Springtime in Michigan is a very brief season. In late April, the thermometer finally moves above freezing and then keeps right on going into the 70s and 80s, so that by early May summer has arrived. All in the space of a few weeks, the tulips bloom, leaves appear on the trees, and students graduate and leave.

Hence, spring memories are few and brief. The University approaches spring with mixed enthusiasm. Certainly, the end of winter and the transition from gray slush to the first buds of trees and flowers is welcome. Yet, spring also signals the approaching end of the academic calendar, commencement, and the departure of students and faculty. And for many, it is a hectic season, when term papers must be completed and final exams passed, and for the faculty, funding proposals submitted.

The parents swell with pride over their graduating sons and daughters and relief from college bills. Yet they soon face a college event even more traumatic than the Great Drop-off during the first visit to the campus: when their offspring mentions their intention to move back home until they decide what to do next.
Spring