THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CLUB SCHOLARS
Students from around the world are in pursuit of the same thing: a University of Michigan education. Among them are students from your own backyard—walking our campuses as proud Wolverines because of your generosity and the support of your regional club scholarship.

These scholarships, which wouldn’t exist without you, break down barriers that often exist between bright students and a college education; for them, your generous giving is life changing.

You are helping students succeed in every stage of life by supporting endless resources and a powerful alumni network. Each scholarship opens doors to opportunities and relationships that these students will carry with them beyond graduation.

Scholarship recipient stories like Richard Byrd’s best reflect the impact of your giving. As you read, I hope you take a minute to remind yourself of the role you’ve played in helping him and other students achieve their dream of attending the University of Michigan.

Thank you for your support, and Go Blue!

Vice President of Alumni Engagement
Alumni Association of the University of Michigan
IN THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR, 463 STUDENTS RECEIVED CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS.
Richard Byrd was in the process of applying to dental schools when he shadowed oral surgeon Dr. Omar Watson, DDS, MD, FACS, ’01, the connection that began his journey to becoming a Michigan Wolverine.

By his junior year of his undergraduate studies in North Carolina, Richard had decided to build a career in dentistry and orthodontics. He knew the University of Michigan School of Dentistry has an incredible reputation, but what made him apply was the way Dr. Watson passionately talked about his alma mater—he wanted to experience that same sense of school spirit.

Richard secured an interview with the school, already feeling the Michigan pride. He met with the head of the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee and students in the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), a community that promotes diversity in the health care field, especially in dentistry. He immediately felt a sense of belonging in a community that would support him while he was far from home.

“I had a couple of other school options, but at that point, it was an easy decision. With the support system and
resources available at the University of Michigan, I would’ve done myself a disservice by not attending. It’s what felt right.”

As he was starting his fourth and last year at U-M, Richard was encouraged to apply for a club scholarship through the U of M Club of Richmond. The well-deserving Wolverine received the award and will graduate in 2020 to begin his career in orthodontics. This scholarship was more than just financial aid for him—your giving proves that you support his efforts, goals, and aspirations as a Michigan student.

Even while he’s on campus in Ann Arbor, Richard has an entire support system back home in Virginia—his local U-M club. The club members stay in touch with the students from the area, send occasional care packages, and keep them connected to the University.

“Thank you for recognizing that I came here to get the best education possible—knowing I have people in my corner when I’m far away from home has impacted my entire college experience.”

Your generous support demonstrates the power of the Michigan community and spirit, something that has left a lasting impact on Richard. “The deep connection and sense of support I feel every time I see someone representing Michigan is something I will carry with me past graduation into the world as an alum.”
I feel really lucky to be here. Without people like you, some students like me would never get to say they had the privilege of getting an education from the University of Michigan.”

RICHARD BYRD, CLASS OF 2020
Part of what makes Richard feel connected to the University of Michigan is the community service and research opportunities—unique experiences he knows are made possible by the astounding resources and mentors.

Since 2016, Richard has worked with a team to develop a head and neck anatomy review resource as part of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry’s immersion project curriculum. In addition, he is in his third year of developing surveys for orthodontists and orthodontic residents concerning the roles of gender and race/ethnicity of patients and their influences on treatment planning.
In 2017, Richard became a community service representative for SNDA and has since dedicated his volunteering to mentoring dental students and improving the oral health of underserved communities. In the past three years, Richard has volunteered at various events for organizations like Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital.