The creation of the Eric Stein Collegiate Professorship is a truly trans-Atlantic endeavor. That is appropriate, since Stein, ’42, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor of Law Emeritus, is a towering figure in the field of international law, specifically European integration law.

Stein escaped Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia in 1939 and came to study at Michigan, later joining the Law School faculty after service in the U.S. Army and nine years with the Department of State Bureau of International Organizations. During his distinguished seven-decade career he has been instrumental in bringing a comparative dimension to teaching and scholarship in American law schools, an approach that pervades almost all his work. That is particularly true with regard to the understanding of post-World War II Europe, much of which American legal scholars owe to Stein’s intellectual contributions.

But as highly as Stein is esteemed for his teaching and scholarship, he is equally well known as a warm and generous mentor, colleague, and friend. Countless alumni, faculty, and friends cherish memories of Stein and his wife, Ginny, who for years have nurtured relationships in the Michigan Law community as well as the international scholarly and legal communities.

This year, the Stein Professorship became a reality, thanks to the generosity of 23 alumni and friends on both sides of the Atlantic who committed a total of more than $625,000 to create the chair. In celebration, a dinner was held at the Law School in May honoring Professor and Mrs. Stein. More than half the alumni and friends who had supported the Stein Chair to date gathered in Ann Arbor for the occasion, with two guests flying in from Europe.

The evening was filled with tributes to the Steins, and Eric Stein rose to acknowledge the accolades in several minutes of scintillating remarks. In another of the evening’s highlights, Wolfgang Knapp, M.C.L. ’71, of Cologne, Germany, presented Stein with a chunk of the Berlin Wall that Knapp had personally chipped off 17 years before; the piece of history was better served on his mentor’s desk, Knapp said, than on his own.

Those who made the chair possible are: Jean-Francois Bellis, I.L.M. ’74, of Brussels, Belgium; Marco C.E.J. Bronckers, I.L.M. ’80, of Brussels; Roberto S. Casati, I.L.M. ’74, of Milan, Italy; William C., ’56 and Janet E. (BA ’56) Casebaum, of Ann Arbor; John Deutch, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Timothy L. Dickinson B.A. ’75, J.D. ’79, of Ann Arbor; Alain A. Gloor, I.L.M. ’80, of Zurich, Switzerland; Robert T. Greig, J.D. ’70, of Paris; James S. Hilboldt Jr., J.D. ’81, of New Canaan, Connecticut; Joan L. and Emeritus Professor John H. Jackson, J.D. ’59, of Chevy Chase, Maryland.; Jean-Louis Joris, of Brussels; Wolfgang Knapp, M.C.L. ’71, of Cologne; Jon H. Kouba, B.A. ’62, J.D. ’65, of San Francisco; Hans Kruger, of Strasbourg, France; Jerome B. Libin, J.D. ’59, of Washington, D.C.; Terence Murphy, O.B.E., J.D ’66, of Bethesda, Maryland.; Edna C. Rossenas, of Muir Beach, California (in memory of her brother, Herbert Sott, B.A. ’40, MBA ’42, J.D. ’43); Giuseppe Scassellati-Sforzolini, I.L.M. ’87, of Rome; Oliver E. Seikel, J.D. ’62, of Cleveland, Ohio; Jeffrey H. Smith, J.D. ’71, of Reston, Virginia.; and John A. Wise, J.D. ’62, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

The Law School is seeking to fund the Eric Stein Collegiate Professorship to the fullest extent possible in order to ensure its continuance as well as its excellence. For information on how you can make a gift to support the Stein Chair, call Brodie Remington at 734.615.4317 or e-mail bremingt@umich.edu

Hands join across borders to endow Stein Collegiate Professorship