

Mechthild Medzihradsky

Mechthild Medzihradsky was the Department secretary for more than 20 years. Her name appears lyrical and formidable — traits that Mechthild herself embodied.

Not able to have had the pleasure of meeting her personally—Ms. Medzihradsky passed away in 2001—I found during my inquiries about her, that at the moment I asked about her, eyes sparkled and mouth corners would lift into an easy, sly grin, as if preparing to tell an unbelievable story, one that is larger than life.

From others' memories, I learned of her sharp wit, outstanding professionalism, and unwavering determination. How she single-handedly created a legacy. Her gift was to place students into internships that not only provided vast experiences and self-discovery, but also suited both the student and employer, resulting in a beneficial situation for everyone.

A story that I heard a number of times was that Ms. Medzihradsky would frequently make calls at 2 a.m. to German companies in search of internship opportunities for our students. Being a native German, she spoke fluent German. That, in addition to her professional manner, made her very effective in securing internship opportunities.

Ms. Medzihradsky's internship legacy began in 1997 when she helped a student find an internship opportunity in a German-speaking country. Through careful research, her own insight and many transatlantic phone calls—a successful internship match was made. Other students soon sought similar assistance, and Ms. Medzihradsky gladly obliged. Thus began an effort that has helped more than 400 students find a wide variety of internships in several German-speaking countries.

Due to Mechthild's efforts the Department has one of the most successful German internship programs at an American University. Our students are strongly encouraged to participate in a program abroad during their course of study, and an internship provides invaluable work experience as well as cultural and language enhancement.

In 2001, an Internship Scholarship fund was started in honor of Mechthild Medzihradsky. With a current balance of \$4,000 the Department's goal is to increase the balance to \$10,000, creating an endowment which would allow scholarships to be awarded in perpetuity. These scholarships primarily assist students with flight and/or lodging expenses associated with their internship placement. Please consider the legacy that Mechthild began—donate to the Mechthild Medzihradsky fund today.



Mechthild Medzihradsky founded the Department's internship program.

As you consider your end-of-year contributions, we hope you will keep the Department in mind. You may have already received a separate letter highlighting how the Department has used your contributions over the past year, this letter included an envelope in which to enclose your gift for the coming year. You may also donate online, visit www.lsa.umich.edu/german/alumns/donate/ to learn more. As always, we appreciate your support.



As you consider making a cash gift to the Department by Dec. 31, here's news of a recent tax law change that may affect you. The Hurricane Katrina relief bill, which became law Sept. 23, is designed to encourage certain outright cash gifts made between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005. Highlights of the new law include:

- The contribution limit for certain outright gifts of cash has increased from 50% of adjusted gross income to 100% of adjusted gross income.
- These same outright gifts of cash are also exempt from the three-percent reduction in itemized deductions for individuals with an adjusted gross income over \$145,950.