Alumni Generosity Invaluable for Student Scholarships at SI

Although it’s no secret that the cost of higher education continues to rise, what may be overlooked is how difficult it is for institutions like the School of Information to match that growth with increases in scholarship funding.

At SI, scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance. Given that enrollment is rising quickly, it is easy to see that without continued growth in scholarship funds, either the size of scholarships will decrease, or fewer students will be able to receive a scholarship.

This is where our alumni have stepped up in the past. We feel that the need for scholarships is of such importance that we are devoting this issue of SI@umich to it. In it, we highlight some of our scholarship recipients as well as two of our most recent donors.

President Issues a Challenge

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman’s office will now add to all gifts for graduate and professional student support, providing $1 for every $2 donated—including scholarships, fellowships, internships, and student awards. This applies to all gifts and pledges of up to $1 million that are made before December 31, 2008, or when $40 million in graduate support is committed through gifts and pledges University-wide. Because this Challenge is available to all U-M graduate programs, the pool of $20 million in matching dollars could go fast. Make your gift now to ensure matching support for a graduate student in SI.

Gifts at all levels of support are truly appreciated; those at the level of $50,000 or more will create a named endowment, which will continue supporting students far into the future. Five-year pledges signed before December 31, 2008 will be matched, as will previous pledges paid before that date. Corporate matching funds will also be eligible for the President’s Donor Challenge match. Your gift is, of course, tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Out of approximately 300 SI master’s students, only 20 percent get financial support from private sources. Scholarship support is critical if we are to continue recruiting the most talented students to the School of Information. You can view a list of all SI scholarship funds with a description of their donor and purpose at: SI@umich.edu/Scholarships.

If you’re thinking of making a gift to the School of Information, now is the time. By giving now, you can take advantage of the President’s Challenge (see story, below), to make your gift go further and can take advantage of year-end tax benefits.

Giving is easy, too. By going online to www.giving.umich.edu, you can make your gift, and if you wish, designate it to any existing scholarship fund.

For information about creating a new scholarship, please contact Karen Jordan at (734) 647-7652 or kjordan@umich.edu.

I.R.A. Rollover Year-End Option — See Page 8

How to Increase the Power of Your Gift

If your employer matches gifts, be certain to request a “matching gift form” and return it with your payment.

Michigan taxpayers can take advantage of the Michigan Tax Credit. If you file singly you could get 50 percent of your contribution to SI, up to $100, returned to you. If you file jointly you could get up to $200 back. This tax credit is a part of the state’s program for gifts to higher education and public broadcasting.

To discuss or learn more about giving opportunities for the School of Information, write to Karen Jordan at kjordan@umich.edu or call (734) 647-7652. You may also visit the University of Michigan giving Web site at www.giving.umich.edu.
Anne Beaubien
Recognizing Students’ Need and Responding

The impression SI students make on alumni can have long-lasting effects, as Anne Beaubien (AMLS ‘70) proves.

After the death of her close friend, Sharon Hogan (’68), Beaubien had become the representative of the Sharon Hogan Scholarship, which Hogan had established. In this role, Beaubien and her husband Phil Berry attended a Scholarship Recognition Luncheon at SI, and what they heard from students inspired them.

Beaubien has been a librarian at the University of Michigan for 37 years and is aware of the challenges of funding a graduate education.

“The quality and diversity of the students at the Scholarship Recognition Luncheon was impressive and we are aware that the need is great for scholarships in SI, especially as the School grows,” she says.

Berry also was eager to establish the scholarship as a way to honor his wife. The result is an endowed scholarship: the Anne Beaubien Berry Scholarship.

Upon receiving her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University, Beaubien went to work at the Bloomfield Township (Michigan) Public Library, she says, “to prove definitively that I didn’t want to become a librarian” because of the stereotypes. But, she loved her work there in the reference department and, within the year, came to Michigan. The rest of her family had gone to Michigan, meaning there was really only one place to come for graduate school.

To fulfill his late wife’s wishes, Elms provided a $20,000 gift to the School of Information that moved the Hanible scholarship fund to endowed status (a fund with a $50,000 minimum). The fund had been established by Hanible’s children — daughter Sana and son Khary — and friends.

In addition, the gift is eligible for the President’s Challenge match. Therefore, the School of Information receives an additional $10,000.

This story of lasting friendship and mutual admiration will now be sold for years through a scholarship fund that will benefit generations of students.

After earning her AMLS, Beaubien was hired at the U-M Library. She is now director of cooperative access services and the grants officer for the University Library.

Beaubien’s contributions have been noted by others. She received the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1987 from the School of Information. She received this award along with her friends and professional colleagues, Hogan and Mary George (’70). The three of them were known collectively to friends and colleagues as “SAM,” and in fact, the citation for their award refers to them that way.

In 1976, Beaubien, Hogan, and George developed a course for library science students on how to teach bibliographic instruction to library patrons. They also wrote Learning the Library: Concepts and Methods for Effective Bibliographic Instruction in 1982.

Beaubien was president of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) from 1991-92 and also received the prestigious national Virginia Boucher Award in 2007. Early success with the Michigan Information Transfer Source led to being selected the 1982 Ann Arbor Businesswoman of the Year.

Since she almost missed out on the career she loves, Beaubien’s theme during her ACRL presidency was recruiting talented people to the profession. At that time she secured research funds to study the personality characteristics of librarians and changed the librarian profile in the Strong Vocational Interest Inventory and the System of Interactive Guidance and Information.

Laura Kleiman (AMLS ‘80) is remembered for her generosity through a gift to an existing scholarship fund at SI.
Exposure to the School of Information during her first year as a U-M undergraduate in 2002 got Rachel Pultusker thinking — in a lot of big ways.

Becoming a librarian was one career goal she’s had for years, and her recent work with nonprofit organizations in the Detroit Public Schools has cemented her thinking even further.

“I’ve wanted to be a librarian for a very long time. I’m big on reading and I’m big on encouraging others to read,” says the first-year master’s student.

Additionally, Pultusker says she’s intrigued by the changing role of the school library/media center and the ways in which society is rethinking that role. Then also there’s an interest in access to information and knowledge as a tool for community building, that Associate Professor Emerita Maurita Holland piqued.

“She was excited and brilliant and encouraged me to think in crazy new ways,” Pultusker says of Holland.

It’s students like Pultusker, with dreams of changing the lives of others and contributing to the public good, that SI invests in through scholarships. As an SI scholarship recipient, Pultusker is a perfect match for two newly endowed scholarships, the Yaney/Longon/Wetherell Family Scholarship and the Albert D. and Clara Stanton Jones Scholarship.

“From a practical standpoint, my scholarships make all of this big thinking possible,” Pultusker says. “At this point in my life, I am able to take time to meet with exciting people and brainstorm and talk about abstract future goals.

“From a more personal standpoint, knowing that there are people who not only believe in the work I am learning to do but also have such faith in this belief that they are willing to invest in my potential gives me great courage.”

Once she graduates, Pultusker says, she has a mission in mind.

“In a large way, I’d like to be part of the movement to bring people back to libraries and libraries back to people. To me, that means libraries as community centers and school media centers as the epicenter of schools that are devoted to fostering a desire for knowledge and a sense of civic responsibility for one another,” she says.

“Libraries are going to be the place where big ideas for positive social changes are born, and I’m just looking forward to being a part of that change.

“In a somewhat less abstract way, I’d like to start rethinking the role of the school media center in schools that no longer have the resources to maintain a traditional school library. I’d like to do this as a school media specialist so that I can advocate for the media center from the inside and help to jump start this growth from within the school and school system.”

Being at SI has planted seeds in Pultusker’s mind about how far her chosen field can go. “I am really excited about the future of librarianship because things are changing and people are thinking about libraries in new ways,” she says. “People know that access to information is an essential component of a functioning community; locally, nationally, and globally.

“People know that libraries and media centers can be the main points of access to the rest of the world. People are coming back to libraries and I’m going to be there! I am so excited about what it will mean to be a school library media specialist in the future.”
Andrew Hunt can see the day when he takes what he's learning at SI and makes a mark.

“I hope to gain an understanding of where libraries and archives are headed in the future and to take a leadership role in keeping them relevant and sustainable as technology and society change over time,” he says. “I would like to do this through inter-institutional bodies that help create policies and services that will aid in these transitions.”

His career interests lie in digital preservation, records management, database applications, entrepreneurship in the information industry, and administration of nonprofit organizations. Hunt is an example of what SI encourages its students to do — come in and expose themselves to what the information world is like and then imagine it many times better because of their efforts.

Hunt came to SI after earning a degree in history and geography from the University of Missouri. His experience at Missouri included serving as an assistant librarian at the University of Missouri Veterinary Library and then as an exhibit curator at the Boone County Missouri Historical Museum. Later Hunt worked in the U.S. Copyright Office at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. At Michigan, he has picked up experience as an assistant librarian at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Hunt’s experiences and forward thinking earned him a scholarship from the Joseph B. Rounds Fund for Excellence in Librarianship. While it’s nice to have the recognition for his academic accomplishments, it’s hard to overlook the practical side. The scholarship helps blunt a hefty bill that would otherwise follow him for years, especially since he came from Missouri.

“My wife and I both go to SI right now,” Hunt says, “and without scholarships we would be paying $120,000 in tuition to get our degrees. We will still accumulate a great deal of debt, but it isn’t as insurmountable as it would have been, thanks to the generous scholarships we earned.”

Numbers like that often boggle the minds of alumni who have been out of school for years and remember buying a house for $25,000. But the reality is that the cost of graduate education is rising, in large part, because state support for public education has not kept pace with inflation.

Like many students, Hunt and his wife Anna had financial offers from other institutions when they were deciding whether to come to Michigan. In their case, the “reputation of the University of Michigan and of the School of Information” were large factors in their decision-making.

Yet the financial side also stood out. “Other institutions offered less competitive scholarships, so I had the good fortune of being offered the most money from the information school with the best reputation,” Hunt says.

“Out-of-state tuition to get a degree from SI is over $60,000,” Hunt says. “It would be very difficult to justify that sort of spending when I could have gone to other programs, such as the University of Illinois or UCLA, for much less.

“But with the scholarship offer, tuition at the U-M became very competitive. After I won the scholarship, I was very seriously considering coming to SI.”

What sold him on SI was a trip to Ann Arbor. “I came to Visiting Days, which was extremely well done, much better than others I had been to, and I was convinced that SI was the right decision.”

In the meantime, Hunt and his wife both accepted summer internships; she at IBM Research in nearby San Jose. He worked at the Stanford University Libraries as a business development officer for Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe (www.lockss.org), a program directed by Victoria Reich (AMLS ’76). The charitable foundation of Reich’s husband, David S.H. Rosenthal, donated funds to the School of Information to enable Hunt to continue to work for the LOCKSS program throughout the 2007-08 academic year.

“We had great experiences in California and our careers seem to be on the right track,” he says. “Had we been more preoccupied with paying the massive tuition bills, we would not have been able to pursue these valuable opportunities.”
A Big House Moment Brings Him to SI

Sometimes the lure of the football stadium can pull in a student — even one born in Germany.

Chris Hanrath had come to Toledo, Ohio from Germany and worked for two years as a Web development consultant, putting his degree in computer science from the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne to good use. Then it happened.

“One day my company had tickets for a local football game between Ohio State and the University of Michigan. I didn’t know what it meant back then, but when I came to the Big House, I was immediately addicted by the crowd,” he says.

Coming to Ann Arbor and experiencing the campus stirred his desire for graduate school. From previous studies, he was already familiar with SI. “The School of Information was big enough to impress with outstanding references and well-known alumni that inspired my studies and work over the past years. I have books on my shelf from Louis Rosenfeld and Peter Morville and studied the research of Judy Olson,” he says.

Hanrath says he plans to follow their examples. “I am excited to follow them in their footsteps after I graduate and reinforce the outstanding name of the School of Information in the industry,” he says.

Hanrath was awarded a scholarship to become part of what he energetically describes as “one of the best schools in this discipline.”

“I also value the variety of students with different backgrounds from different countries,” he says. “The University has been ranked as one of the most global universities with regards to openness and diversity. This is especially true for students at SI, where I have been working in group projects with people from the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

“In a world where companies in the information industry operate around the globe and where people work in international teams with people from different cultures, it is very important to get this exposure as early as possible to be prepared.”

Hanrath’s vision of becoming an SI graduate might have been derailed were it not for the scholarship offer he received. “When I was accepted to the School of Information, I was offered a half-tuition scholarship which reduced the financial burden enough to afford coming over to the States. The financial support did not only make my dream of studying in the States possible, but it actually showed the interest in me. I am confident that this decision will change my future life, because I am getting an education second to none that will open doors and help me pursue my career goals.”

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Hanrath wants to continue working for a global company in the information industry. “I want to be part of an innovative and creative company that develops and delivers interfaces that make people’s lives easier,” he says. “I like to contribute to the creation of products which generate a demand by people — like recent music players or cell phones did — and influence their life in a way that they can enjoy and leverage new technologies every day on ubiquitous devices.”

Hanrath says he has one other goal he hopes to fulfill.

“I want to return the support and help I received from SI to future students and help them in a way I was supported when I came here.”
Students have choices when it comes to picking a graduate school, and a scholarship offer is often a deciding factor.

Krystle Williams is one of the fortunate ones who had more than one offer. Likewise, the School of Information considers itself fortunate that it was not only in the running to land someone with her academic skills, but came out the winner after she applied to multiple schools and had several admission offers in hand.

At first during the application process, she says, “SI and Georgia Tech were competing hard for first place in my mind. Both programs were strong academically and well respected. Initially, I liked the idea of Georgia Tech because it is stationed in a warmer climate. I absolutely hate being cold.

“However, after I visited SI and met some of the faculty, staff, and current students, I was further impressed by the strength of the program, its focus on practical application, and the responsiveness and availability of the faculty.”

Her visit to SI and speaking to Laura Elgas, manager of master’s admissions and recruiting, cemented Williams’ decision.

Williams says a scholarship offer in recognition of her academic achievement helped “immensely” by letting her turn her focus to grad studies instead of finances. “I work part-time but I don’t need to work an extensive number of hours to cover my expenses,” she says. “As a result, I have more free time to participate in student groups like the Multicultural Information Exchange (MIX), and I’m on the lookout for internships — paid or unpaid — during the semester and getting involved in student projects or research to help strengthen my skill set.”

Once she earns her Master of Science in Information, Williams wants to take what she knows to the people.

“Pretty simply, I’d like to end up in a career that I love and where I feel that I am helping people in some way. A simple description and a little vague, but I think that describes it best,” she says. “I’ve had jobs that I’ve absolutely hated, so I’m keen on finding my passion and completely avoiding the possibility of being unproductive or stagnant. Attending SI is a great opportunity and I am fully expecting what I gain here to help springboard me to bigger and better things.”

Being a part of the SI experience means that students understand that the technological sands are always shifting beneath them. They not only need to know what is happening today, but to be able to envision a different world just a few years out.

Toward that end, Williams says she can only speculate what her career path will be like. “I’d like for it to begin with me working for an organization and building my experience. Then it would move into entrepreneurial work either consulting or contract work. I’d like to bring the benefits of user-centered design and other elements of human-computer interaction to smaller businesses and nonprofits that for whatever reason haven’t made use of them,” she explains.

“Somewhere down the road, I plan to develop a program to bring the skills and knowledge of HCI and other technical fields to those who might have missed out on college or made poor life decisions and are looking to get back on track. Ultimately, the program would provide training and networking opportunities to help them gain credentials and be competitive in our increasingly competitive and flat world.”

Williams is an example of why the School of Information invests in the future by way of scholarships through its students.
Linda West (AMLS ’68) has retired and is living in California. lwest@umich.edu

Louis Rosenfeld (MILS ’90) is publisher of Rosenfeld Media, LLC, in Brooklyn, New York. Rosenfeld Media (rosenfeldmedia.com) focuses on short, practical books on user-experience design. The first book, In!: Young’s “Mental Models,” was published in November. lrosenfeld@umich.edu

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Nishant Jain (MSI ’98) is CEO at Design for Use in Austin, Texas. nishantjain@designforuse.com

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Henry Chou (MSI ’04) is a business analyst at Amgen in Thousand Oaks, California. “The big news! I got married on June 23, 2007!” chou_henry@gmail.com

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Mark Bard (MSI ’06) is recuperating from serious injuries suffered when he was struck by a car. Friends may offer best wishes to him and follow his progress at tonyvul.com/zone2

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Saradina Doan (MSI ’07) is a library assistant at Cal State University in San Marcos. sdoan@csusm.edu

Corinne Forstot (MSI ’07) is a research and stewardship associate at the San Francisco Ballet. cforstot@sfballet.org

Tashira Gibbs (MSI ’07) says she would love to connect with alumni, particularly in the Chicago area. “I have also created a Facebook page for UM@ St/MIX club members and alumni to network. Sign up at umichgan.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4300436462.” gibb75@umich.edu

Jennifer Sharp (MSI ’07) is a manuscript librarian at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. jsharp@gmail.com

Sarah Walsh (MSI ’07) is an information analyst at Chevron Internet Technology Company in Richmond, California. sarahwalch@gmail.com
You are SI in the field…

School of Information students represent more than 70 undergraduate degree programs. This diversity of thought is one of many factors that make SI stand out as a leader in providing education to information professionals of the future. If you know of a college student, or someone who wishes to return to graduate school, please make a referral. Alumni are our ambassadors.

Let us know by writing to si.admissions@umich.edu or calling (734) 763-2285. We hope to hear from you soon!

Charitable IRA Rollovers

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 offers you a golden opportunity to make gifts from your IRA and exclude the amount of those gifts from gross income, if you do so by December 31, 2007. To qualify:

- You must be 70½ years of age or older.
- The transfers must go directly from your IRA to qualified charities (including the University of Michigan)
- You may make total gifts of up to $100,000 before the end of 2007
- Gifts must be made outright
- You may benefit greatly if:
  - You don’t need additional income but are required to take minimum withdrawals
  - You have already made the maximum donation for allowable charitable deductions
  - You are subject to the 2 percent rule, which requires that itemized deductions be reduced by 2 percent of adjusted gross income in excess of $156,400
  - You live in a state where a charitable deduction is not available for state tax purposes
  - You do not itemize
  - Your major assets reside in your IRA

Note that to count as gifts made in 2007, checks must be postmarked by December 31, 2007 and credit card transactions must be processed by the bank by December 31, 2007.

To discuss options for gifts of retirement-plan assets, contact the Planned Giving Office at (734) 615-2022 or toll-free at 1-866-233-6661 or visit online at umichplannedgifts.org.

Coming Up!

January 12

Alumni are invited to the SI reception during the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. Watch siumich.edu/events for the time and location.

Share Your News

Please send your news by any of these convenient methods:

- Web (preferred): siumich.edu/alumni/update.htm
- E-mail: kjordan@umich.edu
- Postal mail: Karen Jordan
  SI Development and Alumni Relations
  304 West Hall
  1085 South University Avenue
  Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1107

Making a Gift to the School of Information is Easy!

It’s easy to make a gift to School of Information. You may choose one of the following methods:

1. Visit www.giving.umich.edu and follow the links to establish your gift. You can choose to designate your gift for an existing scholarship fund (a complete list is available online), to a specific project at the School that you would like to support, or as undesignated.

2. Simply complete the information below and return this form to:

   School of Information Alumni Giving Program
   University of Michigan
   304 West Hall
   1085 South University Avenue
   Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1107

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ________________________________State _______ Zip ____________
Daytime phone ( _____) _______________E-mail address ____________________

☐ I have enclosed my full gift amount with a check payable to “University of Michigan”
☐ I would like to make a pledge of $_____ to be paid in full by _______ (no more than five years).
☐ I’d like to charge my gift of $_____ or my first pledge payment of $_____ to my:
  ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card
  Account number _______________________ Expiration date _________
  Signature_____________________________________________________

☐ My employer will match my gift. I have enclosed the form provided by my employer.
☐ Please contact me about including the School of Information in my estate plan.
☐ My gift is in support of this scholarship fund: _____________________
  (a list of established scholarships is on page 1)
Gifts by check must be postmarked by December 31, 2007 to be eligible for 2007 tax credits and/or deductions.
Gifts made online (www.giving.umich.edu) may be made through 5 p.m. December 31, 2007 to be eligible for 2007 tax credits and/or deductions.

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