

# LEGACY

12.27%

INCREASE IN  
ENROLLMENT

71.5%

MORE  
STUDENTS  
OF COLOR

7

DOCTORAL  
PROGRAMS  
LAUNCHED

743%

INCREASE IN  
FINANCIAL AID

## Man About Campus

Chancellor Daniel Little celebrates 18 years of impact



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Chancellor Daniel Little celebrates 18 years of impact.

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"OZZY" THE ROBOT IS HELPING STUDENTS AT LUDINGTON MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARN TO CODE.





# LEGACY

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**Beth Marmarelli**

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

**Cristina M. Frendo**

DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

**Kate Malicke**

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

**Sarah Tuxbury**

**Lou Blouin**

WRITERS

Please send address changes and Class Notes to:  
Office of Alumni Relations  
4901 Evergreen Road, 1190 AB  
Dearborn, MI 48128-2406  
313-593-5131 (PHONE) 313-593-0540 (FAX)  
[umdearborn-edu/alumni](mailto:umdearborn-edu/alumni)  
[umdearborn-legacy@umich.edu](mailto:umdearborn-legacy@umich.edu)

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# Chancellor's Perspective

## WITH GREAT GRATITUDE

I came to UM-Dearborn nearly 18 years ago from an excellent private liberal arts university. At the time, the public mission of UM-Dearborn—and the missions of engaged public universities more generally—was something I understood and appreciated in an abstract sense.

But it was on this campus that I saw public engagement in action. Working with dedicated faculty and staff, students, alumni and community partners, I learned how universities like UM-Dearborn can be a powerful tool for regional transformation and social progress.

I became passionate about the impact that our campus can have on first-generation college students and on families from a range of socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds. And I saw again and again how strategic partnerships between a university and its surrounding community can provide real-world and practical experiences for our students. These partnerships often times help to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan.

This issue of *Legacy*, like so many issues over the past 18 years, highlights the many ways UM-Dearborn continues to make that impact.

You will learn about graduate students from the College of Business who partnered with the Dearborn Fire Department to identify a new firehouse location; faculty, students and K-12 educators who are working together to increase access to technology-enhanced learning opportunities for students of all abilities; and alumni who remain committed to strengthening the city of Dearborn and partnering with the university for continued success.

You also will meet incoming Chancellor Domenico Grasso, who will join the UM-Dearborn community on Aug. 1. Bernadette and I had the opportunity to spend time with Domenico and his wife, Susan, when they were on campus in February to meet faculty, staff and students. I find Domenico to be a thoughtful and engaged leader who will work to advance the outstanding reputation and engagement that UM-Dearborn has in the region and beyond.

I say, with great gratitude, how meaningful and important it has been to me to join this community. I am grateful for the reappointments I have received both from President Schlissel and former U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. I am so proud of the good work we have accomplished together and look forward to a bright future for our students, our university and the region.

Sincerely,

Daniel Little  
*Chancellor*



# On the Pond

what's happening, what's new and what's what at UM-Dearborn



## Ground Breaks on the New ELB

**U**M-DEARBORN'S MUCH ANTICIPATED \$90-MILLION ENGINEERING LAB BUILDING IS NOW OFFICIALLY IN ITS CONSTRUCTION PHASE. MORE THAN 200 GUESTS ATTENDED AN APRIL 20 GROUNDBREAKING, WHICH CHANCELLOR DANIEL LITTLE CELEBRATED AS THE START OF A "MOMENTOUS" NEW CHAPTER IN THE UNIVERSITY'S PROUD ENGINEERING LEGACY.

"The current Engineering Lab Building was built shortly before 1959—and those who have memories that go back that far remember that transistor radios were a brand new thing," Little said. "Nearly 60 years later, we're developing vehicles that drive themselves and perfecting alternative energy sources. The new Engineering Lab Building will be a landmark

building—and one that is critical to providing a 21st-century engineering education."

Both the ELB's function and design are rooted in the cooperative spirit driving today's engineering culture, and will feature interactive classrooms, collaborative student work spaces, and cutting-edge research labs to support faculty-industry partnerships. Little also took

the occasion to unveil plans for the building's new robotics and human factors lab—made possible through a \$1 million gift from Omron Foundation. Omron is also funding a new endowed scholarship in electrical engineering for students in financial need.

The new ELB, which has also attracted \$30 million in state support, is slated to open in Summer 2020. That's a little bit beyond the expected tenure of computer science junior Justin Kim—who, even so, was drawn to the groundbreaking to see what's in store for future students.

"It kind of reminds me of what the IAVS (Institute for Advanced Vehicle Systems) building is right now," Kim said. "That's a really collaborative space for a lot of student organizations. You have a formula race team there, you have robotics teams there, you have a rocket team there. And we're all there, hanging out, learning from each other. So if the new ELB becomes another space like that, it's going to be pretty incredible."

And that, Kim expects, will put UM-Dearborn on the short list for a lot of prospective students.

**M**



# Student research, data gives insight to fire department

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS ARE HELPING FIGHT FIRE WITH...DATA ANALYSIS.

Students in Associate Professor Yi-Su Chen's supply chain management course worked with the Dearborn Fire Department (DFD) to help them choose the best location for an additional fire station in west Dearborn, based on years of datasets.

Taking more than 450,000 fire reports from 911 calls—with incident type, dates and locations—Chen's graduate students have analyzed real data and made a proposal to the DFD.

DFD Chief Joseph Murray came to Chen's class to talk about the department, which has five stations providing service to approximately 110,000

residents, covering 27.3 square miles. Murray explained how DFD was evaluating station locations and exploring placing an additional station in west Dearborn. Currently, the single station in that area covers 70 percent of DFD's call volume.

From their research and analysis, the 11-person class identified three site recommendations for Murray. Two of the sites would need new buildings; a third site, a former library building, would need to be renovated. Locations were evaluated based on proximity to incidents, estimated response times and cost to build/renovate.

"The Dearborn Fire Department appreciates the impressive amount of work done by Professor Chen's students," Murray said. "It gave the Dearborn Fire Department data-backed information that is helpful as we plan for the future."

Business analytics graduate student Jun-Qi Min said he appreciated how the class gave him the opportunity to use GIS mapping software and to create an algorithm for helping find an optimal solution.

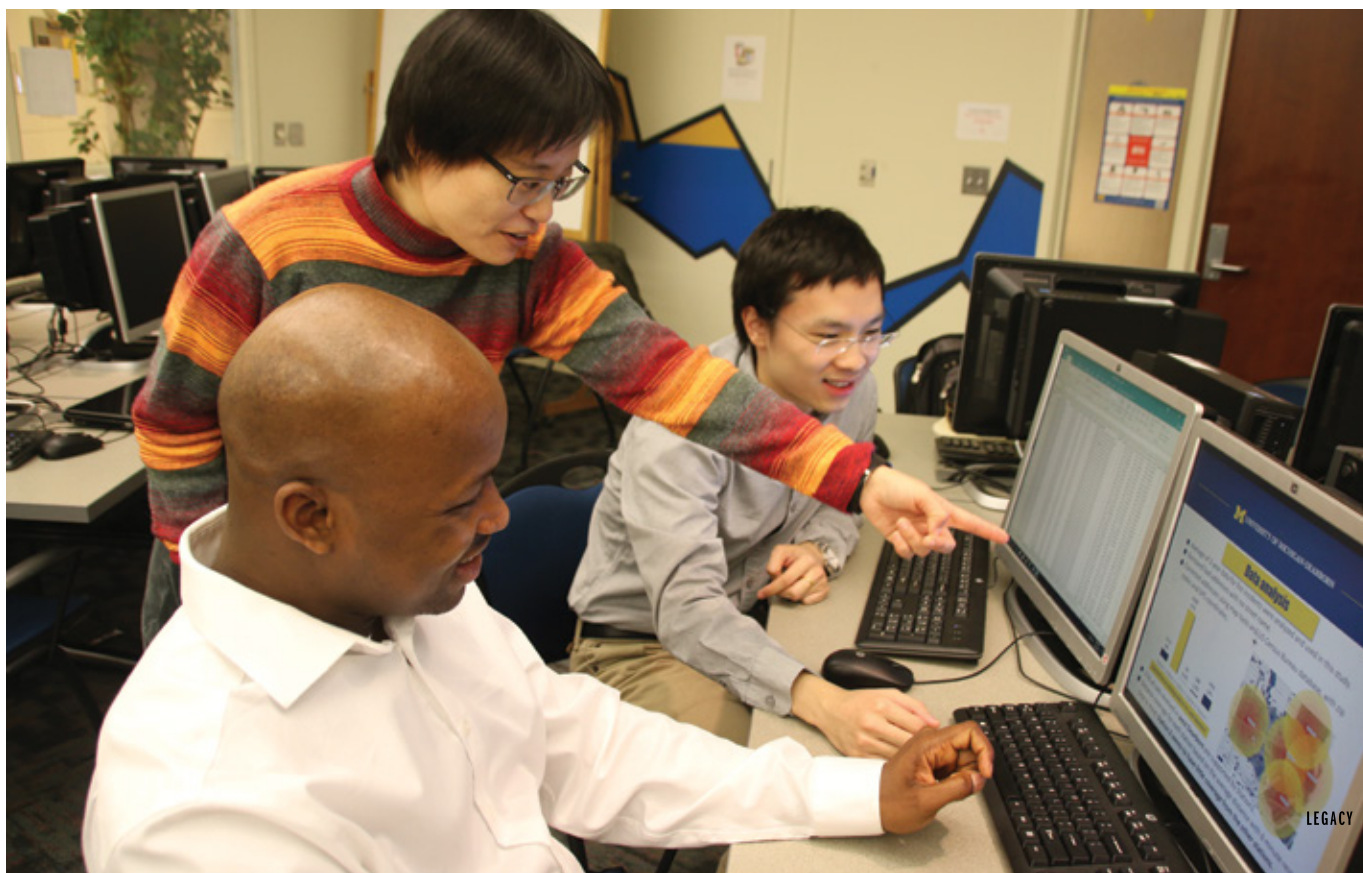
"I evaluated the existing network design for the local fire system and then compared it to what the network design would look like using each of the three possible locations for the new station," Min said. "All three showed a

faster response time. I believe any of the three locations would be a good site for a fire station."

Chen said she reaches out to organizations like the Dearborn Fire Department to offer research assistance on a problem of their choice. In return, her students get real-world experience.

Business analytics graduate student Omar Bah said the experience was beneficial to his professional future, but he's even more pleased with it on a personal level.

"If my education can help create community change, I will be very happy," he said. "To think our work may trigger community improvement is very satisfying." **M**



## Domenico Grasso selected to lead UM-Dearborn

**D**OMENICO GRASSO, AN ENGINEERING PROFESSOR WHO ALSO SERVED AS PROVOST AND CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS UM-DEARBORN'S NEXT CHANCELLOR.

Grasso, who earned his Ph.D. in environmental engineering at U-M, currently is a professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Delaware (UD). He stepped down as provost last October.

Following a recommendation by President Mark Schlissel, the Board of Regents unanimously approved the appointment in February.

"Domenico Grasso comes to UM-Dearborn with impeccable academic credentials and a track record of solid, proven administrative and academic leadership," said Schlissel. "His career has been marked by thoughtful and creative initiatives and a strong commitment to the transformative nature of higher education."

Grasso will be UM-Dearborn's sixth leader when he starts Aug. 1.

In addition to his academic and professional credentials and background, Grasso will bring his experience as a first-generation college student and a U.S. Army veteran to his leadership of UM-Dearborn.

"I am thrilled to be here at one of the world's great universities

and am honored to lead one of its most exciting campuses," Grasso said. "I'm eager to begin working with the faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community to shape the next chapter in the campus' distinguished history."

Throughout his extensive career in higher education, Grasso has made significant efforts in the areas of engineering education, enrollment management, diversity and community engagement. In his most recent role at UD, Grasso led the campus through a variety of initiatives, including the creation of the Division of Enrollment Management, Cybersecurity Initiative, Financial Services Analytics Institute and Community Engagement Initiative, as well as the development of university-wide programs ranging from entrepreneurship to humanities, social science and arts programs.

Prior to his roles at UD, Grasso served as both the vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College and dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Science at the University of Vermont (UVM), where he worked with faculty to build university-wide transdisciplinary research initiatives or "Spires of Excellence" for selected and focused future resource investments.



Before joining UVM, Grasso was the Rosemary Bradford Hewlett Professor at Smith College and founding director of its Picker Engineering Program, the first engineering program at a women's college and one of the few in a liberal arts college in the United States.

Grasso earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic

Institute and his Master of Science in civil engineering from Purdue University. He is married to Susan Hull Grasso, a native of Troy, Mich., and a U-M engineering alumna. They have four children: Benjamin, Jacob, Elspeth and Caitlín. **M**





## EYE ON RESEARCH

### A fast food nation

With billions and billions served, fast food is a staple of modern American life. But it's widely understood that it's not usually going to be the healthiest option available.

So, who's eating it?

Economics Professor Patricia Smith and her research partner Jay Zagorsky, research scientist at Ohio State University's Center for Human Resources, discovered the answer:

"We all are," Smith said.

Looking at data collected nationwide, Smith and Zagorsky compared household income to the number of fast food meals eaten during a three-week period. The researchers looked at the same weekly period over three years: 2008, 2010 and 2012.


Their study used data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, which has followed the same group of 8,000 baby-boomer-age Americans since 1979.

Overall, 79 percent of respondents ate fast food at least once during the three-week observation period; 23 percent ate three or more fast food meals during any one of the three weeks. The poorest 10 percent ate 3.6 fast-food meals, middle-income ate 4.2 meals and the richest 10 percent ate 3.0.

So money isn't a major factor. But the researchers learned that time was—the more hours someone worked, the more likely they were to eat fast food.

Smith said that finding could help determine how to encourage better eating for all.

"With convenience being a driving force, we think making healthy food more available is key to healthier choices."

Smith's research, "The association between socioeconomic status and adult fast-food consumption in the U.S.," appears in the November 2017 issue of *Economics and Human Biology*. 



## State-of-the-art Autism Center opens as resource to families, provides training for educators

IN THE WORLD OF AUTISM TREATMENT, DEMAND FOR SERVICES OFTEN BADLY OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY, LEAVING FAMILIES DRIVING HOURS—AND IN SOME CASES WAITING FOR YEARS—TO ACCESS LEADING-EDGE THERAPIES. BUT THE OPENING OF THE NEW AUTISM CENTER IN OCTOBER IS PROVIDING A MUCH-NEEDED LIFELINE FOR HUNDREDS OF METRO DETROIT FAMILIES.

The Beaumont Children's Center for Exceptional Families Autism Center specializes in a therapy known as applied behavior analysis, a best-practice tool that helps young people on the spectrum master a broad set of practical social and life skills.

Innovative classrooms, built for a wide range of ages, are a key part of the design. A 10-student space for younger children lets parents observe therapy sessions from the waiting area via an integrated AV system. And a fully functioning studio apartment gives teenagers a chance to master independent living skills, like grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning and using money. Another strength of the new center: Physicians, as well as speech, occupational and physical therapists, are all onsite.

"It's a really unique, one-stop shop for seeing multiple specialists in a single visit," said Jason Majchrzak,

the center's supervisor and board-certified behavior analyst. "Places like this are an invaluable resource for the community at large as we continue to build the infrastructure we need to support Michigan families."

And, thanks to a partnership between Beaumont and UM-Dearborn, the center also is helping fill another need: Michigan's shortage of therapists and other staff who are trained to work with autistic students. The center will provide specialized training to behavior technicians, behavior analysts and educators at UM-Dearborn.

"The opening of the Autism Center allows UM-Dearborn to continue to advance our efforts to educate clinicians of the future who will become leaders in the field," said Stein Brunvand, interim associate dean for the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. **M**

## New bus route connects UM-Dearborn with UM-Ann Arbor, Detroit

ANN ARBOR RESIDENT GILLIAN RAFAELIAN CHOSE TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN BECAUSE OF THE STRONG EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE WELCOMING FEEL. SHE LOVED THE CAMPUS, BUT NOT THE COMMUTE.

However, with the expanded University of Michigan-based bus service Detroit Connector, her journey down I-94 has become a positive part of her college experience too.

"I sometimes study or do homework on the bus, but I usually listen to music and relax," said Rafaelian, a junior. "The bus has Wi-Fi, the drivers are friendly and it's comfortable. It's taken the stress right out of getting to and from campus."

The Detroit Connector, a University of Michigan bus service connecting the Ann Arbor campus to the city of Detroit, added a stop at UM-Dearborn in the fall.

The Detroit Connector service is open to anyone—U-M community members and the general public—who wants to travel between Detroit, Dearborn and Ann Arbor.

Giving access to students like Rafaelian and others is the goal of the Detroit Connector service, which was developed

by the university's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and University of Michigan-Detroit Center in 2013.

"The Detroit Connector helps us break down existing barriers and better connect the Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Detroit communities," said Robert Sellers, vice provost for equity & inclusion and chief diversity officer at UM-Ann Arbor. "By expanding service and opening it to the public, the Detroit Connector can improve access to the region's numerous research, academic and cultural opportunities."

Bus stops include the Central Campus Transit Center (CCTC) in Ann Arbor, the circle drive in front of the University Center at UM-Dearborn, and the UM-Detroit Center. Riders can make reservations online, with one-way trips ranging between \$6-\$10.

For more information on the Detroit Connector, visit [detroitconnector.umich.edu](http://detroitconnector.umich.edu). **M**





# Social life

See photos of the campus you remember. Get updates on the university's goals for the future. And learn about professors, students and alumni who are making a difference today.

Stay connected to your campus by following University of Michigan-Dearborn on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Here are some of the most-liked recent posts on UM-Dearborn's social media channels.



**umdearborn** • Follow  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

**umdearborn** The campus community welcomed newly appointed chancellor Domenico Grasso to campus on Friday. Those attending had a chance to speak with both Grasso and his wife Susan, a fellow U-M engineering alum. Grasso will begin his appointment on August 1. Welcome to UM-Dearborn! #GoBlue #UMDearborn #DearbornWolverine

176 likes  
FEBRUARY 17



**UM-Dearborn** • Follow  
@UM\_Dearborn

It just wouldn't be spring break without another round of snow. ❄️



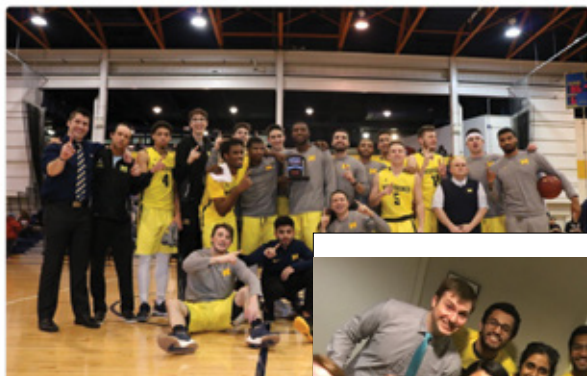
10:18 AM - 2 Mar 2018

3 Retweets 14 Likes



**UM-Dearborn** • Follow  
@UM\_Dearborn

Right now, you are looking at champions. 🏆  
#bornBLUE



**candice.tudor** • Follow

**candice.tudor** Finally!  
#graduation #umdearborn #2018 #BS #BA #40days  
**stephanieleanor** Proud of you boo

31 likes  
MARCH 20



**University of Michigan-Dearborn** updated their cover photo.  
April 9 at 12:24pm • 🌐

New Difference Maker class, new website!  
Learn about the 2018 Difference Maker class by exploring our brand new Difference Maker website at [michigandifferencemakers.com](http://michigandifferencemakers.com)!



32 Likes 5 Shares



**dearbornwolverine** • Follow

**dearbornwolverine** Today, we had the goodbye celebration for Chancellor Little! He has made the University of Michigan-Dearborn amazing during his time as Chancellor! Thank you for traveling with me throughout the week! If you have any questions about any of the events that I attended or the organizations that I'm involved in, feel free to message me @lezmarie05. Always remember... GO BLUE!!! -LK #DearbornWolverine #UMDearborn

76 likes  
2 DAYS AGO







# Man About Campus

## Chancellor Daniel Little celebrates 18 years of impact

There were stories of people advancing the community. Neighbors making kind gestures. Individuals overcoming obstacles. Edited by Daniel Little's father, Bill, Man About Town was a space where Bill Little could talk about the people and things he found important to his community.

That column taught the future chancellor a lesson that remains with him today.

"My father, a newspaperman, taught me the value of the other person's story. On the surface, it sounds like a very routine thing. But you realize that there is something much more important there," he said. "Their story tells you something significant about where they have been, what they have experienced. And it gives a way—for someone who may not have had those experiences—to understand things a bit better. That's a very powerful thing."

Little, UM-Dearborn's fifth and longest-serving chancellor, is leaving the administrative world and immersing himself into teaching again, beginning August 1.

"In my 18 years here, I've taught a class every year and I plan for that to continue," said Little, who is a professor of philosophy at UM-Dearborn and a professor of sociology at UM-Ann Arbor. "Leading this university is something I have absolutely loved doing. I know that I will miss it, but my interest in research and teaching is the reason I have a career in academia in the first place."

Inspired by the idea of making institution-wide change and solving challenges collaboratively, Little transitioned from faculty to administrator while at Colgate University in the mid-1990s and continued on that trajectory.

In early 2000—enticed by the Midwestern location, the opportunities for growth and then-University of Michigan president Lee Bollinger's comments about the campus' civic engagement and engaged faculty—Little made the move to Dearborn.

"It felt like home. I am not just saying that—this community had so many similarities to where I grew up in Peoria, Ill.," he said. "Just swap industries, automobiles for tractors. That's said with a bit of pride. My first job was in a Caterpillar tractor factory."

166% INCREASE IN RESEARCH DOLLARS

17 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

8 NEW OR RENOVATED BUILDINGS

500+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS







Between the tractors and his Harvard Ph.D., Little discovered an interest in sociology and philosophy, which led to nine published books, more than 50 journal articles and book chapters and the desire to continuously work to make the world a more socially just place.

**“UM-Dearborn is a powerful, powerful ingredient of social progress. We are giving everything we’ve got to making our communities better, our partnerships deeper and our students stronger through opportunities to develop their talents so they can continue to go out and do great things.”**

“The most precious resource in the world is the intellectual and practical abilities that men and women have, which require development. That is where educational opportunities come in,” he said.

Over the past 18 years, Little has overseen efforts to add scholarships, start learning communities and increase the financial aid budget—which has gone up 743 percent since 2000—all leading to record enrollment and increased student retention. In addition, the campus has seen a 71.5 percentage increase in students of color—in fall 2017, students of color

made up 26 percent of undergraduate students.

“Talent and ability are uniformly distributed across the human population. And yet, we as a society often fail in providing these educational opportunities to the full range of our society. I wanted to work with people who want to help others develop that talent,” he said.

When he arrived on campus, Little felt an immediate connection with UM-Dearborn faculty and staff, who

also understood the need for added educational opportunities. He publicly declared within his first year that this campus would be the last rung on his career ladder.

“I was at a faculty forum and it was mentioned to me that senior administrators stay a few years, put up a building or two and leave. I replied, ‘You may not want to hear this, but I’ve come here for the rest of my career,’” Little said with a chuckle. “And that was really true. I really came with the idea that this could be a lifework, and it has been a lifework.”

During his tenure, Little has overseen remarkable building and campus facilities growth, including two new buildings, another purchased and four extensively renovated. The Engineering Lab Building broke ground this spring and is scheduled to open in 2020.

“We can’t be like the great philosopher Socrates and draw figures in the sand in the public forum. That’s not realistic in Michigan,” Little said with a smile.

“Buildings are important to progress, but even more important is what is happening inside those buildings, the human element.”

Little said he finds the UM-Dearborn student body both an inspiration and an example for others. In addition to being hard-working college students—many first-generation—they still find time to see things from a different point of view.

“Students here positively value the opportunity to learn from each other, to get a perspective they may not have heard growing up. The forms of understanding go very, very deep here. It’s not a ‘tell me three things about your culture’s experience’. It’s truly taking the time to listen to someone’s story, to ask thoughtful questions and

to relate,” Little said. “We have a multi-religious, multi-racial community that is harmonious. It is inspiring to see.”

The campus also looks for ways to gain alternate points of view by getting out into the surrounding communities and creating positive change. Little announced his vision for UM-Dearborn to be a metropolitan university in 2005; 10 years later, UM-Dearborn earned the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification, which recognizes the university’s commitment to being deeply engaged with its larger community through teaching, learning, research and service that makes a difference.

“UM-Dearborn is a powerful, powerful ingredient of social progress,” Little said. “We are giving everything we’ve got to making our communities better, our partnerships deeper and our students stronger through opportunities to develop their talents so they can continue to go out and do great things.”

Little has spent nearly 20 years on campus and in the region noticing the positive changes people are making, encouraging involvement and working to advance social justice efforts.

And that’s who Chancellor Daniel Little is—a man about campus, a man about town.

But instead of sharing the stories of the people he encounters, Little connects them to an education so they can write their own. **M**



# What can a campus leader do in 18 years?

## Educate others.

Daniel Little is UM-Dearborn's longest-serving chancellor. Under his leadership, the university has built a welcoming and inclusive campus environment that is attractive to a growing number of students.



**9,339**  
STUDENTS

**71.5%**

Increase in students of color

In 2017, students of color make up 26 percent of UM-Dearborn's undergraduate enrollment.

**12.27%**

Increase in enrollment

**27,676**

Number of degrees conferred under Chancellor Little—more than half of all degrees awarded in campus history

## Set the academic bar high.

UM-Dearborn continues to offer the excellence of a University of Michigan education for students in southeast Michigan and beyond. Since Little's arrival, the university has launched additional innovative, industry-responsive programs that aim to help students think critically, work collaboratively and thrive in the global job market.

**100+**

Academic programs now offered

**16.5%**

Increase in the amount of credit hours students take each semester



**7**

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMS LAUNCHED**

**17**

Collaborative international education programs launched

## Focus on campus improvement.

Little has pushed for additional resources for learning and research. More faculty have been hired. The instructional budget has increased. And new building projects have transformed the look of campus and strengthened the student experience.

**164%**

Increase in instructional budget

**17%**

Increase in faculty members

**166%**

Increase in research dollars awarded

**\$8M**

Amount of funding redirected in the last decade to the university's highest priorities, keeping the campus focused on its core academic mission



**8**

**NEW OR RENOVATED BUILDINGS**

## Serve the community.

Not long after he arrived, Little announced a fresh vision for UM-Dearborn as a "metropolitan university." Since then, the university community has worked toward increasing enrollment and achieving metropolitan impact through community partnerships, engaged learning and research.



**743%**

**INCREASE IN FINANCIAL AID**

**500+\***

Community partners engaged each year, like New Detroit: The Coalition, ACCESS and Ford Community Corps

**75\***

Percentage of faculty members engaged in community partnerships

**61\***

Percentage of students who volunteer

*\*Based on the 2017 Office of Metropolitan Impact Engagement Inventory.*





**2003**

● **SEPT. 5.** UM-DEARBORN ACQUIRES FAIRLANE TRAINING CENTER, ADDS 30 ACRES, 318,000 SQ. FT. AND 1,000 PARKING SPACES TO CAMPUS

● **NOV. 10.** NEWLY RENOVATED UNIVERSITY CENTER OPENS, WITH OFFICES, BOOKSTORE, FOOD SERVICE AND MEETING ROOMS

**2005**

**MAY 19.** LITTLE ANNOUNCES NEW VISION: A "METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY" WITH GOALS OF INCREASING ENROLLMENT, ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT AND DEEPENING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



**2007**

● **OCT. 9.** UM-DEARBORN HOSTS GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DEBATE

**2000**

**NOV. 30.** DANIEL LITTLE INAUGURATED AS UM-DEARBORN'S 5TH CHANCELLOR

# Making an impact

LEADING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN FOR NEARLY A THIRD OF ITS EXISTENCE, DANIEL LITTLE HAS GUIDED THE CAMPUS' VISION OF METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL IMPACT, EXPANDED ACADEMIC OFFERINGS AND RECORD ENROLLMENT.

**2001**

**SEPT. 11.** LITTLE KEEPS CAMPUS OPEN AFTER WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS, GIVING THE COMMUNITY A SPACE TO MOURN

○ **OCTOBER.** A \$381,750 GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS DEVELOP THE ROUGE RIVER GATEWAY TRAIL, THE FIRST IN THE FOUNDATION'S GREENWAYS INITIATIVE

**2004**

**SUMMER.** VOICE/ VISION HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE RECEIVES \$100,000 FROM HENRY S. AND MALA DORFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION, TO SUPPORT AND DISSEMINATE THE ARCHIVE'S WORK

**2006**

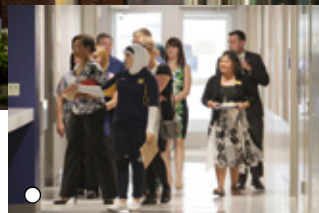
● **FALL.** INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED VEHICLE SYSTEMS BUILDING OPENS

**2008**

**FALL.** THE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES FIRST TWO PH.D. PROGRAMS, IN MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING







## 2009

**FALL.** SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (NOW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES) OFFERS ITS FIRST DOCTORAL DEGREE, AN ED.D.

**SEPT. 23.** UM-DEARBORN CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## 2012

● **APRIL.** UM-DEARBORN AWARDS ITS FIRST DOCTORAL DEGREE: A PH.D. IN AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

● **SEPT. 11.** UM-DEARBORN UNVEILS "FLAGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS" MURAL, DESIGNED BY MOTAWI TILEWORKS, TO REPRESENT INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF CAMPUS

## 2014

**OCT.** UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$13.5M GIFT FROM THE ARTHUR AND MARY KOCHOFF ESTATE

**DEC. 4.** LITTLE JOINS PRESIDENT BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA AND OTHER COLLEGE PRESIDENTS AT WHITE HOUSE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY DAY OF ACTION

## 2016

○ **SEPT. 9.** NATURAL SCIENCES BUILDING OPENS

**SEPT. 23.** LAUNCH OF TALENT GATEWAY, WHICH GIVES STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEVERAGE THEIR STRENGTHS TO HELP THEM FIND EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

## 2018

**APRIL 20.** CAMPUS COMMUNITY GATHERS AT GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE ELB; THE BUILDING WILL FACILITATE MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION AND INNOVATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

# leaving a legacy

## 2010

**MARCH.** UM-DEARBORN NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL BY THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

## 2013

● **SEPT. 1.** 400+ STUDENTS MOVE INTO THE UNION AT DEARBORN, THE FIRST HOUSING DESIGNED FOR UM-DEARBORN STUDENTS IN 25 YEARS

**SEPT. 1.** SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BECOMES COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES

**MARCH 18.** LITTLE RECEIVES TRAILBLAZER AWARD FROM WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY BRANCH OF NAACP FOR UM-DEARBORN'S DIVERSITY WORK

## 2015

**JAN. 7.** UM-DEARBORN EARNS CARNEGIE FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE REGION

**MAY 6.** UM-DEARBORN ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH FORMER U.S. REP. JOHN DINGELL TO BRING HIM TO CAMPUS TO ENGAGE WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS

**DEC. 19.** LITTLE CONFERS UM-DEARBORN'S 50,000TH DEGREE

## 2017

● **APRIL 20.** U-M REGENTS APPROVE SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR NEW ENGINEERING LAB BUILDING





# Plugging STEM into special ed





## A UM-Dearborn project is helping students with disabilities get in on the tech revolution in education

**M**S. BILLOPS' MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE PRETTY GOOD AT PLAYING IT COOL. BUT YOU GET THE SENSE THAT IF EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT OVER THE NEXT THREE MINUTES, THERE COULD BE SOME SERIOUS CELEBRATING.

Dashing from table to table, Kaitlyn Billops ('15 M.Ed.) gives some last-second instructions, and soon after, the app the class has been working on for the past few weeks magically appears on the students' tablets. For some of them, it's so exciting to see the code suddenly come to life they just start giggling. "So what do we do now?!" one student yells out.

"I don't know—start pushing buttons!" Billops shouts back.

There isn't much time to spare: She's down to the closing moments of this 10-week pilot coding course at Detroit's Ludington Magnet Middle School. And while total success is not expected (Billops is good at playing it cool too), you can tell she's hoping for at least one group's app to work without any debugging.

Finally, one student decides to let it rip. She taps at the screen, loading the simple timer app with a 20-second countdown, then hits the start button. Billops crosses her fingers.

19...18....17...16...flash across her tablet's screen, the numbers turning red when they reach single digits. The countdown is on. And, as predicted, so is the celebration.

The new coding class is a big deal for these Detroit public school students, who are plenty aware

that their classrooms aren't always flush with the latest technology.

"The students often hear me say, 'This computer is as old as I am,'" Billops said. "And honestly, the only time they get to use technology—and when I say 'technology,' I'm just talking about a dinosaur desktop computer—is when they're taking a test. So I bring out a laptop, and they want to run the other way."

But what's happening in her classroom goes far deeper than closing a well-known opportunity gap in Detroit's schools. The coding class is aimed at a group of students who—regardless of their school's resources—have largely been left out of tech-fueled innovations in education. Billops is a special education teacher. And every one of her students—the ones who have now successfully coded an app in software designed by MIT—is a student with a developmental disability.

"You take something like a technology class, and a student with a disability often isn't even going to be considered for something like that," said Assistant Professor of Special Education David Hill, one of three UM-Dearborn faculty behind the pilot coding course. "People assume these students can't do it, so those opportunities go to the gifted kids."

That didn't sit well with Hill, who has more than a decade of on-the-ground experience working alongside K-12 students with disabilities. So he and Associate Professor of Educational Technology Stein Brunvand started kicking around ideas for a STEM-based learning project designed for a special education classroom. Eventually, they circled around to the idea of teaching coding, which Hill said can actually be a natural learning environment for students with disabilities. "Special education students often need a lot of structure," he said. "Coding is all about structure."

It certainly is. Some of the concepts they'd be teaching the middle schoolers—sequencing, if-then reasoning—are what you might find in a college logic course.

Another colleague, Mathematics Associate Professor Mahesh Agarwal, had an idea for how to bring those ideas back down to earth. He was familiar with a free program developed by MIT called App Inventor, which cloaked the arcane universe of coding in a visual, drag-and-drop, color-based interface. It was built for beginners and would allow students to design something Agarwal guessed had a decent shot of capturing their attention: an app they could actually use on their phones.

Convinced they had a winning idea, Hill, Brunvand and Agarwal pushed forward—securing a grant through MCubed, a University of



Michigan program that funds interdisciplinary research. They then recruited a team of undergraduate students, graduate students and working teachers with expertise in everything from computer science to special education. The group spent the summer creating a series of 10 lesson plans designed to teach middle school students the basics of coding.

But the phrase “lesson plans” robs the curriculum of a lot of its swagger. It was littered with creativity and cool tech.

“For example, when we taught the kids about sequencing, we introduced the idea by talking about cooking and why it’s important to follow the instructions in a recipe,” Billops said. “I’d say, ‘OK, we’re making a cake, so the eggs go in after we bake it,

right?’ And they’d yell back, ‘No, Ms. Billops! You can’t do it that way.’ That’s sequencing 101.”

Then out came the Ozobots: palm-sized robots that look like the top half of R2D2. “Ozzy,” as he became known in the class, operates using a built-in optical scanner, which allowed him to scoot around on a path drawn on paper in black marker. But Ozzy had other skills in his repertoire. If, while on his journey, he ran into a sequence of green and red squares, he would spin. Another color sequence could make him do a U-turn. For one activity, students had to color in Ozzy’s pathways in the correct order to make him navigate a maze. Getting him through was their ticket out the door at the end of the class. “I seriously think some of them pretended like they were confused, just so they wouldn’t have to stop,” Billops said.

The colors, in turn, were the perfect intro to the sequencing landscape in App Inventor. Before long, students were

clicking, dragging and dropping blocks of code so quickly that Billops could hardly keep up.

The goal of the pilot course is not to teach students coding per se, Brunvand said. The idea—and the thing that he, Hill and Agarwal are now evaluating—is to determine whether the activities, which require a fair amount of problem-solving and deductive reasoning, can bolster the students’ critical thinking skills. If the curriculum proves effective, they hope to offer it free of charge to other teachers.

But the researchers also are interested in looking at more qualitative benefits of the program. And Billops has already witnessed some dramatic changes in her students.

“I’m seeing them try harder,” she said. “I mean, this coding stuff was all new to me too, so there were times I would get stuck. And when that would happen, they weren’t content to just sit there, wait for me to figure it out and then tell them what to do. They would try

to solve the problem themselves. They were taking control of their own learning. They were *fighting* for it. That’s a kind of drive in them I hadn’t seen before.”

The project has also renewed Billops’ own drive.

Watching how her students engage with technology, she’d now like to see the coding class continue as a regular part of the curriculum—something she said her school principal is in favor of. To do that, means some of the cool tech—the tablets and Ozobots provided by the university, the loaner laptops she personally had to chase down from the school district—will have to become a permanent part of her classroom.

“But it’s time,” she said. “I’ve been here for five years, and I’ve been wanting to write grants to get them the technology they need. This is the push I need to go after that. It’s clear they can handle it, and I know they deserve it.” **M**







## Found in Translation

So what's the secret to creating a coding course for students with disabilities? UM-Dearborn researchers had a hunch they might find some magic in bringing together a lot of different perspectives. In all, the project relied on undergraduate and graduate students from three of the university's four colleges, including students from the computer science, mathematics and education departments.

"Working together was really a process of translation," said Courtney Dean, a graduate student and teacher at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn. "The guys who really knew about coding were essential to getting us started. But some of their expertise was, of course, a little technical for our average middle schooler."

So Dean and the other education students distilled the material down into classroom activities designed for coding newbies. It then went through a third phase of fine-tuning. "Many of the lessons were based on how I like to teach, but I don't have as much experience working in special education," Dean said. "So we really relied on Kaitlyn [Billops] to help us understand how to adapt them for her students."

That meant, among other things, creating several versions of activities to accommodate different learning levels—ensuring no student would be left watching from the sideline.

KAITLYN BILLOPS WORKED WITH UM-DEARBORN FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A CODING COURSE SHE COULD USE IN HER CLASSROOM AT DETROIT'S LUDINGTON MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL.





# GRAND EXPLORAT

UM-DEARBORN'S YOUNG NATURALISTS PROGRAM IS A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR ONE LOCAL FAMILY





**F**or Karl Bray, turning 9 was a milestone: It meant he finally could participate in the Young Naturalists Program at the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC).

The program, for kids ages 9 to 12, offers year-round outdoor science and nature investigation programs planned and led by University of Michigan-Dearborn students. Activities include tracking animals in the snow, nighttime “owl prowls” and tapping trees for maple syrup.

“It’s finally my turn,” said Karl, who is the youngest of seven and the last Bray sibling to enroll in the program. “Can you believe I have brothers who were in it before I was even born? It’s not fair...they get to do everything first.”

Accompanied by grandmother Sharon Snider, who has taken all seven of the kids to the sessions, Karl finally has his turn to taste the maple syrup that he helped tap nearly a month earlier.

Dolloped on a snow cone—some classmates have it on ice cream—the syrup started to soak in. And Karl began to dig in.

“I’ve been thinking about this for a long time,” he said.

## On the right trail

Griffin Bray is Karl’s older brother.

Now a junior majoring in environmental studies at UM-Dearborn, Griffin spends even more time at the EIC’s natural areas than he did when he was younger, stopping by twice a week on average.

Walking along the campus nature trail, Griffin notices wild turkey tracks, and a mushroom patch that has just sprouted.

“When changes happen to an area you come to know, it drives the changes home a little bit more. You notice the changes over years, months, even weeks,” he said.

But some things do remain constant. The lake is still peaceful. The squirrels are still competing with their woodland neighbors at the birdseed feeders. And an old hickory tree is still

standing in a large clearing.

The tree looks the way Griffin remembered it more than a decade earlier, when he was in the EIC Young Naturalists Program.

“During one of the sessions, they taught us about bark. Shagbark Hickory trees have a raised,



slightly curved, vertical bark that can flake off,” Griffin said. “You know how you learn so much as a kid, but there are a few things that you easily recall—but you aren’t exactly sure why? Well, that is one of them for me.”

Griffin’s love of nature started early, during outdoor excursions with family and time in the woods at his grandparents’ cottage up north.

And—thanks in part to the EIC’s Young



EIC PROGRAM SUPERVISOR RICK SIMEK LEADS SHARON SNIDER AND THREE OF HER GRANDSONS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY’S NATURAL AREAS.





Naturalists Program—he had a university in mind when it came to choosing where he wanted to earn his bachelor's degree.



TOP AND RIGHT: KARL BRAY PREPARES TO TAP A MAPLE TREE. BOTTOM: STUDENT EDUCATORS LEAD ACTIVITIES AT THE YOUNG NATURALISTS PROGRAM.

“Kids can tell if you enjoy what you are doing. Everyone I met here really cared about what they were teaching us. To have that, it must be a good school,” he said. “I remembered that when I was deciding which university to attend; the Environmental Studies program was interesting to me too.”

On campus, Griffin has taken Geology Professor Jacob Napieralski's geomorphology course and traveled out of state to do field work and participate in daylong hikes. Griffin caught Biology Associate Professor Melissa Bowlin's “contagious enthusiasm” for birds in her ornithology course. And he's looking forward to tasting local plants in Biology and Environmental Studies Professor Orin Gelderloos' field biology course.

“I am glad my grandma brought me to campus,” he said. “There's so much to learn.”

From the trail, the youth program or the college courses?

“All of it.”

## Time to explore

When program participants get excited about finding deer tracks in the snow or ask questions about where the birds are going, EIC Program Supervisor Rick Simek is reminded of his own childhood curiosity. Why are the leaves changing color? How does a tadpole become a frog? Where do the flowers go in the winter?

It's a curiosity he still has. “The diversity of life found within this wonderful natural oasis we have is incredible. I've been here for years and I learn something new every day.”

Simek, who has worked at the university since 1994, said UM-Dearborn offered a four-

day summer outdoor learning program for kids when he arrived. But he wanted to expand it to better highlight the beauty of the university's 300-acre Environmental Study Area.

“There are so many wonderful things to explore in the natural world during the different seasons. I thought it would be interesting to plan a program where attending each session would allow for a child to see a whole yearly spectrum of natural occurrences,” Simek said. “It's one thing to say, ‘Leaves change color.’ It's another to learn the process and be physically present in the same natural area on a recurring basis to see that life cycle take place.”

To do this, Simek created seasonal hands-on outdoor learning lessons. He trained and supervised UM-Dearborn natural sciences students who had an interest in fieldwork and teaching. And he launched the Young Naturalists Program during his first year on campus, 24 years ago.

“Doing this for so long, I've seen the progression of an elementary-age student who comes to the EIC through the Young Naturalists Program or field trips and later comes to the university as a college student, like Griffin,” said Simek, who said approximately 13,000 school-age children visit the EIC annually. “Then students are inspired to go out after graduation and get others excited about discovering and preserving nature through a career. It's a very cool thing to see and I am so grateful to be a part of it.”

## All in the family

Seven is a lucky number. At least it is for Grandma Snider.

It's the number of her Bray grandchildren—Gabriel, Griffin, Gideon, Leon, Marigold, Cosmo

and Karl. And it's the number of times she has attended the Young Naturalists Program.

“My friend who told me about the program said it was exceptional—one of the best educational experiences her daughter ever had,” said Snider, a Dearborn resident. “Having been through the program seven times now myself, I can tell you that it's true.”

She has enjoyed those Saturday morning sessions at the EIC with her grandkids, the lessons she's learned and the memories they've made.

Accompanying Karl at the animal tracking session as he makes a mold of an opossum footprint, Snider listens as he shares his reasons for picking the marsupial. He could have chosen a deer, beaver or fox.

“Opossum play dead. That's pretty cool,” he said. “And the tail is prehensile. It's like having an extra arm.”

Snider said all the kids enjoyed their year in the Young Naturalists Program, and that it enhanced their understanding and appreciation of nature. Hers, too.

She said the student educators are outstanding and no two lessons have ever been exactly the same—all points are still covered, but students bring their own way to teaching them.

Griffin will soon have an opportunity to put his stamp on the lessons too: He was recently named an EIC student educator for the Young Naturalists Program.

“It feels amazing to have this opportunity to teach. I hope that I can be half as good as the people who taught me,” he said. “I want to leave the kids with a better understanding of the natural world, one that motivates them to continue to explore.”







# AfterSchool

Giving your all and giving back

## WHY I GIVE

### In his parents' footsteps



FROM LEFT: MOUNA AND NABIL KHOURY, FARIDEH AND ELIE RAZMI KHOURY AND DINA AND ERIK HANBY CELEBRATE THE NAMING OF THE CENTER FOR ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES OFFICE.

**NABIL KHOURY ('85 B.S.)** grew up in a household that made charitable giving its centerpiece. In the early 1960s, Khoury's parents immigrated to the United States. They settled comfortably in Metro Detroit, but never forgot about the ongoing human suffering in the war-torn Middle East.

"My father, who is now a retired physician, raised funds for medical equipment and supplies for humanitarian efforts in the Middle East," Khoury said. "He even helped equip intensive care units at hospitals in places like Lebanon. My mother co-wrote an Arabic cookbook. Funds from the thousands of copies sold supported similar causes."

That charitable work instilled a sense of pride in Khoury and his sister for their Arab American heritage.

"My parents taught us to take action and become a voice for peace, justice, human rights and our culture," said Khoury, attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Mich., and medical director of the Together Health Network.

Like his parents, Khoury directed his initial philanthropic efforts toward humanitarian organizations serving the Middle East. By the early 2000s, he also began supporting educational institutions through a desire

to help shape the next generation of leaders.

In December 2016, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) made a challenge grant of \$100,000 to support UM-Dearborn's Center for Arab American Studies. To secure the grant, the center had to raise \$100,000 in matching funds in just four months. Khoury and his wife, Mouna, responded with a significant gift that allowed the center to reach its goal and secure the grant. Khoury's

sister, Dina Khoury Hanby ('91 B.A.), also contributed to the gift.

"The center is important because it not only tells the story of the Arab American community, but also produces academic scholarship," Khoury said.

The NEH grant will allow the center to create a first-year course exploring different approaches to studying Arab American history and culture. Students also will engage in a summer research project in partnership with local humanities institutions. In addition, grant funds will support summer research internships, annual public symposia and opportunities for community engagement and faculty research.

In recognition of the gift, the center named its office space in honor of Khoury's parents, Dr. Elie Razmi Khoury and Mrs. Farideh Khoury. The recognition also acknowledges their lifelong contributions to the Arab American community.

"I'm grateful to my alma mater, the center is addressing issues near and dear to my parents' hearts and UM-Dearborn is making a great impact on the community," Khoury said. "It's important for those who benefited from their education to find a place in the life of their alma mater and give back in a meaningful way." **M**

## BE A VICTOR

### FOR UM-DEARBORN

UM-Dearborn is an extraordinary place, providing an exceptional education to talented students regardless of their means, and committed to serving our region and our world.

Generous donors play a key role in making this academic excellence possible with essential funding. Because of their contributions, the Victors for UM-Dearborn campaign is truly "Transforming Students: Powering our Region."

Since the start of the campaign, our dedicated champions have achieved so much, giving more than \$42.5M, including more than \$23M for student support.

But there is still more to do. While we are approaching the close of the campaign at the end of this year, there is urgent need for funding in many areas.

With your help, we will fulfill our four campaign priorities:

- **Student Support**—expanding access to the academic excellence and career preparedness that a UM-Dearborn degree provides.
- **Educational Initiatives**—developing innovative, new programs that enhance academics and equip students to succeed in today's competitive economy.
- **Learning Environments**—creating modern, inspirational spaces that encourage active learning and collaboration, and enable pioneering research.
- **Faculty support**—attracting and retaining top educators and scholars that will challenge and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

We need your support to make certain these goals are reached and that UM-Dearborn students continue to receive an outstanding education.

Make your gift today!



**VICTORS FOR MICHIGAN**  
TRANSFORMING STUDENTS: POWERING OUR REGION

[umdearborn.edu/giving](http://umdearborn.edu/giving)

Office of Institutional Advancement  
313-593-5130



## Meet the engineering alumnus who's now GM's top cybersecurity guy

**A**UTONOMOUS VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY IS CONTINUALLY GETTING MORE SOPHISTICATED, BUT THE DRIVERLESS REVOLUTION WON'T TRULY BE UPON US UNTIL CONSUMERS FEEL SAFE BEHIND THE WHEEL (ASSUMING OUR AUTONOMOUS CARS WILL STILL HAVE STEERING WHEELS). AND VEHICLE SAFETY INVOLVES MORE THAN ENGINEERING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF FLAWLESSLY NAVIGATING STOP-AND-GO RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC. IT ALSO MEANS HARDENING THOSE VEHICLES TO CYBERATTACKS.

Keeping autonomous vehicles safe from cyberattacks is at the core of the work being done by Jeff Massimilla ('99 B.S.E.E., '04 M.S.E., '04 M.B.A.), vice president of global cybersecurity at General Motors. He and his team are constantly monitoring emerging threats and building better defenses. And one of the ways Massimilla does that is to work closely with "ethical" hackers, which GM taps via its partnership

with research firm HackerOne. The idea is that the team can learn more about vulnerabilities in their vehicle systems by opening them up to attacks from the outside.

"It's sort of like putting out the welcome mat on your front porch as opposed to a 'no soliciting' sign," Massimilla said about their relationship with members of the hacker community, who he refers to affectionately as "researchers." "Many researchers,

they don't necessarily want to be hired by General Motors—or any company—but they have a tremendous amount of talent."

GM was, in fact, the first major automaker to implement such a program—one that has become a critical part of the company's vehicle safety operations. Massimilla said it's also indicative of the collaborative culture that surrounds cybersecurity work within the industry at large.

Massimilla is helping lead that broader charge himself as chair of the Automotive Information Sharing and Analysis Center, an industry group that nurtures cooperation and defines best practices among major automakers and smaller companies up and down the supply chain.

"When you bring the whole industry together, there are varying levels of maturity and capability, but we all face the same threats and risks

associated with cybersecurity," Massimilla said. "If you really think about it, a cyberattack in any part of the automotive industry would not be good for anybody in the industry because that can erode trust in general."

Massimilla said the connected and autonomous revolution has also transformed the industry's job market. Indeed, many important positions—including his own—didn't even exist when he was an electrical engineering student two decades ago. Now, he's proud to say that automakers are emerging as leaders in the cybersecurity space, right alongside Silicon Valley and defense firms.

"Whenever I get a chance to talk with students, I tell them if you have a chance to get some experience in cyber—degrees, certificates, minors, majors—do it. The talent shortage is real." **M**





## SCHOOL TIES

# Moving Dearborn forward

With two unique downtown districts, a thriving arts scene, growing business developments and plenty of green space, the city of Dearborn has the benefits of a large metropolis with a welcoming neighborhood feel.

Modern vibrancy and community charm can be a balancing act, but the 232-year-old city makes it look easy. So who are the people making decisions to help move Dearborn forward? Turns out they are your fellow Wolverines.

More than half of Dearborn's City Council is composed of UM-Dearborn graduates: David Bazy ('81 B.A.), Erin Byrnes ('07 B.A.), Susan Dabaja ('00 B.S.) and Michael Sareini ('09 B.A.). Dearborn alumnus George Darany ('78 B.A.), a retired state representative (D-15), is Dearborn's city clerk.

Legacy met up with the Dearborn alumni prior to the first City Council meeting of the year.

They shared their fond memories of campus and how their UM-Dearborn experiences helped shape their careers in public service. They talked about how the campus still impacts their lives—two councilmembers, Dabaja and Sareini, currently have children enrolled on campus. And they spoke about how the city and university work together to enhance the region and beyond.

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE CAMPUS MEMORY?

**City Clerk George Darany:** When President Gerald Ford visited campus, I had the opportunity to shake his hand. It was right after Watergate and the resignation

of President Richard Nixon. The world seemed upside down, but campus was a safe place for us to discuss this. Before he resigned, people weren't really sure if trying to impeach the president was the right thing to do. Some thought it was great, others thought it would be bad for our country. I liked how we could talk openly and get away from thinking something was right just because our parents believed a certain way.

### WHEN IT COMES TO PUBLIC SERVICE, WHAT UM-DEARBORN CLASS STANDS OUT FOR YOU?

**Councilman Michael Sareini:** Political Science Professor Frank Wayman taught the best class I've ever taken: War and Strategy, a course on negotiation. I'll never forget it. It was how to get people to come together when their points of view are far apart. I still use lessons from that class today.

**Council President Susan Dabaja:** Dr. Orin Gelderloos' Field Biology course. It taught me to appreciate what we have in our own backyard and the responsibility we have toward our environment. Dr. Gelderloos helped the class see how the actions we choose can affect our surroundings. I told my 18-year-old daughter Claudia—I was pregnant with her when I took the course—she should sign up for that Field Biology course, regardless of the major she chooses.

### WHAT IS SOME OF THE BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED WHILE ON CAMPUS?

**Sareini:** In a philosophy class, our professor asked us, 'Do you know how to rate the quality of a

wine?' We kept giving answers: The age. The grape. The region. After hearing our replies, the professor said, 'It's the quality of the conversation.' He's right. It helped me understand that there is a deeper meaning behind most things. So when it comes to public service, it reminds me that it is vital to listen—really listen—to get a solid, well-rounded understanding of what is going on before making decisions.

### HOW DID UM-DEARBORN HELP PREPARE YOU FOR A LEADING GOVERNMENT ROLE?

**Councilwoman Erin Byrnes:** UM-Dearborn does an excellent job of promoting community engagement opportunities. As part of the co-op program, [CASL Co-op Program Manager] Patti Martin helped connect me to an internship in the Dearborn City Council office. That experience gave me behind-the-scenes knowledge and sparked an interest to serve. Ten years later, I'm on council. For me, it really has come full circle.

### HOW DOES UM-DEARBORN HELP CREATE A VIBRANT COMMUNITY?

**Councilman David Bazy:** The university is an economic and social driver. People come here for an education, to teach, to work. And when they do that, they invest in the city—they live here, shop here, eat here. The campus also is a welcoming, diverse place; and people see that the community around it reflects those values too.

**Dabaja:** Some cities have a concern about "brain drain," with young people moving out of the area. But much of our talent stays

here in the region and we get to see their education applied in the real world, right here.

**Darany:** The impact that UM-Dearborn has in Dearborn is immeasurable. The university is home to leaders in education, business, engineering, technology and science, who are working to ensure that Dearborn is a leader in the development of physical things—like buildings, parks, pools, downtowns—and a





leader in intellectual discussions like diversity studies, bipartisan political town halls and equal rights and justice.

#### **WHY IS PUBLIC SERVICE WORK IMPORTANT?**

**Byrnes:** At first, I was a volunteer. Prior to City Council, I had been on Dearborn's City Beautiful Commission. I started organizing

neighborhood cleanups and engaging with local students. I saw how all ages got involved and how we worked together to create visible progress. I saw those positive changes—what that volunteering did—and wanted to do even more. I grew up here. I have family here. I want to continue to give back to the community that gave me so much.

**Bazzy:** It's a way to make your community a better, stronger place—not just for us now, but for the next generation too. I lived in a house that was very politically active. My dad was the head of a union and my mom ran against [longtime Dearborn Mayor] Orville Hubbard; she was the first woman to run for mayor in the city. My parents said, 'Don't complain.

Get involved.' I believe that. It's important to be engaged and to engage others. **M**

UM-DEARBORN ALUMNI GEORGE DARANY, MICHAEL SAREINI, ERIN BYRNES, SUSAN DABAJA AND DAVID BAZZY







## Five lessons learned: Marcus Williams

As **MARCUS WILLIAMS** enters a restaurant, a crowd forms around him and he begins to sign autographs.

"This is the dream. And I am living it," said Williams ('17 B.A.), a former UM-Dearborn basketball standout who now plays professionally overseas. "I had my eye on playing ball in Europe for a while. Now I wake up, looking at mountains, remembering that I made it. I'm here."

Williams is a starter for the Košarkarski Klub Šentjur basketball team, which competes in the Premier A Slovenian League. He's averaging 14 points and six rebounds per game in his rookie season.

Here, he shares a few things about getting the ball in your court.

### 1. Mother really does know best.

I'm playing five games a week, sometimes back to back. Pushing my body until I'm exhausted—but that's what I signed up to do. So I give it my all. That's from my mom—it's how she acts. When I was young, Mom worked long hours, came home, made food for us, put us first. She never complained. When I was in school, she even went back to college and now has her Ph.D. That's strength. If she can do that, I can make it through any of my challenges.

### 2. Reach for your dreams—but still seek out other opportunities.

I started college only thinking about basketball. My grades were good, but my credits were all over the place. [UM-Dearborn Head Basketball] Coach [Taylor] Langley helped me realize the importance of taking full advantage of the opportunity I had.

I thought knowledge of the criminal justice system could help me better understand how and why things work the way they do; I really enjoyed the classes too. I am playing ball now,

but I also have a degree in something I find important, and I have confidence I can make a difference in that field later.

### 3. Find personal development lessons in your profession.

No matter what you choose to do with your life, it will require work; it will require precious time. So do what pushes you to be better, to grow.

I'm not perfect; some days I want to stay home. But basketball makes me a better person. It has taught me discipline, mental preparedness, teamwork and determination.

### 4. Take 10.

Even if you are busy, take time to be there for the people who look up to you. It's an honor to be seen that way. My younger brother Desmond plays ball too. When he was on the elementary team and I was in high school, he wanted to wear the same number as me, No. 24. But he got No. 10. The next season, I switched to No. 10. I wanted him to know I appreciated that he wanted to share a number.

Now I'm on the other side of the world, but I make sure to get time with him. I Facetime and I write letters.

### 5. If a door opens, walk through it.

When I got the offer to play pro, I was a little nervous. I had never lived away from my family. I didn't speak the language. I had never been to Europe. But Coach Langley told me that we only get a certain number of opportunities; we need to make what we do with those opportunities count. I'm glad I listened.

Now I know almost everyone in my town from playing ball; I'm picking up the language. When I travel with my team, I see things I've only read about before, like the Colosseum in Rome and castles here in Slovenia and in the Czech Republic. I'm living the dream. **M**

MARCUS WILLIAMS ATTACKS THE RIM DURING A GAME WITH THE KOŠARKARSKI KLUB ŠENTJUR BASKETBALL TEAM



## CLASS NOTES

**KEEP YOUR CLASSMATES UPDATED.** Exciting things happening in your life? Changed jobs? Got married? Had kids? Received an award? Send your Class Notes to [umdearborn-legacy@umich.edu](mailto:umdearborn-legacy@umich.edu). You also can visit our website at [umdearborn.edu/alumni\\_stay\\_connected](http://umdearborn.edu/alumni_stay_connected) and fill out our form. We'd love to hear from you!

- f Facebook** University of Michigan-Dearborn page and University of Michigan-Dearborn Alumni page
- t Twitter** @UM\_Dearborn and @UMDearbornAlums
- in LinkedIn** University of Michigan-Dearborn Alumni Network group
- Instagram** umdearborn and um\_dearborn\_alumni
- Snapchat** um\_dearborn

### COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND LETTERS

#### '70s

**LAURA TOY ('75 B.G.S.)** was elected to the Livonia City Council.

**TERRY CHERRY ('76 B.A.)** is president of the National Council for the Social Studies.

**KELLY ANN RAMSEY ('79 B.A.)** was reappointed to another four-year term on the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

#### '80s

**ELIZABETH SILVERMAN ('80 B.A.)** earned the Outstanding Achievement Award (Solo and Small Firms) from the State Bar of Michigan.

**WILLIAM RAPAI'S ('82 B.A.)** book, *Brewed In Michigan: The New Golden Age of Brewing in the Great Beer State*, was named a Michigan Notable Book for 2018 by the Library of Michigan.

**JOHN GRAZIANI ('84 B.A.)** was elected to the Southgate City Council.

**ROB CORREA ('86 B.A.)** is now CFO and vice president of business administration of The War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms.

**CLAUDIA D. ORR ('86 B.G.S.)** was elected to the Detroit Society of Human Resource Management's Board of Directors for a two-year term.

**JOHN OWSINEK ('88 B.A.)** was elected to the Walled Lake City Council.

#### '90s

**CRAIG HUTCHISON ('90 B.S.A., '99 B.A.)** released his fourth book, *Lost Dearborn*.

**JOHN KELLEY ('96 B.A.)** was named principal of Allen Park (Mich.) High School.

**DAVID HARVEY ('98 M.P.A.)** is director of Public Safety Leadership at Madonna University.

**DONOVAN ROWE ('99 B.B.A., '04 M.P.A.)** was promoted to superintendent of the Huron (Mich.) School District.

#### '00s

**RJ FOX'S ('00 B.A.)** latest book, *Tales from the Dork Side*, was published by Fifth Avenue Press.

**DARRELL HALL ('05 B.G.S.)** has published two books since graduation, *Old Stories from Soul Avenue* (2009) and *The Black Man's Journal* (2013). Hall is CEO of Communication 101, a professional development company based in metro Detroit.

#### '10s

**BRIAN CHRISTOPHER BROWN ('10 B.A.)** released his debut EP, *Reverse the Curse*.

**CARDI DEMONACO ('11 B.S.)** was elected to the Eastpointe City Council.

**NICK CANDEA ('14 B.A.)** was elected executive article editor of *The Journal of Law in Society* at Wayne State University Law School.

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

#### '80s

**JOHN J. JEZUIT ('81 B.S.E.M.E.)** has been awarded several U.S. patents during his 35-year career in the auto industry. He is currently project chief of interiors at Fiat Chrysler.

**KUMAR GALHOTRA ('88 B.S.E.M.E.)** was named group vice president and president of Ford North America.

#### '90s

**SCOTT REYNOLDS ('92 B.S.E.E.E.)** was elected to the Clarkston City Council.

**ALI FOUANI ('94 B.S.E.M.E.)** is an independent consultant, working on product development, innovation and product release for the medical device, pharmacy and automotive industries.

**JOE LARUSSA ('99 B.S.E.E.E., '03 M.S., '03 M.S.E.)** was elected to the Farmington City Council.

#### '00s

**JEFFREY JONES ('01 B.S.E.COMP., '01 B.S.E.E.E., '04 M.S.)** is executive director of the Asia Pacific Strategy at Ford Motor Company.

**NOEL RANKA ('05 M.S.E., '05 M.B.A.)** was named chief sales and marketing officer of PurePower Technologies.

## In the news

It's no surprise to us that the latest edition of *Crain's Detroit Business*' "40 under 40" list features four of our own:

**JUDGE MARIAM SAAD BAZZI ('00 B.S.)** became just the second Arab American named to the Wayne County bench when Governor Snyder appointed her to the circuit court in May 2017. The first-generation American has deep roots in the greater Dearborn community, serving on the Dearborn school board and the Arab American Political Action Committee, where she was the group's first woman president.

**CLARINDA BARNETT-HARRISON ('03 B.A.)** served as executive director of UM-Dearborn's Business Engagement Center before moving to United Way for Southeastern Michigan last year. In her new post as director of economic prosperity and executive director of the Detroit Regional Workforce Fund, she's leading a program that helps

city residents build careers in the skilled trades.

Specializing in auto industry litigation, **JEENA PATEL ('02 B.B.A.)** became a partner at the Southfield-based law firm Warner Norcross & Judd at age 33—and is paying it forward as vice president of the Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation (AWAF), which provides scholarships to women pursuing careers in the industry.

**DANNIS MITCHELL'S ('08 B.B.A.)** work as diversity and inclusion manager for Barton Malow—the contractor behind some of the biggest projects in the city, including Little Caesars Arena and Dan Gilbert's new skyscraper on the former Hudson's site—is focused on creating access to building trades for people of diverse backgrounds.



## CLASS NOTES

**NICOLE CICALA ('09 B.S.E.E.E.),** director of VA/VE and cost modeling at American Axle and Manufacturing, was named to the *DBusiness* "30 in Their Thirties" list.

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

#### '70s

**DAN PALETKO ('73 B.B.A.)** was reelected mayor of Dearborn Heights.

**JAMES GIORDANO ('79, B.S.A.)** was named CEO of Amerisource Industrial Supply.

#### '80s

**JOHN BABCOCK ('82 B.S.A.)** was named North Carolina's best lawyer in the business category by *Business North Carolina*. Babcock is a partner at the law firm of Wall Babcock.

**VERNON NAVOCK ('86 B.B.A.)** joined AmTrust Title Insurance Company as the Midwest agency representative.

#### '90s

**DANIELL PATTERSON ('90 B.S.A.)** was promoted to partner at Fenner, Melstrom & Dooling, PLC, an accounting firm in Birmingham, Mich.

**DEBORAH (KAMBER) MCCRORY ('92 B.B.A.)** joined Wayne State University's human resources department.

**CAROL ANN MCCORMICK ('95 B.S.A.),** vice president of sales and marketing for Duncaster (Conn.) Retirement Community, earned the LeadingAge Connecticut Media Award for creating the "60 Over 60" Awards, which showcase senior Connecticants who make a difference in the state.

#### '00s

**ITAI BEN-GAL ('01 B.B.A.)** was named chief innovation officer of experiential marketing agency Bluewater.

**TIFFANY GUNTER ('03 B.B.A., '10 M.P.A.)** was named assistant city manager of Birmingham, Mich.

**RICHARD NOEL ('04 B.B.A.),** joined Aisin World Corporation of America as a systems administrator.

#### '10s

**ALI BAYDOUN ('10 B.B.A., '14 M.S.)** was promoted to senior manager at UHY LLP.

**MATTHEW S. ASH ('11 M.B.A., '11 M.S.FIN.)** Matthew S. Ash was promoted to general manager at Toyota Tsusho Next Electronics American, Inc. (formerly Toyota Tsusho America).

**EDWIN HUANG ('13 B.B.A.)** accepted a position as purchasing manager at Mahindra North America Technical Center, Inc.

**ALAN MARDINI ('14 B.B.A.)** was named senior consultant, mergers and acquisitions transaction services, at Deloitte.

**TOM FORRESTER ('13 B.B.A., '15 M.S.ACCT.)** was promoted to senior staff accountant at UHY LLP.

**FADY TELLA ('14 B.B.A.)** is a fixed asset accountant at FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

**RYAN SCHIMM ('14 B.B.A., '16 M.S.ACCT.)** was promoted to senior staff accountant at UHY LLP.

**ELIZABETH WEHNER ('15 B.B.A.)** was promoted to senior staff accountant at UHY LLP.

## HOMECOMING '18



**October 3 – October 6**

**Maize & Blue Bowl • Alumni Difference Makers • Victors Fun Day • Golden Jubilee Reunion Celebration**

**Wolverines Football Watch Party**

To learn more about Homecoming activities, contact Alumni Engagement at **313-593-5131** or visit **[umdearborn.edu/alumnihomecoming](http://umdearborn.edu/alumnihomecoming)**.



# First Person

## We asked university and regional leaders to reflect on Chancellor Daniel Little's 18 years of leadership at UM-Dearborn.

"The University of Michigan-Dearborn is on an upward trajectory thanks in large part to Chancellor Little's incredible 18 years of leadership. Its national recognition for community engagement, affordability and academic excellence reinforces the qualities that the UM-Dearborn community knows very well. I deeply appreciate Dan's commitment to building an impactful, inclusive campus that serves southeast Michigan and gives so many students, families and community members greater hope for the future."

Mark Schlissel  
*President, University of Michigan*

"The great things a university does and the great things a community does are usually in separate silos. But Chancellor Little, through his leadership, leveraged university talent and resources to make Detroit a better place."

Ismael Ahmed ('75 B.A.)  
*Senior Adviser to the Chancellor*

"In his 18 years as chancellor, Daniel Little has helped grow UM-Dearborn into the leading metropolitan university it is today. Driven by UM-Dearborn's mission of inclusivity, Chancellor Little dedicated his time to creating a culture and environment where every student feels welcome and comfortable to learn, debate, explore and excel. Thanks in great part to his leadership, UM-Dearborn now extends the promise of a quality education to more students than ever before. We thank Chancellor Little for his years of commitment to the university and its students, and wish him well in his next chapter."

Debbie Dingell, Congresswoman; and  
John Dingell, Congressman (ret.)

"Dan is an effective, eloquent leader. A team player. One who values others' opinions but knows how to make decisions and move the discussion forward. He has been masterful guiding UM-Dearborn, growing the school, enhancing the academics, expanding the campus and exploring and initiating public-private

partnerships to provide campus housing. I am glad Dan is going to stay on the faculty and look forward to his continued engagement with our U-M community."

Andrea Fischer Newman  
*Regent, University of Michigan*

"It is with best wishes and great fondness that we bid Chancellor Little farewell as he leaves his leadership post at UM-Dearborn. The greatest service one can engage in is service to others. Thank you, Chancellor Little, for your investment in our youth and your commitment to the community in Dearborn and throughout southeast Michigan. ACCESS is pleased to call you a friend and partner in our quest to build a just and equitable society for all."

Maha Freij  
*Deputy Executive Director & CFO, ACCESS*

"It's been my honor to know Chancellor Little. His incredible compassion, endless energy and bold leadership for the quality of education and growth of the student body and faculty is a wonderful legacy and foundation for future generations. Thank you Chancellor Little!"

Nancy Goia ('82 B.S.E.E.E.)  
*Director of Global Connectivity, Electrical and User Experience (Retired), Ford Motor Co.*

"Chancellor Little's passion for the community and for giving back is contagious. I want to personally thank Dan for his leadership, his courage, his dedication to diversity and inclusion and his commitment to ensuring that southeast Michigan has an amazing educational partner in UM-Dearborn."

Wright Lassiter  
*President & CEO, Henry Ford Health System*

"Serving as a member of the chancellor's Executive Leaders Advocacy Group, I have observed Dan's thoughtful, intelligent and passionate approach to a wide variety of key issues. Dan is respectful of those from whom he seeks advice, and I have very much enjoyed

the learning experience Dan provided me as a member of his leadership group."

Richard Manoogian  
*Chairman Emeritus, Masco Corporation*

"Chancellor Little has done a tremendous job of raising the profile of the university, overseeing the campus expansion and innovative additions. We're appreciative of his leadership in the metro area, and his promotion of UM-Dearborn as a welcoming place for academic engagement. His efforts have boosted Dearborn's enviable image as a college town."

John O'Reilly  
*Mayor, City of Dearborn*

"UM-Dearborn, under Chancellor Little's leadership, is preparing students not just for today, but also for the future. His leadership as a champion for racial justice—as well as his efforts to improve and to increase diversity and inclusion at UM-Dearborn—has had an impact throughout metropolitan Detroit."

Shirley Stancato  
*President & CEO, New Detroit, Inc.*

"Dan has done an outstanding job of making UM-Dearborn not only state-class, but world-class and worthy of carrying the University of Michigan name."

Ron Weiser  
*Regent, University of Michigan*

"Chancellor Dan Little has simply been one of the best leaders the University of Michigan has ever had. Along with his extraordinary intellect, he possesses an unbelievable ability to relate to the community he serves. He works extremely well with the university community to solve complex problems. Chancellor Little has boundless energy to devote to improve both the academic quality and learning experience throughout UM-Dearborn."

Katherine E. White  
*Regent, University of Michigan*





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## FROM THE BEGINNING

UM-Dearborn inaugurated Daniel Little as the university's fifth chancellor on Nov. 30, 2000.

