Commencement, June 11, 1949. Graduates filing into stands at Ferry Field

First Minority Graduates and Attendees

Overall University Firsts

1853 - Samuel Codes Watson, medical student, is the first known African American student admitted to the university.

1857 - William V. Snyder was awarded the first Engineering degree.

1866 - Alice Boise Wood is the first woman to attend classes (in Greek) as an unregistered student at UM.

1870 - Madelon Louise Stockwell, lit. 1872, is the first woman admitted to the university. She was also the first graduate to marry a classmate in 1872.

1871 - Amanda Sanford becomes first alumna of UM by graduating from the medical school, Sarah Kilgore of Crawfordsville, Indiana graduated with a law degree on the same day.

1872 - First Asian student (Japanese) is admitted to UM, Saiske Tagai, literature.

1876 - Mary Henrietta Graham, lit. 1880, is the first known African American woman admitted to the university.

1877 - First Puerto Rican student enrolls, Department of Medicine and Surgery '80, José Celso Barbosa.

1885 - June Rose Colby is the first woman to receive a Ph.D. upon examination (She received graduate degrees in 1885 and 1886).

1892 - First Chinese students admitted to UM, Mary Stone and Ida Kahn.

By Department

DENTISTRY

1890 - Ida Gray becomes the first African American woman to graduate in dentistry.

ENGINEERING

1857 - William V. Snyder was awarded the first Engineering degree.

1887 - The first African-American Civil Engineering graduate was Fred B. Pelham.

1895 - Marian Sarah Parker becomes the first woman to graduate with a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering.

1958 - First African American woman to graduate in engineering, Willie Hobbs Moore.

LITERATURE
1870 - Madelon Louisa Stockwell, lit. 1872, is the first woman admitted to the university. She was also the first graduate to marry a classmate in 1872.

1872 - First Asian student (Japanese) is admitted to UM, Saiske Tagai, literature.

1876 - Mary Henrietta Graham, lit. 1880, is the first known African American woman admitted to the university.

**MATHEMATICS**

1914 - Suzan Rose Benedict was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics at UM.

**MEDICINE**

1853 - Samuel Codes Watson, medical student, is the first known African American student admitted to the university.

1871 - Amanda Sanford becomes first alumna of UM by graduating from the medical school, Sarah Kilgore of Crawfordsville, Indiana graduated with a law degree on the same day.

1877 - First Puerto Rican student enrolls, Department of Medicine and Surgery '80, José Celso Barbosa.

1878 - First African American to receive MD (Homeopathy), Grace Roberts.

1886 - First Chinese students to earn medical degrees, Mary Stone and Ida Kahn.

**NURSING**

1968 - First male undergraduate nursing students graduate. The first male completed the nursing graduate program in 1964.

**PHYSICS**

1918 - First African American to earn a Ph.D. in physics, Elmer Samuel Imes.

1972 - First African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics, Willie Hobbs Moore.

**DISCLAIMER**

The sources most frequently consulted for the timeline include *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey* and *The Proceedings of the Board of Regents*. If any of the listed events on this page seem to be incorrect, or if you think an event should be added, please send the new information to the Bentley Reference Staff and provide citations for the sources where the new information was found.

**SOURCES**

All citations were taken from *The University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey* Unless otherwise noted with a footnote below:


3. "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994"


5. Medical School Timeline: [http://msweb.med.umich.edu/sesqui/timeline/1848-1873.htm](http://msweb.med.umich.edu/sesqui/timeline/1848-1873.htm) and *The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey*.


8. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6)
9. Rackham Chronicle of Graduate Education:
   http://www.rackham.umich.edu/History/chron.html, and The
   Proceedings of the Board of Regents.
10. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6), and
    Kahn and Stone online exhibit: The University of Michigan and China:
    1845-2006
11. The University of Michigan, an Encyclopedic Survey, and
    "Chronology prepared by Justice Olderman, 1837-1994," and "Early
    Diversity in the Health Sciences at the University of Michigan":
    http://www.si.umich.edu/HCHS/Retrospez/RetroV1N2/retro1.2a.html
12. Engineering Dept. webpage:
    http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective
13. Engineering Dept. webpage:
    http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cee/prospective
14. Engineering Timeline of Achievements:
    http://www.engin.umich.edu/150th/timeline01.html
15. Suzan Rose Benedict:
    http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/benedict.htm
16. "History of Diversity at the University of Michigan" (see no. 6), and
    The Proceedings of the Board of Regents.
17. "Early Diversity in the Health Sciences at the University of
    Michigan":
    http://www.si.umich.edu/HCHS/Retrospez/RetroV1N2/retro1.2a.html,
    and "UM Nursing in the News":
    http://www.med.umich.edu/nursing/newsarchive.htm
    African Americans in Physics: From Imes to Moore at the University of
    Michigan":
    http://www.physics.lsa.umich.edu/nea/special/imesmoore.asp
    African Americans in Physics: From Imes to Moore at the University of
    Michigan":
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