

Helmut Stern Remembers

GRATITUDE HAS SHAPED

Helmut Stern's life every bit as much as the challenges and hardships — and success — he's encountered, and he's not forgotten anyone who helped him along the way. His giving to the U-M and other causes springs from that gratitude.

The highly respected and successful Stern, an Ann Arbor businessman, investor, art collector and longtime

supporter of the University of Michigan, came from far different beginnings. Born in Hannover, Germany, he lost his mother at the age of 10. His father, a commodities broker unable to earn a living under the Nazi regime, left for Italy when Stern was 17. Not wanting to leave Germany, Stern chose to stay behind. Through a series of circumstances unrelated to him, he was arrested by the Gestapo at 19.

Culpable of nothing, Stern nonetheless was made to report to them on a weekly basis. The Gestapo advised him to leave Germany, and, after a series of difficulties securing a visa, Stern came to the U.S. in 1938 and settled in Washington, D.C., where the few American friends he had were living.

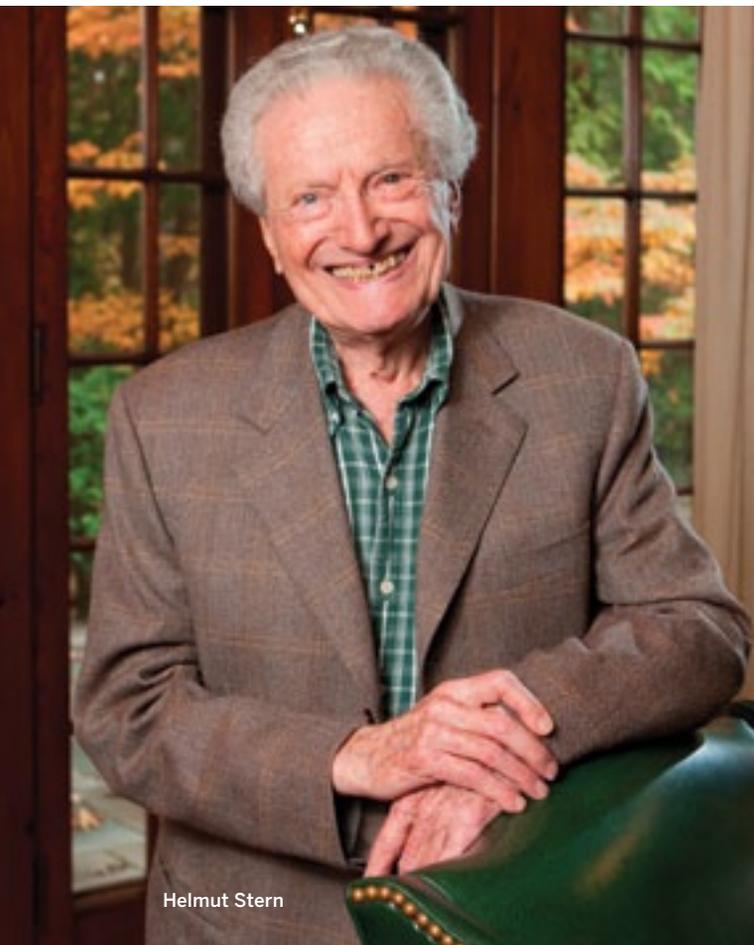
Stern remembers his Dutch uncle whose help allowed him to finally obtain the visa he needed. He remembers the kindness of a high school teacher who helped him gain admission to George Washington University, and he appreciates that

GWU had a night program that allowed him to work during the day. "People there were extremely nice to me, and helped me a lot. They were very encouraging and I just was very fortunate," he says.

Though he came to Ann Arbor with the idea of going to medical school, Stern never did enroll. Side-tracked by a start-up business with partner and U-M engineering graduate Walter Grave, the two "struggled mightily" to keep Metrical Laboratories, manufacturer of sophisticated measuring instruments, on a path of success and growth. Eventually they sold the company and started a new one: Industrial Tectonics, which made custom-designed bearings. Grave sold his interest in 1950 and died in 1952, but Stern kept on; when he sold the company in 1982, it had upwards of 500 employees and plants across the country.

While not discounting his own business acumen, Stern emphasizes the loyalty and dedication of his employees as key to the company's success, as was the advice and support of business peers and community leaders. And Stern remembers Walter Grave as a "very bright and innovative fellow ... we made a good team."

Of the U-M, he says, "A lot of my key people were graduates of the University. The presence of the various and sundry professors that we have really makes Ann Arbor worth living in for me. I'm really grateful, even



Helmut Stern

though I'm not a graduate. They really have enriched my life. I can't imagine living in Ann Arbor without the university. It provides the stimuli to make life interesting." Stern's generosity has also enriched the U-M, from medicine to engineering to public policy and more.

As a patron of the arts, Stern credits an aunt with sparking his interest and former U-M Museum of Art Director Evan Maurer with developing his wide appreciation of art, especially African art. Many of the works Stern has given to the U-M Museum of Art have helped shape and expand

its collection. "I like to see art in a museum," Stern says, "because I like to share it — art belongs to more than just the person who happened to pay for it.

"I really have no desire to advertise my 'generosity,' whatever it means. I have very strong feelings that there are a lot of individuals and a lot of circumstances that entered into my ability to accumulate a few dollars," he says. "It's a way for me to repay the set of circumstances that made it possible for me to enrich my life. Over the years, I had a lot of support from a lot of people and institutions."

Even though Stern veered from his original goal of a career in medicine, "I was always interested in problems with medicine and related to the scientific interplay, be it chemistry or biomedical issues. I think that probably had a lot to do with supporting medicine.

"My greatest pleasure in giving is really in the scholarships and the letters I get every year from the students I've helped. Many I'm still in touch with. It's fun. I keep in touch as the years go by and see them be successful. I think that's good use of my money. I'd rather do that than buy Rolls Royces."
—RICK KRUPINSKI

The Eternal Dimensions of Josip Matovinovic

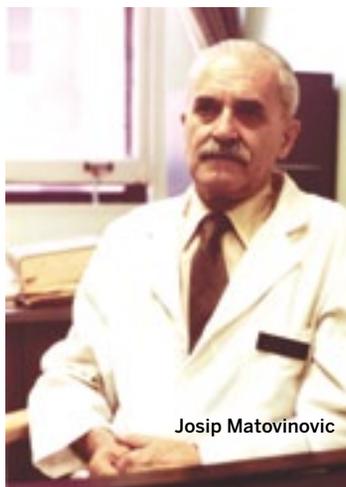
IN LIFE, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ENDOCRINOLOGIST Josip Matovinovic, M.D., was known and respected for his humanistic approach to his patients, and his emphasis on the importance of patient-focused teaching. To recognize his skill as a teacher, the Medical School's Galens Society presented him with its 1977 Silver Shovel Award — an annual tribute to outstanding faculty members.

The clinical medicine fellowship in his name, established by his wife, Natalie, in 1998 after Josip's death at the age of 83, honors and continues his legacy of dedicated teaching by providing broad-ranging support to fellows at the U-M Medical School, not limited to any clinical specialty or subspecialty. She continues to make generous gifts to grow the Josip Matovinovic, M.D., Clinical Medicine Fellowship to support even more future fellows.

Born in a small village in Croatia, Matovinovic obtained his medical degree from the University of Zagreb Medical School in 1939.

Four years later, he married Natalie Gottlieb — a young pianist, the daughter of a surgeon and an opera singer. Matovinovic became the chief endocrinologist at the University of Zagreb Medical School, and in 1956, the couple returned to Boston where he had studied for 18 months under a Rockefeller scholarship at Harvard nine years earlier. He worked on research in the thyroid and diabetes labs at Massachusetts General Hospital, and, in 1959, was invited to become a faculty member at the U-M Medical School.

When accepting the Silver Shovel Award, Matovinovic demonstrated the grace and humanity that had endeared him to his students by urging those present to never forget that "truth, beauty and justice, as an inseparable trinity, are eternal dimensions of the human mind. With intellectual truth, an insatiable need for beauty and an obstinate conscience, man has acquired his erect stature of dignity, and without them he may disappear from this earth." —WH



Josip Matovinovic

Passion for Education, Medicine — and Michigan

AS A YOUNG GIRL IN TOLEDO, Ohio, Margaret Lee Bancroft's musical talents led her to become an accomplished pianist. But after graduation from high school in 1938 and admission to the U-M, her studies took an unexpected turn.

"It was thought I had some prospects in music, but I couldn't see a future in it," she says. "I'd always been interested in medicine and science." She graduated from the U-M in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science in zoology and a minor in chemistry. She thought about medical school, but World War II caused her instead to work in the lab of bacteriologist Reuben Kahn, helping to fine-tune routine premarital blood tests.

It was during her U-M years that Bancroft began dating a young man who had graduated from the same Toledo high school. Ray Pittman earned degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering from the U-M, and the two married in the fall of 1942; three children — Raymond B., Richard and Margaret — followed over the next eight years. Their mother left her job at the U-M to rear them. When the children were old enough, she



Ray and Margaret
Pittman

contemplated returning to her career in science, but instead became an accountant at a local business. Three generations of Pittmans, including grandchildren, went on to earn 14 degrees at the U-M.

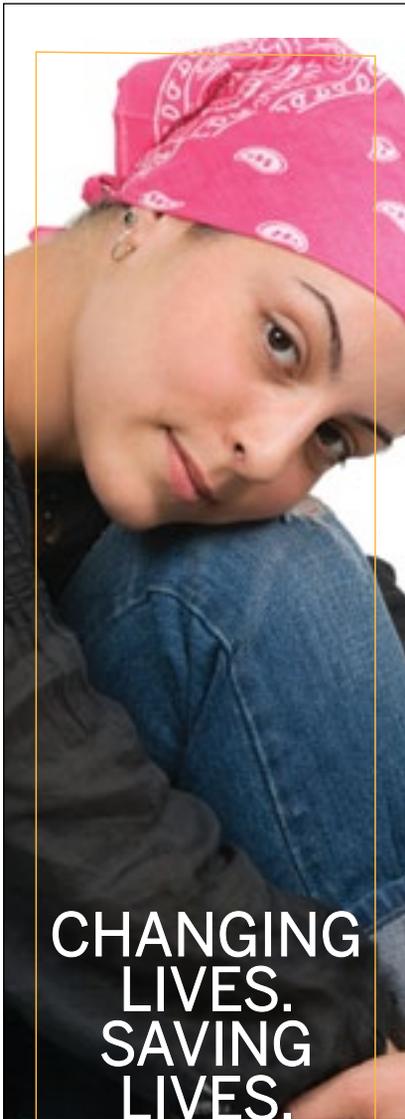
Ray Pittman became known as a man determined to make cars safer to drive. His contributions to automobile crash issues earned him a fellowship in the Alfred P. Sloan Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and were instrumental to automotive safety standards in the U.S. and Europe. His career provided opportunities for the Pittmans to live for three years in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and another three years in London before returning to Michigan. Both Pittmans were passionate about education and over the years helped many friends and family members earn a university degree.

Ray Pittman retired in 1975, but Margaret Pittman continued working as a volunteer, supporting orchestras and charities — which she'd done throughout her marriage — and became a licensed real estate agent. While vacationing in Florida in 1996, Ray Pittman suffered a heart attack

and died. Some time later, Margaret Pittman married retired automotive engineer Dick Hadley, whom she'd met square dancing. They enjoyed world travel together until Hadley's death in 2004.

After volunteering for Red Cross blood drives for 25 years, Margaret Pittman Hadley today keeps busy doing what she always has done: helping others. Three times a week, she teaches an exercise class for people who use walkers and wheelchairs. And three times a week, she herself lifts weights with a professional trainer. "I'm a great believer in 'If you don't use it, you lose it,'" she quips.

In 2007, Margaret Pittman Hadley's children and six grandchildren established an endowed scholarship fund in their mother's name to honor her twin passions for medicine and education, and her generous, energetic spirit. "It's amazing," she says — just as her fulfilling, productive, adventurous life has been, with its unwavering focus on helping others. The Margaret Pittman Hadley Scholarship, by supporting bright, eager students of medicine, will maintain that focus for generations to come. —WH



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Professorships Recently Inaugurated



A longtime faculty member in the Department of Neurosurgery was honored August 25 with the inaugura-

tion of the **John E. McGillicuddy Collegiate Professorship in Neurosurgery**. The professorship was established, in part, through a gift from the estate of the late Julian T. “Buz” Hoff, M.D., and his wife, Diane S. Hoff — colleagues and friends of McGillicuddy. Professor of Neurosurgery, Otorhinolaryngology and Radiology B. Gregory Thompson, M.D., was installed as the first McGillicuddy Professor.



The **John A. Faulkner Collegiate Professorship in Physiology**, inaugurated August 30, was estab-

lished through a gift from John and Margaret Faulkner. It recognizes the achievements of John Faulkner, Ph.D., who at 50 years of service was the longest-serving active faculty member at the U-M prior to his retirement in June. Faulkner contributed much toward understanding the physiology of humans. The first Faulkner Professor is Ormond A. MacDougald, Ph.D., professor of molecular and integrative physiology and of internal medicine.

The **Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Career Development Professorship in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences**

was established by the Dryer Charitable Foundation to support the work of junior faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Edward Dryer was an international banking executive struck by blindness in the middle of his career. He was let go by his employer, but created his own opportunities for success. The first Dryer Professor, installed during a September 16 ceremony, is Grant Comer, M.D. (Fellowship 2007), assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences.



The **Cyrenus G. Darling Sr., M.D., and Cyrenus G. Darling Jr., M.D., Professorship in Surgery**

was established by David P. Darling to honor his father and grandfather — both alumni of the U-M Medical School — and is a continuation of a nearly 130-year relationship between the Darling Family and the school in learning, teaching and philanthropy. David Darling hopes the professorship will keep the legacy and work of Cyrenus Sr. (M.D. 1881) and Cyrenus Jr. (M.D. 1925) alive for generations to come. During a September 23 ceremony, James A. Knol (M.D. 1974, Residency 1980), associate professor of surgery, was installed as the first Darling Professor. —KB