

Donor Showcase

The Joy Is In The Giving

Speaking with Lynn Gendleman — U-M Class of 1967 — I was uplifted by her generosity, charity, and energy. As Head of her employer, the Chicago Tribune’s volunteer organization, ‘TribUnity,’ Lynn coordinates volunteers to select, lead, and implement charitable projects. Projects are varied and range from serving meals to tutoring first-graders online. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding friend and alumna. Managing TribUnity, her profession, and her family, Lynn truly finds joy in the giving. Her enthusiasm was encouraged at an early age by an opportunity that opened her to language and cultural study, and by the dedication and support of a University professor and community who applauded her inquisitiveness and channeled her zest for knowledge.

For residents of Gary, Indiana, in the 1960s, international foreign travel was uncommon. Through a foreign-exchange initiative, Lynn was awarded the chance to spend the summer between her high school sophomore and junior years with a German family in Trier. Arriving at her ‘new’ home, she found herself with a family that spoke no English. Characteristically, Lynn rose to the challenge, immersing herself in the language, culture, and history.

In addition to learning about and living in a culture different than her own, Lynn recalls the wonder of her summer spent in Germany’s oldest city—walking through ancient Roman ruins on the way to class, the beauty of the Rhineland Province and the nearby Mosel River. Moreover, she acquired a skill that wouldn’t be realized until her placement exams at the University of Michigan.

Upon entering the University of Michigan in the fall of 1964, Lynn received a call from the German Department Chair, Professor Potts. He informed her that she had done very well on her German place-

ment exam and suggested she consider concentrating in German. Eight back-to-back semesters later, Lynn graduated with a double concentration in German and English.

After continuing her education with a Master’s in German and a teaching certificate, Lynn taught at the college level, as well as high school German and English. As her family and personal interests grew, Lynn fearlessly explored her other talents and interests. She has worked in the fashion design industry, been a substitute teacher, and as a CPA for 25 years.

Lynn’s years in Ann Arbor were good ones. She met her husband while attending the University of Michigan, their daughter Amy Gendleman Jones (BA ‘93) is a U-M alumna, and they attend as many football games as possible. Lynn is particularly excited to see how the German Department has grown—developing a more comprehensive approach by integrating other subject areas such as film, business, and history. And most importantly, maintaining the feel of a small, connected department where students are welcome, encouraged, and supported.

We are proud to have known Lynn for so long and to have been such an integral part of her development. Through her generous spirit and commitment to her community, she has now become an integral part of our development. We thank her and her family for their generous gift of support. The joy is indeed in the giving.



Lynn and Mark Gendleman (BA ‘67 and BS ‘66 respectively) with their granddaughter Maggie

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