



Newcombe Clark's Sticking Around. > Should You?

by Rebekah Murray

AFTER GRADUATING FROM UM with bachelor's degrees in Japanese ('04) and Mechanical Engineering (ENG '04), Newcombe Clark felt he could have gone anywhere. Many of his friends left the state. Yet he chose to stay in Michigan, despite the economic hardships that have emerged in recent years.

Now, Clark hopes to inspire other young UM graduates to make the same decision to stick around. As an art enthusiast and one of the owners of a local commercial real estate firm, Clark wants fellow alumni to see the advantages of staying in the state, especially the vibrant art and philanthropic community in Ann Arbor.

"A community like Ann Arbor is a great place to start your professional life," he says. "The ability to advance professionally is so much more accelerated in Michigan, where there is easy access to decision-makers such as the mayor, presidents of local universities, and local CEOs. We're all in this together."

It's a collective spirit that's resulted from constant news of layoffs, the struggling auto industry, and the State budget deficit. But Clark believes Michigan is just in a period of transition.

"There's always another side to the story," he says. "You hear how companies like Delphi have laid off thousands of workers, but those layoffs have created thousands of potential entrepreneurs. We're not opposed to hard work. Our state has been defined by innovation and hard work."

So, Clark has gone to work to improve his community. Through his day job at Bluestone Realty Advisors, Clark is working to bring the right commercial companies to Ann Arbor—and provide jobs for area residents. When he's not at work, he's serving on the board of a local charity, the UM Museum of Art, or the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. He also hosts local art exhibits at the three-story downtown apartment he shares with another UM graduate.

The results, including Ann Arbor's continual development, give him hope.

"There are always construction cranes here," he says. "Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan continue to put up great buildings and offer great programs. That's a direct result of the success of our alumni,"—a base he hopes to tap for Michigan's future.

Rebekah Murray is the Assistant Editor of LSA magazine.

Who Else is Sticking Around?

FROM THE UM CLASSES OF 2001–2005:



BACCALAUREATE
GRADUATES



IN-STATE
GRADUATES



OUT-OF-STATE
STUDENTS



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS



Source: A July 2006 study by Elaine Fielding, UM's Office of Budget and Planning, and Albert Anderson retired from UM's Population Studies Center.

TOP THREE OCCUPATIONS OF GRADUATES WHO STAYED IN MICHIGAN (1995–2000):

Males:

Mechanical Engineers
Elementary and Middle
School Teachers
Managers

Females:

Elementary and Middle
School Teachers
Registered Nurses
Accountants and Auditors

Source: Data from 2000, 5% Public Use Microdata Sample