Dear UMSI alumni and friends,

Your gifts to the School of Information benefit the school’s mission in many ways. They allow faculty to innovate in their research and teaching. They help support the classroom programs that are impacting communities in positive ways and allow students to attend UMSI who may otherwise not be able to afford it. Gifts to our annual fund allow us some flexibility within budget constraints and provide have funds for critical needs as they arise. Through your support we are able to serve our students and community better every year.

This report showcases the wonderful impact that your generosity has had on the school in the past fiscal year. Many of our donors share the inspiration behind their gifts and what they hope their giving will accomplish. I invite you to look through the following pages and see the difference you are making in the lives of our students, faculty and the community – from down the street to around the globe. We truly couldn’t do it without you. Thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Finholt
Interim Dean
Your gifts support UMSI cutting-edge faculty research initiatives, student scholarships and the overall operation of the school. The charts on this page show a breakdown by purpose category of the gifts received by the school in the past year.

**Discretionary support**
Uses include school wide events and activities, faculty recruiting and student organization activities

**Programmatic support**
Uses include funding guest speaker series, the Alternative Spring Break program and expoSItion

**Research and faculty support**
Used for funding faculty research projects and initiatives

**Student support**
Uses include student scholarship & financial aid funding and student awards

*Note: Each donor is counted once in each category, even if he or she donated multiple times in that category.*
The UMSI Annual Fund is used as needs arise and for day to day operations at the discretion of the Dean. Its flexible nature makes it vital to the operation of the school. It has been used to support student awards and organizations, faculty recruiting and hiring and UMSI community activities.

For the past three years the fund has been used to support the Nikki Candelore Roda Student Impact Award, named for a 2013 MSI graduate. Presented annually at Commencement, the award celebrates a student who has shown initiative and dedication to service, has influenced the culture and climate of the school in positive ways, has been a student leader and good ambassador and has left a lasting legacy.

This year’s award was presented to Devan Donaldson who in 2015 completed his PhD in digital preservation. Devon served for many years in the Multi-Ethnic Information Exchange (MIX), UMSI’s student organization founded to address issues of multiculturalism, underrepresentation and inclusion. He has mentored junior graduate students of color and developed programs to expose them to resources on campus.

He initiated public forums such as “Handling with Care: The Role of Information Professionals in Preserving Information for Diverse Populations,” which addressed information resources for African American, Arab American, and Native American communities, as well as questions around who is empowered to make decisions about inclusion of materials in an archive.

He has multiple years of service representing UMSI at the Leaders Wanted Doctoral Minority Recruitment event at the American Library Association conference. He led a session for the University’s Martin Luther King Day and later for UMSI staff on how to recognize and prevent micro-aggressions.

Devan served for multiple years as a student leader in the Students of Color of Rackham student organization and developed a semester-long academic empowerment series. He was a member of the Rackham Graduate School Executive Committee. He has also served as an ally to women on President Mary Sue Coleman’s Advisory Commission on Women’s Issues. He has been a member of the Michigan Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program. He also served the university as a member of the search committee for the University Librarian, and he was the first student at UMSI to be inducted into the national Edward Bouchet Honor Society.

Following graduation in 2015, Devan accepted a position as an assistant professor at Indiana University.
U MSI awarded funding from 40 scholarships to 46 students in the 2014-15 academic year. The donors who have endowed UMSI scholarships are passionate about providing access to a world class education to those who may not otherwise be able to afford it, and it is thanks to their generosity that many of our students are here.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

“In addition to the language and cultural barrier, it was almost impossible for my family in China to afford the tuition and life expenses of studying abroad. I decided to apply anyway, and then the miracle happened: I got a scholarship from my dream school, UMSI.

“It completely changed my life. Being a scholarship recipient made my dream come true to study and work with the world’s most talented information professionals. It is a privilege to study at SI, collaborating and growing with peers and professors in challenging projects and scientific exploration. We inspire each other. Coming to SI on a scholarship helped me believe in my decisions and myself.”

- Kaipeng Yu, MSI Class of 2016

Kaipeng Yu chats with Sue Quackenbush (AMLS ’75) at the annual Scholarship Luncheon in March 2015
van Bliss, son of Nancy, AMLS ’68, and Donald Bliss, worked for the Henry Jackson Foundation in health data collection and analysis on HIV/AIDS treatments in various projects in Africa and Eastern Europe. In August 2012 Evan was returning from an arduous trip to several cities in Kenya where he trained Kenyans on protocols in collecting and imputing health data into sophisticated computer software that would analyze the comparative benefits of various treatment combinations. Upon his return to the States, after 14 hours of flying, he collapsed and passed away of a pulmonary embolism, leaving behind his wife Mary, who continues her humanitarian work in developing countries.

Nancy and two other UMSI alumnae, Kenlee Ray, AMLS ’68, and Maureen Moore, AMLS ’67, came together to fund the Evan Bliss Health Informatics Scholarship, the first donor-endowed scholarship for HI students at the school, in honor of Evan and his work. Evan’s legacy will provide much needed scholarship funding to talented health informatics students.
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Veronica Wilkerson Johnson, AMLS ’77, was inspired to create an internship award for UMSI students who might not otherwise be able to afford to accept career-building internship opportunities in major urban areas. Veronica says that every step of the way throughout her wonderful and varied career, her School of Information degree has aided and guided her. She is delighted that she is now able to extend a helping hand to the next generation of students, so that they can benefit from experiential learning in real world settings.

“As UM seeks to increase the number of low-income, first-generation and under-represented students entering and completing higher education in the state of Michigan, it is my hope that my internship will aid the experience of many of these UMSI students over time, and increase their persistence, providing them access to the opportunities that will help them gain experience and establish networks of great value in securing employment after they complete their degrees. I hope that the VWJ Internship will also provide the UMSI recipients the chance to develop programs and resources that will greatly aid the cities of Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and all others in which they serve. Needless to say, they will also acquire, from their internship experiences, a professional portfolio of the job skills, teamwork, leadership, and projects they will have developed that will be invaluable in their future careers.”

In addition to internships, UMSI students are involved in several other outside the classroom programs throughout the year, programs that reflect UMSI’s service-driven mission and culture. These include Alternative Spring Break, Citizen Interaction Design, the Global Information Engagement Program and Michigan Makers.

Citizen Interaction Design is partially funded by UMSI donors including numerous UMSI faculty members, The Ford Motor Company and alumna Kay Taylor, AMLS ’68. Citizen Interaction Design is a novel approach to learning that partners the local government of Jackson, Michigan with UMSI student teams. Together, the goal is to develop new information tools that help foster citizen engagement. Students have created a digital cemeteries archive, an anonymous crime text tip line, and a social media planning document for the Jackson County Health Department, particularly addressing messages and tactics that could help increase child vaccination rates.

“The difference between this class and other client-based classes was the feeling of ‘working without a net.’ …In CID, the projects interfaced with real citizens and a real city, so the sense of applying classroom ideas was much more tangible. In addition, we weren’t having our hands held throughout the process—we got advice from valuable people, but then we were more or less free to go and succeed or fail on our own. I found that to be a challenging and empowering part of the class.” - UMSI student, past participant
Karen Horny, AMLS ’66, established the Karen Horny Scholarship at UMSI in 1996 and has witnessed the direct impact of this gift year after year on over a dozen student recipients. She decided to extend the impact of this scholarship by including UMSI in her estate plans, furthering her legacy at the school and ensuring even more students are given the opportunity to attend UMSI for generations and generations to come.

“I included UMSI in my estate plans because it is thanks to the school that I’ve had a thoroughly enjoyable library career. Now I would like to help others join the information fields.

“The University of Michigan library science program was a leader in library education even back in the middle 1960s when I attended the school. That strong tradition continues today. During my time at the school we studied the plans of the Library of Congress to develop computer support applications, and I even took a course on creating punch-card programs in MAD (Michigan Algorithmic Decoder language!).

“UMSI students today are continuing to develop new ways to access and share information. They are using their skills to improve lives in communities locally and abroad, from developing a web simulation/interactive story to allow users to better understand and empathize with at-risk youth for Ann Arbor’s Ozone House, to using cell phones to connect the health system in India with rural communities to improve mother-child health: projects that reflect the school’s strong commitment to service.

“By designating my support for scholarships, I’m hoping to enable new leaders to enter a great profession. My goal is to help current students benefit from a Michigan education in cases where they don’t have the personal funds to cover the high cost of tuition.”
On December 2, 2014, the University of Michigan held its first Giving Blueday, a 24-hour day of giving, scheduled on Giving Tuesday - a global day of giving following Thanksgiving weekend.

UMSI alumni and donors gave to support The Horizon Fund, started by UMSI’s Recent Graduate Campaign Council. This fund will be used to provide financial support to School of Information students pursuing educational experiences that take place outside of the classroom and enhance their classroom learning. These experiences may include but are not limited to, travel, internships, and service engagement experiences.

Thanks to the generosity of UMSI alumna Barbara Palmer, AMLS ’68, donors to the UMSI Horizon Fund had their donations matched dollar for dollar on Giving Blueday up to $10,000.

Giving Blueday was one of the many ways UMSI’s volunteer committees contributed their time and energy to the school this year. UMSI’s Campaign Council, Recent Graduate Campaign Council, Entrepreneurship Advisory Board and Alumni Society Board reached out to their social networks via email and social media to talk about their support for the initiative as well as encourage their peers to give.
Faculty and staff at UMSI value making a difference. They believe so strongly in the school that they not only support its mission in their daily work but contribute part of their paychecks as well.

In the school’s second annual Faculty & Staff campaign this spring, the participation rate was 69%, one of the highest rates of faculty/staff support of a division on campus.

They made gifts designated to the Annual Fund, Alternative Spring Break program, Horizon Fund and the Founders Fund, which provides monetary resources for impact programs such as Citizen Interaction Design.

“I choose to give to UMSI because I believe in the work we are doing here, and feel honored to be a part of it. I see all of the work we do, and how we can extend our support for the school through campaigns like this. Giving in this way helps me feel even more connected to the school, the innovations happening here, the students, and my own work. I truly feel that UMSI is a great place to come to every day and that I’ve helped to make it an even better place for the students to learn.”

- Laura Elgas
Director of Admissions and Student Affairs
Gifts from corporations and foundations allow faculty to innovate, explore and solve complex information problems through their research and teaching.

UMSI Associate Professor Nicole Ellison’s recent research projects include exploring the potential for social media to address college-going behaviors among low-income and first-generation college students and developing a Facebook app to support college-going activities for first-generation and other high school students as part of the College Knowledge Challenge. This year she received a gift from Facebook to support her groundbreaking work in social computing, social media and human-computer interaction, as well as a gift from Ask.fm, which she will use to explore the platform specifically with regard to the positive aspects of anonymous online interaction.

A VOICE-CONTROLLED PHOTO EDITOR

Siri meets Photoshop in an app prototype created by Assistant Professor Eytan Adar and several other collaborators including a former master’s student Gierad Laput (MSI ’13). The two collaborated with a team of researchers at Adobe to create a voice-controlled photo image editing app called PixelTone. The project received corporate funding from Adobe.

Photo editing can be a challenging task that becomes even more difficult on the small portable screens that are now frequently used to edit images. The goal of the app is to make photo editing as hands-free and easy as possible. Adar and the other researchers presented their work at the Computer-Human Interaction conference in Paris.

With the app, users can perform such functions as changing colors of objects, darkening or lightening an image, applying filters and effects – simply by tapping the screen and/or speaking the commands. These commands can be as specific as “darken the midtones at the top,” “change the color of the shirt,” or “brighten John.” A slider on the screen allows the user to adjust the results.
Your generous support makes all we do possible. Gifts of any size help sustain UMSI and move us forward.

THANK YOU!

Explore the different options for making a gift to UMSI and learn where your support is most needed at: www.si.umich.edu/alumni/giving

To give a gift online, visit the University of Michigan School of Information giving page at: www.giving.umich.edu/give/umsi

Send a check made out to The University of Michigan and please indicate the fund you’d like to support.

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View the UMSI Honor Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

www.si.umich.edu/donor-honor-roll