

# A Philanthropic Operation

Couple's gift funds state-of-the-art operating suite for cardiac care

IN THE EARLY 1950s, BOB AND Ann Aikens were living the happy, busy, scrimp-and-save lives of newly-weds in Ann Arbor. Bob was studying hard at the U-M Law School while Ann supported them with a job at Boersma Travel. The windows of their modest apartment, at the corner of Tappan and Monroe streets, looked onto the law library.

Today, that same view includes the Robert B. Aikens Commons – a soaring, state-of-the-art gathering place made possible by a gift the couple made to the Law School in 2009.

Just across campus, the Aikens' latest philanthropy project at the U-M is making a powerful difference in the University of Michigan Health System, specifically in cardiovascular care.

In 2013, the couple gave \$7.5 million to build a hybrid operating room and to support the research activities of Kim Eagle, M.D., director of the U-M Frankel Cardiovascular Center and the Albion Walter Hewlett Professor of Internal Medicine.

The Aikens Hybrid Operating Suite will allow surgeons, interventional cardiologists and radiologists to work side-by-side and simultaneously. Work in the operating suite is expected to improve care while also advancing research into aortic disease cures and treatments. When completed, the suite will be the Cardiovascular Center's first such facility.

Personal experience was part of the



Bob and Ann Aikens

inspiration behind the gift.

"I have a defective valve in my aorta, and that sharpens my interest," says Bob, who earned his law degree from the U-M in 1954 before beginning a long real estate development career. "I, myself, was in need of such an operating room. I had an operation that would have used that room if it had existed at the time."

He is quick to note, though, that his own experience was not the sole motivating factor behind the gift. He and his wife — who have four grown children — learned of the need for the hybrid operating suite through their connections to the U-M and decided to make it happen.

A second part of the gift supports Eagle, who oversaw Bob's care during a cardiac health crisis. Ann said the gift, and the work it supports, can help "many people from many walks of life."

"And we feel very good about that," she says. "[The research portion] will certainly help Dr. Eagle and his wonderful group further their research. And the OR is a very important thing for all the U-M doctors that will perform their wonderful magic on those of us who need it!"

That "magic" increasingly relies on

technological advancements that could scarcely have been imagined a decade ago. The hybrid operating room, twice the size of a standard OR, will allow catheter-based interventions, simultaneous imaging and open chest surgeries to be performed in the same place.

"In order to offer this safe and more effective option, as well as attract industry partners, we must invest in facilities that provide flexible and complex operating spaces," says Eagle, also a professor of health management and policy in the School of Public Health. "It is an essential component of any state-of-the-art cardiovascular center. The Aikens' investment will magnify our potential to impact aortic disease."

The Aikens' connection to the U-M is long-standing and deep, and their philanthropy at the university is a reflection of that. In 2003, Ann graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Michigan. She currently works in interior and architectural design.

"Bob and Ann have enriched arts and law education here, and their continued philanthropy will now improve the health of patients in our Health System," adds Jerry May, U-M vice president for development. "They are exemplary university citizens."

— WHITLEY HILL

THE GIFT, AND THE WORK  
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MANY WALKS OF LIFE.

## EVENTS TO BENEFIT UMHS

Food Allergy Center  
Spring Luncheon

**April 30**

The Townsend Hotel,  
Birmingham, MI  
[Facspringluncheon.org](http://Facspringluncheon.org)

An Evening of  
Art + Science

**May 14**

The Detroit Institute of Arts,  
Detroit, MI  
[Taubmanartandscience.org](http://Taubmanartandscience.org)

Champs  
for Mott

**May 15 - 18**

Zingerman's Cornman Farms;  
Delta Air Lines airplane hangar;  
Oakland Hills Country Club  
[Champsformott.org](http://Champsformott.org)

The Event  
on Main

**June 18**

Main Street,  
Ann Arbor, MI  
[Eventonmain.org](http://Eventonmain.org)

For more information, contact  
Jason Keech, UMHS Development  
associate director of events:  
734-763-0866  
[jkeech@umich.edu](mailto:jkeech@umich.edu)

## Homegrown Giving

Lifelong Ann Arborite continues her family's legacy of philanthropy at the U-M

### FROM GOING ON SAFARI IN

South Africa, to springs and summers spent in Australia, to 49-day cruises around South America, Nancy Bozeman's story unfolds like the pages of a traveler's fairy tale. But the heart of it takes place on the dog-eared pages of Ann Arbor, where the plot and characters were lovingly shaped by Nancy's connections to the University of Michigan.

Nancy grew up a mile from the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning, where her father, Glenn G. Mastin, served on the faculty from 1947-1977. She remembers Ann Arbor being smaller and more walkable in those days — “there were no outskirts”— and Glenn would often come home for his lunch break. Nancy's mother, Neva Mastin, also worked at the university as a secretary for the dean of the School of Social Work. Neva gave Nancy her very first job.

“I used to go over to the university on Saturdays during junior high school and help my mother collate papers for the professors she worked for,” Nancy recalls. “I also helped my father sometimes with registration at the architecture school.”

Nancy Bozeman



After graduating high school, Nancy worked full-time at the university, beginning as a secretary then moving into administration. She worked in several different departments, including chemical and metallurgical engineering, psychiatry, biological chemistry and finally in population planning in the School of Public Health. Around this time, she met and later married a medical student named Peter Bozeman.

Nancy left the U-M in 1976 to pursue a degree in psychology, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Eastern Michigan University in 1980. Once Peter received his medical degree and finished his residency in anesthesiology, the couple relocated to Muskegon, Michigan, his hometown, where he practiced and they lived for five years. But Nancy wanted to go to

graduate school, and eventually she and her husband decided to return to Ann Arbor.

“I've lived here almost all my life, but I don't think I fully appreciated Ann Arbor until after we left for a while and came back,” she says.

Nancy earned her master's degree in clinical social work at the U-M in 1989 and worked as a psychotherapist at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health before going into private practice. After retiring in 1999, Nancy focused her energy on financial planning, which she developed an interest in shortly after earning her master's degree.

She was inspired by her family's legacy of giving back to the U-M. Her father established the Glenn G. Mastin Endowed Scholarship in the College of Architecture and Urban



## Professorships Recently Inaugurated

Endowed professorships are among the highest honors the University of Michigan Medical School awards to our faculty. These professorships, often made possible by the generosity of private individuals and foundations, honor the groundbreaking work that our faculty members pursue — in the name of education, patient care and research. Below is a list of professorships inaugurated from October through December 2014.

On Oct. 6, **Himanshu Patel, M.D.** (Residency 2002, Fellowship 2003), became the first **Joe D. Morris, M.D., Collegiate Professor in Cardiac Surgery**. Morris was a pioneer in the birth of cardiac surgery in the early 1950s, and one of his greatest achievements was the invention of the aortic arch cannula. Throughout his career, he was known for his extraordinary skill as a thoracic surgeon and for his tireless dedication to hundreds of trainees. The Morris Professorship is a tribute to his myriad accomplishments over the years and his innumerable contributions to medical science and to the U-M.

The **Carl J. Wiggers Collegiate Professorship in Cardiovascular Physiology**, established through funds generated from the Medical School and the Frankel Cardiovascular Center, honors Wiggers' legacy at U-M. Wiggers (M.D. 1906) had a long and fruitful career that yielded incalculable advances in the field of cardiovascular physiology. He is perhaps best known to generations of young cardiovascular researchers as the author of the Wiggers Diagram, which plots the events of a cardiac cycle. On Oct. 14, **Daniel Beard, Ph.D.**, professor of molecular and integrative physiology

and director of the Virtual Physiological Rat project, was installed as the first Wiggers professor.

The **James L. Wilson, M.D., Professorship in Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases** was formally established during a Dec. 18 ceremony. Wilson, the former head of the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, was recognized for his unparalleled commitment to the specialty of pediatrics. He introduced iron lung technology to polio patients being treated at U-M, and in 1940 put forth the concept of multidisciplinary respirator centers to care for large numbers of iron lung-dependent children. **John LiPuma, M.D.** (Residency 1983, Fellowship 1986), the first Wilson professor, is the division director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, associate chair in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases and professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health.

Planning, providing support for undergraduate students, and Nancy wanted to continue the tradition. Though she and Peter are now divorced, she established the Nancy Mastin Bozeman and Peter Michael Bozeman, M.D., Scholarship Fund through a provision in her will and trust to give back to medical students in need of financial assistance.

"Peter received grants for most of his medical school studies, and we decided early on that once we accu-

mulated money, we would give back to the university," she says. "So I put together a trust and got his permission to include his name on the bequest."

With her own legacy and investments well established, Nancy now spends her days golfing and visiting with lifelong friends as well as new ones made on her travels. But no matter where her adventures may take her, she will never forget her starting point.

"We wouldn't have what we had

unless Peter had received the education and grants, which required no payback," she says. "Students in medical school now are coming out with as much as \$200,000 to \$300,000 in debt. We only came out with about \$7,000. My hope is that the gift can carry the weight of that financial burden and allow the students to focus on becoming the next leaders and the best in their fields."

—ALLISON WILSON