to the U-M for training in adrenal cancer research, enabling them to return to their countries to begin their own programs.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center has one of the top adrenal cancer programs in the country, thanks largely to an endowment from former U-M football coach Bo Schembechler, whose wife, Millie, died from adrenal cancer in 1992. The U-M also has one of the only multidisciplinary adrenal cancer treatment programs in the world.

—Nicole Fawcett

For additional information on the Betty gift:

www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2007/adrenal.htm

Photo: Courtesy Neil Stern



Aaron and Nell Stern

PROFESSORSHIPS RECENTLY INAUGURATED

The Aaron Stern Professorship in Pediatric Cardiology

An anonymous gift made to the Medical School after the death of Aaron M. Stern (M.D. 1945, Residency 1951) in 2003 resulted in a professorship in his honor. On May 2, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases Mark W. Russell, M.D., became the first Aaron Stern Professor of Pediatric Cardiology.

The James W. Rae Collegiate Professorship in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

A pioneer in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation was honored May 3 with the inauguration of the James W. Rae Collegiate Professorship in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Rae (M.D. 1943), who chaired PM&R for 30 years, helped install current chair Edward A. Hurvitz, M.D., as the first Rae Professor.

The John A. and Carla S. Klein Family Research Professorship in Thoracic Surgery

Looking for a way to make a difference in the fight against esophageal cancer, John A. and Carla S. Klein of Easton, Connecticut, endowed the John A. and Carla S. Klein Family Research Professorship in Thoracic Surgery. On May 31, Professor of Surgery and Radiation Oncology David G. Beer, Ph.D., became the first Klein Professor.

Photo: Paul Jaronski



Arleen and James Rae

The George A. Dean, M.D., Chair in Family Medicine

Continuing his lifelong service to family medicine, George A. Dean, M.D., established the George A. Dean, M.D., Chair in Family Medicine. Dean helped create the Department of Family Medicine in 1978. On June 13, department chair Thomas L. Schwenk (M.D. 1975) was installed as the first holder of the Dean Chair.

The Holtom-Garrett Family Professorship in Neurology

After providing steadfast care for his first wife, Marilyn Holtom Garrett, during her 25-year struggle with multiple sclerosis, Richard T. Garrett and his second wife, Marjorie Deutsch Garrett, endowed a professorship in Marilyn's memory. On June 20, Benjamin M. Segal, M.D., became the first Holtom-Garrett Professor of Neurology.

LIVES LIVED

Ed Meader, Longtime U-M Supporter, dies at 97

The generous philanthropy of Edwin "Ed" and Mary Meader has benefited the University of Michigan in many important ways and many areas across the University. Ed Meader's death on February 1 at his home in Kalamazoo was a great loss to Michigan and a variety of other worthy causes he and his wife supported over the years, particularly in the Kalamazoo area.

Meader earned a bachelor's degree at the U-M in 1933, and later a master's in geography from Wayne State University where he then taught the geography of northern Africa and the Middle East as a part-time avocation. Meader's Army ►

Photo: Lin Jones



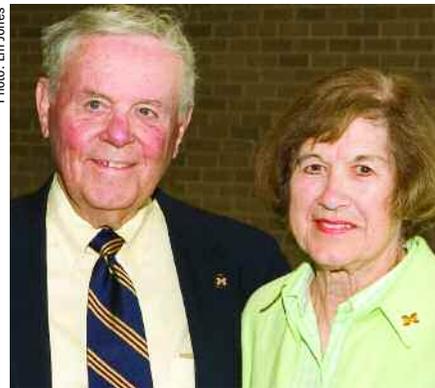
Carla and John Klein

Photo: Scott Galvin



George and Vivian Dean

Photo: Lin Jones



Richard and Marjorie Garrett

Photo: Martin Voet



Looking down from a mezzanine, visitors to the new Cardiovascular Center have a unique view of the five-story circular atrium, and the garden it contains. The atrium garden is one of the many areas within the CVC that was funded by a private gift.



service in World War II for the Office of Strategic Services included a long assignment in Ghana and north Africa. He married Mary Upjohn in 1965 after the death of his first wife, and they enjoyed 42 years of marriage until the time of his death.

Meador served as a member and sometimes president of the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation for more than 30 years. In recent years, Ed and Mary Meador have devoted themselves to philanthropy, most of which has been done very quietly. At Michigan, the Rachel Upjohn Depression Center, the Kellogg Eye Center and the Kelsey Archaeological Museum are among the causes the Meadors supported. The Meadors' generosity continues a family tradition of philanthropy started by Mary Meador's grandfather, William E. Upjohn, who earned his medical degree from Michigan and went on to found the Upjohn Company, a major pharmaceutical firm.

Ophthalmology Pioneer and Scholarship Benefactor William Myers Dies at 65

William D. Myers (M.D. 1966), a founder and director of the Michigan Eyecare Institute of Southfield, Dearborn and Livonia, and a strong supporter of Medical School scholarships, died on January 15 at age 65.



A pioneer in ophthalmology, in the 1970s Myers was one of the first in the U.S. to use surgical techniques for vision correction, and in the late '80s, before LASIK was approved by the FDA, he performed the surgery in Windsor, Canada. He developed the Nova Curve Lens for use in cataract surgery and co-invented, with his brother, Terry Myers, D.D.S., the first workable dental laser.

Myers' wife, Irene, an alumna of the U-M School of Art & Design, which the couple also generously supports, describes her husband's philanthropic concept as "personal."

"If a snapping turtle was attempting to cross the road and would surely be crushed by an

oncoming car, Bill would carefully pick it up and carry it across the road to safety," Irene Myers recalls. "When he admired a particular art student's work, he commissioned a work from the student for his office. His support of scholarships was in the same vein — simply to assist someone along the way."

Jane Von Voigtlander Supported Children's and Women's Hospital

Jane E. Von Voigtlander of Ann Arbor, a generous supporter of the new U-M C.S. Mott Children's and Women's Hospital in the U-M Health System, died January 19. She was 62.

With her daughter, Gwen, Von Voigtlander made a \$2 million gift supporting construction of the new hospital in honor of Ted Von Voigtlander, a co-founder of Discount Tire and Jane's husband for nearly 25 years until his death in 1999. Their life and the gift were profiled in the spring 2006 issue of *Medicine at Michigan*. Survived by her daughter and three grandchildren, Jane said of her generosity, "When you have grandchildren, you want to know that great research is being done to help all children," and that she and Gwen, as well as Ted's son, were happy about "this gift and what it will mean for Ted's memory and for the future of children's medicine at Michigan." [m](#)