The University Of Michigan

A Seasonal Portrait

Anne Duderstadt
Millennium Project
University of Michigan
Introduction

Our memories of the University of Michigan are frequently linked to the seasons. University life is shaped by the strongly seasonal character of Michigan’s Great Lakes location. The campus comes to life in early fall, with returning students, alumni reunions, and traditions such as football weekends. Michigan winter forces activities inside as skies become overcast and Arctic winds bring frigid temperatures, snow, and ice. Although spring in good, gray Michigan is usually a short season, the first spring flowers and blooming trees are a hopeful sign that summer is near, and commencement is imminent. Summertime is quiet, the campus deserted, with few students and even fewer faculty. But university life is only dormant for a brief period, since a new generation of students will soon appear with the approaching fall, as the cycle of seasons begins anew.

This pictorial essay of campus life at the University of Michigan follows the seasons, from the fall excitement of new students and returning alumni, to serious academic duties of winter, to the pride of accomplishment symbolized by spring commencement, and finally to the quiet repose of summertime. Many of the images in this book are timeless. Others convey the ever changing character of a great university. Most will bring back memories.

The essay begins with a quiet campus in the hot doldrums of a Midwestern summer, awaiting the deluge of returning students and resumption of campus life.
The Quiet Days of Summer
The Great Drop-Off
“Call if you need anything!”...
New Places

New Friends
New Beginnings