A Look Inside

We’re celebrating Michigan Law’s new facilities—and all that will go on inside them.

With the opening of the newest spaces in the Law Quadrangle, we’re taking time to mark the occasions. On a weekend last November, as you’ll read in these pages, we toasted the Robert B. Aikens Commons and Kirkland & Ellis Café and the donors who made them possible: Ann and Robert Aikens, ’54, K&E emeritus partner William Jentes, ’56, and all Michigan Law alumni who are share partners with the firm (see pages 44–45).

South Hall opened this semester, with the first classes held here January 11. On September 7, we will formally dedicate the building with remarks by Elena Kagan, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Just as important as the physical beauty of the new facilities is what goes on inside of them. South Hall, the Quadrangle’s first new academic building in more than 75 years, is fully integrated with the life of the Law School. That means we have more space on both sides of Monroe Street for the curriculum of classes, seminars, simulations, and clinics that is integral to law schools of the 21st century.

A great example of this blend of practical and theoretical engagement is ZEAL, the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program, named for Sam Zell, ’66, whose $5 million gift seeded ZEAL. A key component of ZEAL is the Entrepreneurship Clinic (see page 28), launched in January and housed in a wing of South Hall that is dedicated to our clinical programs. Students in the Entrepreneurship Clinic counsel student entrepreneurs in U-M’s thriving culture of entrepreneurial activity. ZEAL also includes several new courses tailored for the entrepreneurial lawyer and the lawyer counseling businesses of all sizes. Through ZEAL, Michigan Law is taking a leadership role in educating the business lawyers of tomorrow.

We would enjoy talking with you about ZEAL, other exciting Law School initiatives, and areas where your support can make a difference. You may reach us by calling 734.615.4500. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Todd M. Baily
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations
Always over-tip the breakfast waitress, because 15 percent of a breakfast check isn’t enough.

That’s one of the many ways, large and small, through which Shelley Allen and Bob Kohorst, of Pasadena, California, have modeled the importance of generosity in raising their sons. Kevin, 26, works in operations management for a large security guard company, and Matt, 23, is a fifth-year senior on a baseball scholarship at the University of Kansas.

Indeed, give back to the community with time and money is enshrined in the family’s list of six priorities that guide their lives.

Back when the couple took the risk of starting their own business, they gave time, because that was what they had. Shelley was an active school volunteer, including room mother and parent board member; she also coached soccer and helped out in Little League. Bob was the Little League, basketball, and soccer coach. They learned about giving back from their parents, who also gave time for school activities and youth sports.

When their business, Everest Properties, became a highly successful real estate holdings company, Bob and Shelley could give money as well. After years of donating small amounts to many charitable and civic organizations, they now focus their giving on the areas that interest them most: sports, education, and health care. They particularly like to support the organizations that helped them and their family over the years.

Recently they made an additional gift of $100,000 to the Law School’s building project, bringing their total commitment to the project to $500,000.

The couple believes in teaching their sons by example. “We don’t sit down and tell them where we’re making our contributions,” says Shelley. “We’re not in their faces about it. We want them to be part of the process and learn the joy of giving back.”

Four years ago, they created a family foundation that was set up to allow donations to be made on the Internet. Each year, both Kevin and Matt can give $25,000 to the charities of their choice. So far, it’s been a good learning experience and lets the boys be somewhat independent in their direction.

“Over time, we have confidence that they will make good choices to help those in need,” says Bob.

Bob and Shelley also continue to give time through board service. Bob is a Regent of Loyola Marymount University, Kevin’s alma mater, an assignment he views as “a little bit of a placeholder spot” for his son. Recently Kevin was named to the university’s Athletic Director’s Council, on which his father also serves.

Has the message caught on? “They get it,” says Bob. “You think they’re in their own world as they’re growing up, but kids watch everything you do. I’m fully convinced that when it’s time for them to step up for their own charitable interests, they’ll do so very generously, with both time and money.”

Learning to be generous manifests itself in unusual ways. When Matt was in high school, his father recalls, he went out to breakfast with some fellow basketball players. The check arrived, and everyone but Matt wondered, “How much should we tip?”

“I told them what you said,” Matt told his parents. “Always over-tip the breakfast waitress.”
Student support

Henry Grix, AB ’70, JD ’77, and Howard Israel, BFA ’72

Henry Grix and Howard Israel are grateful that they attended U-M, but, as longtime advocates for LGBT rights, they did not initially view support for the University as their philanthropic priority. “The University attracts donations from around the world, but supporters of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights are relatively few. As gay men, we wanted to devote our charitable dollars to LGBT organizations and projects,” Grix says.

Grix and Israel have come to see support for the University as consistent with their philanthropic priority. Lifelong Michigan residents, they regard the University as a beacon within the state, region, and nation. “The University is a center of influence that has taken principled stands in support of LGBT issues, from opening the first student affairs office for LGBT students 40 years ago to implementing domestic partnership benefits for LGBT employees. The University deserves our support.”

Recently the couple, who live in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, made a gift of $110,000 to the Law School to establish the Spectrum Fund. Grix and Israel hope that, among other things, the fund will provide fellowships and scholarships to enable students who are passionate about LGBT equality to pursue research, impact litigation, and do policy work. They also hope that the creation of the Spectrum Fund will attract other donors. “Our great hope is that our ‘seed gift’ will encourage others to join us in expanding the resources available to young lawyers who want to advance LGBT equality,” says Israel.

Grix, editor of The Michigan Daily as an undergraduate, has practiced as a trusts and estates lawyer with Dickinson Wright in metro Detroit since Law School graduation. Israel worked as a graphic designer and chef after graduation from art school and now works full time on behalf of LGBT causes. Among other projects, he currently serves as volunteer co-administrator of the Racial Equity Initiative at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The Racial Equality Initiative is a component fund of the Community Foundation that focuses on building leadership and capacity in local LGBT people-of-color organizations.

Israel became an activist three decades ago “for my own integrity,” he says. “I didn’t want to be a second-class citizen.” Grix joined him in political work 24 years ago, when they became life partners as well as collaborators in advancing the rights of the LGBT community. In recognition of their leadership, Grix and Israel were one of three couples honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan at the group’s annual dinner in November 2011 that marked the 10th anniversary of the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project.

During their lifetimes, Grix and Israel have witnessed both substantial progress and major setbacks on the road to legal and social equality. For example, marriage equality for same-sex couples was not even discussed when they attended the University, but Grix and Israel recently married in New York, where same-sex civil marriage was legalized in 2011. They are troubled, however, that neither federal nor Michigan law will recognize their New York marriage.

“When we meet LGBT and allied students today,” Grix says, “we are amazed at how out and open they are. They are not frightened the way we were 40 years ago. Still, many worry about how ‘out’ they can be in their personal and professional lives.

“The Spectrum Fund needs to be flexible enough to accommodate social changes,” says Grix. “Even if civil marriage equality comes, discrimination based upon sexual orientation will persist in other areas, and the Spectrum Fund will be needed.”

If you’re interested in making a gift to the Spectrum Fund or would like to talk with a Law School representative about doing so, please call 734.615.4516.

Henry Grix, left, and Howard Israel.
Bill Davis became familiar with the work of master blacksmith Samuel Yellin as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, in Davis’s hometown. The Cathedral of Learning and Heinz Chapel on the Pitt campus featured decorative iron and bronze work crafted by Yellin, and these buildings were included in an art appreciation course at Pitt.

“I was very taken by that work, and by the ability of those kinds of accessories to make a difference in how things look and feel,” says Davis, of Ann Arbor.

In 1969, Davis brought his young family here, where he served a remaining two years of active service as an ROTC instructor. With the help of the late Professor Emeritus Roy Proffi tt (“the ultimate veterans’ advocate,” Davis says; see obituary, page 33), he enrolled in the Law School while still in uniform.

“I immediately recognized that the [York and Sawyer–designed] Law Quadrangle was replete with Samuel Yellin’s work,” Davis recalls. “It knocked me out.”

Fast forward to 2011, when he was considering a gift to the building project and wanted to do something special. Bill and his wife, Judith, an artist and art therapist, had hired Ann Arbor master blacksmith Scott Lankton some 15 years ago to craft the metalwork for their English country home with wrought iron railings and Gothic appointments, using the Law School as a pattern. They were delighted with the results. As Davis told Tom Schlaff, the Law School’s building project manager, “Anything Samuel Yellin could do, Scott can do.”

The Davises made a gift of $100,000 to underwrite Lankton’s crafting of bronze door pulls in the Yellin style for entrances to South Hall and the Robert B. Aikens Commons. Lankton, an admirer of the Law Quadrangle, responded with work that is perfect to the last detail, including the etching of “Robert” and “Aikens” on the exterior Commons door pulls. Upon seeing the beautiful detail of the Aikens Commons door pulls, the Law School construction team conspired to surprise Dean Evan Caminker with a set of door pulls of his own. With the blessing of Bill Davis, who thought it a “very deserving honor,” the team had Lankton etch “Evan” and “Caminker” on door pulls that were installed on the south entrance to South Hall. The team then surprised Dean Caminker with the pulls in early January. The Davises’ gift also will fund custom metalwork by Lankton in the upcoming renovation of the Lawyers Club residences and to replace older replacement railings that are out of character for the buildings. Any balance will be employed in academic work.

Lankton’s work, like Yellin’s before him, adds a finishing touch to the Law School’s building project rarely seen in 21st-century construction. “When you grasp one of those door pulls, you feel like you’re opening a portal into legal history,” Davis says. “That authentic hand-wrought detail adds a certain gravitas to the motivational and artistic character of the Law School. I’m sure that William Cook would approve!”
When the Robert B. Aikens Commons and Kirkland & Ellis Café opened September 9, 2011, they quickly became the new heart of the Michigan Law community. On November 18–19, 2011, the Law School held a Dedications Weekend honoring the donors who made these beautiful new spaces possible.

Cutting the ribbon in formal dedication of the Kirkland & Ellis Café: (from left) Dean Caminker, Jim Amend, '67, Bill Jentes, '56, Sandy Perl, '90, and Greg Arovas, '92.

Left Bill Jentes, '56, and Janet Jentes with the plaque honoring Bill's participation in the gift for the Kirkland & Ellis Café. In remarks, Bill said the new facilities gave the Law School a renewed opportunity to continue the important task of preparing students to take a meaningful place in the legal profession.
The Aikens family gathers on the Aikens Commons steps before the dedication ceremony. Back: Linda and Bruce Aikens; Beth McArthur and Scott Aikens (holding daughter, Claire); Ann and Bob Aikens; Lindsay Aikens Hefter and Peter Hefter; and Kim Aikens Levanovich, with son, Eric, and daughter, Kristin. Front: Charlie, Ani, and Ben Hefter.

Left Bob Aikens congratulates 2L Peter Starr, the Ann and Robert B. Aikens Scholar, who offered remarks on behalf of students, as Ann Aikens looks on.

Below Left Brothers Bill Burns, ’68, and Richard Burns, ’71, have both been listed in Best Lawyers in America for nearly a quarter century.

Below Ben Hefter, a grandson of Ann and Bob Aikens, considers the view through the glass roof of the Aikens Commons on a family tour.
Reunion Giving

Reunion giving, especially to the Law School Fund, is an important source of funding for all aspects of the Law School’s mission. By making reunion gifts, Michigan Law alumni honor their classmates as well as the Law School.

Reunions were held September 16–18 (including the Emeriti Reunion) and September 23–25, 2011. Emeriti do not formally fundraise, but the group included many generous supporters of the Law School.

Thanks to all donors of reunion gifts and to the volunteer reunion committees!

Class of 1961


Law School Fund (LSF) total: $83,295
Total all gifts: $555,491
40% participation

Class of 1966


LSF total: $118,873
Total all gifts: $2,293,651
36% participation

Class of 1971

Committee: Dickson Brown, Richard Burns, and Muriel Nichols, co-chairs; Denis Binder, Dawn Hertz, John Jacobs, Pamela Liggett, Bill Rainey, Abe Singer, and Don Tucker.

LSF total: $452,676
Total all gifts: $1,093,943
34% participation

Class of 1976


LSF total: $184,582
Total all gifts: $322,357
30% participation
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GIVING

Class of 1981
Committee: Kent D. Syverud and Gregg F. Vignos, co-chairs; Steve Adams, Natalia Delgado, John Finger, Rodrick Green, Deborah Greenspan, David Gregg, Carmen Lawrence, Bill Marcoux, Barbara Mendelson, Marissa Pollick, Suelynn Scarnecchia, John Sloss, and Jonathan Walton.
LSF total: $455,472
Total all gifts: $1,079,055
30% participation

Class of 1986
LSF total: $448,475
Total all gifts: $625,625
30% participation

Class of 1991
LSF total: $100,216
Total all gifts: $162,381
14% participation

Class of 1996
Committee: Carol E. Dixon and Carrie J. Fletcher, co-chairs; Christine Gregory, Richard A. Norwitt, and Donald W. Wiest.
LSF total: $112,011
Total all gifts: $205,130
12% participation

Class of 2001
Committee: Shayna S. Cook and Jamia A. Gekas, co-chairs; Thomas N. Blanchard, Eve Bremske Primus, Catherine Dobrowitsky, Robert A. Greebel, Amy Harwell Sankaran, Eric Reed, and Asim Rehman.
LSF total: $43,573
Total all gifts: $50,522
14% participation

Class of 2006
Committee: Mandy Legal, Matt Nolan, and Trisha Rich, co-chairs; Jesse Calm, Sarah Chopp, Josh Deahl, Michelle Echeverria, Kelli Fitzgerald, Tammy Helmskins, Jason Lichtman, Vannessa Martinez, Michael Murphy, Ryan Rettmann, Charlotte Ritz, Matt Rojas, Doug Sanders, Jeannine Sims, Molly Skjei, William Tran, and Stephanie Burum Vasconcellos.
LSF total: $120,648
Total all gifts: $123,523
27% participation
Thank-a-thon

Michigan Law students realize that, today, private gifts to the Law School are more important than ever—in building new facilities, creating scholarships, supporting faculty, and providing program support. Every year, the annual Thank-a-Thon brings students together to reach out with notes, phone calls, and emails to the Law School’s generous donors, expressing appreciation for their support. The fall 2011 Thank-a-Thon, held in the Robert B. Aikens Commons, attracted a record 250 participants who corresponded with more than 900 donors. Letter-writers included scholarship recipients, representatives from student organizations, and many more students who simply wanted to express their gratitude to alumni and friends who help keep Michigan Law great. The 2011 event was especially memorable, marking the 50-year anniversary of the Law School Fund, the annual fund that supports all facets of the Law School’s mission. Pictured at right, from top, are 1Ls Katie Blair, Adam Wright, and Samantha Honea and Carlyn Williams.
Lee Spearheads Law School Fund Success

Paul Lee, ’72, national chair of the Law School Fund since 2006, recalls the moment he decided to volunteer on behalf of Michigan Law. A decade ago, in conversation with a Law School representative, he learned that many students were graduating with debt loads far beyond anything he could have imagined.

“I was stunned,” says Lee, of New York City. “I had not followed the increased cost of law school carefully. And this was 10 years ago. That’s what galvanized me.”

Under Lee’s volunteer leadership, the Law School Fund, now in its 51st year, raises an average of $3.2 million annually with a participation rate of 32 percent among JD alumni, to make it the best-performing annual fund of any school or college on the U-M campus. A strong volunteer network of class agents and reunion volunteers also helps account for the Fund’s success.

Student support remains among the Fund’s top uses. That’s important to Lee, since financial assistance was a major factor in his choice of Michigan as a law school, and he wants others to have the same opportunity.

“I am incredibly grateful for the education that I received at the Law School,” he says. “I knew at the time that I was getting a great education, and that memory has stayed very strong with me.”

Lee is a corporate partner in the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton, where he co-chairs the firm’s banking group and is a member of its financial institutions group. He has specialized in banking and financial services throughout his career, which includes 23 years in private law practice, 10 years as general counsel of a financial institution, and two years with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Lee, a generous donor to the Law School Fund in his own right, says he’d like all alumni to know that with state funding almost eliminated, the Fund is a first-line source for essential needs like student support, and provides flexibility for new and unforeseen initiatives.

The Law School Fund’s new vice chair is Kerry Galvin, ’86, of Houston, senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Valerus Compression Services, LP, in Houston. Galvin, a longtime Law School Fund donor, recently made a generous gift in honor of her class’s 25-year reunion, and says she’s excited about working with other alumni to inspire their gifts to the Fund.

“I am pleased and honored to participate in the Law School Fund as its vice chair,” Galvin says. “I believe the Fund has a strategic role to play as Michigan Law addresses the evolution of the profession and legal education. This gives me an opportunity to give back to an institution that is very important to me.”

Join the Law School Fund Anniversary Society!

The Law School Fund 50th Anniversary Society is a unique, limited-time giving opportunity that covers major commitments made through December 31, 2012. Donors of gifts or pledges of $25,000 or more to the Law School Fund during that time will receive recognition that includes invitations to special events in major cities nationwide. Donors of gifts or pledges of $50,000 or more to the Fund will receive special recognition in the Law Quad. Interested? Contact Janice Glander, jglander@umich.edu or 734.615.4521.
Recent Gifts

Rochelle (Shelley) Alpert, AB ’72, JD ’75, and Steven Greenwald, ’73, and their daughter Elyse Greenwald, ’09, all of San Francisco, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. Shelley is a partner in the San Francisco office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Steve is a partner in the San Francisco office of Davis Wright Tremaine, and Elyse is an associate in the San Francisco office of Latham & Watkins.

Deborah Armitage, AMLS ’72, and Robert Armitage, MS ’71, JD ’74, of McLean, Virginia, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. Bob is senior vice president and general counsel for Eli Lilly and Company.

Barbara and Martin Bienenstock, ’77, of Katonah, New York, have made an additional gift of $125,000 for the building project, bringing their total building gift to $375,000. Martin, a partner in the New York office of Dewey & LeBoeuf, is chair of the firm’s Business Solutions and Governance Department and a member of its Executive Committee. He is an adjunct faculty member at Michigan Law and serves on the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Kathryne Burns and Denis Binder, LLM ’71, SJD ’73, of Tustin, California, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in honor of the 40-year reunion of the Class of 1971. Denis is a professor of law at Chapman University School of Law.

Sandy and Steven Chameides, BSEM ’67, BSNAM ’67, JD ’70, of Bethesda, Maryland, have made an additional gift of $25,000 for the building project, bringing their total building gift to $50,000. Steve is a partner in Foley & Lardner’s Washington office.

Deborah Greenspan, BS ’76, JD ’81, and Louis Tenenbaum, AB ’76, of Potomac, Maryland, have made an additional gift of $25,000 for the building project, bringing their total building gift to $50,000. Debbie is a partner in the Washington office of Dickstein Shapiro and co-leader of the firm’s Complex Dispute Resolution Group.

Sheila and Steven Hamp, MMP ’78, HLLD ’02, of Ann Arbor, have made a gift of $500,000 for the building project. Steve is a principal at Hamp Advisors, LLC, in Detroit.

Pamela Colburn Haron, ABED ’69, and David Haron, AB ’66, JD ’69, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, who previously endowed a scholarship at the Law School, have made a commitment of $50,000 for the building project. David is a principal in the law firm of Frank Haron Weiner PLC in Troy, Michigan.

The Dewitt C. Holbrook Memorial Fund has made an additional gift of $50,000 in support of the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, a Michigan Law program that seeks to reduce the number of children in foster care by providing legal and social work services to low-income parents and their extended families.

Anita Jenkins, AB ’66, JD ’74, and James Jenkins, AB ’67, JD ’73, of Midland, Michigan, have made a gift of $100,000 for the building project. Anita is retired from the practice of tax law with the Dow Chemical Company. Jim is senior vice president and general counsel of Deere & Company.
Joan Kessler, AB ’67, PhD ’73, and Warren (Skip) Kessler, ’73, of Los Angeles, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. Both are shareholders of Kessler & Kessler, A Law Corporation, in Los Angeles. Joan is a mediator and arbitrator, former litigator, and a nationally recognized expert on jury behavior. Skip specializes in taxation, real estate, estate planning, and corporate matters. Joan’s father, David D. Blumenstein, graduated from the Law School in 1932, and her great-uncle, Ben Paul Brasley, graduated from the Law School in 1906.

Mary Richardson and William O’Neill, ’76, of Washington, D.C., have made a gift of $50,000 to the Law School Fund in honor of the 35-year reunion of the class of 1976. Bill is a partner in the Washington office of Latham & Watkins and former chair of the office’s corporate practice.

Barbara Rom, ABED ’69, JD ’72, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Amboise, France, has made an additional gift of $100,000 for the building project, bringing her total building gift to $250,000. Barbara is retired from the practice of bankruptcy law with Pepper Hamilton LLP.

Jane Ross, AB ’71, and Sterling (Terry) Ross Jr., ’71, of Mill Valley, California, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in honor of the 40-year reunion of the Class of 1971. Terry is a cofounder of the firm of Robb and Ross and a certified specialist in trusts and estates.

Camille Larson and George Ruttinger, AB ’70, JD ’73, of Washington, D.C., have made an additional gift of $37,500 for the building project, bringing their total building gift to $50,000. George is a partner in the Washington office of Crowell & Moring.

Lianne and Paul Sefcovic, ’71, of Dublin, Ohio, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in honor of the 40-year reunion of the Class of 1971. Paul is a partner in the Columbus office of the international law firm Squire Sanders LLP.

Nancy and Richard Sneed, ’66, of Sarasota, Florida, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in honor of the 45-year reunion of the Class of 1966. Dick is retired from TRW Inc., where he was an assistant general counsel.

Joanne and Dean Storkan, ’72, of Pebble Beach, California, have made a gift of $75,000 for the building project in honor of the 40-year reunion of the Class of 1972. Dean is president of Trical Inc., in Hollister, California.

Carol and James (Mack) Trapp, ’61, have made a gift of $25,000 for the building project, bringing their total giving to the project to $50,000, and an additional gift of $1,000 to the Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund. Both gifts honor the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1961. Mack is senior counsel to the firm of McDermott Will & Emery, based in the Chicago office.

Patricia and Jerry Wagner, ’73, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, have made a gift of $100,000 endowing the Jerry C. Wagner Scholarship Fund. Jerry is president of Flexible Plan Investments Ltd., in Bloomfield Hills.

Penny and Robert White, ’72, of Los Angeles, have made a gift of $25,000 for the building project, bringing their total giving to the project to $50,000. Bob is an executive vice president of Maguire Properties in Los Angeles and a retired partner from O’Melveny & Myers, where he founded the restructuring practice.

Betty Jean Wilkins, of North Canton, Ohio, has made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in memory of her husband, F. Stuart (“Stu”) Wilkins, AB ’49, JD ’52, bringing the couple’s total building gift to $150,000. Stu, a player on the 1948 Wolverine national championship football team, was a partner with the law firm of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co. L.P.A., in Canton.

Barbara and Stanley Zax, BBA ’58, JD ’61, of Beverly Hills, California, have made a gift of $50,000 to the Law School Fund in honor of the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1961. Stan is chairman of the board of Zenith National Insurance Company in Woodland Hills, California.