Department of Anthropology

THE POWER

Anthropology explores the most fundamental questions of what it is to be human. It does so by acknowledging the full diversity of cultural, historical, biological, and linguistic expression in human experience throughout the world. From corporate boardrooms to expanding urban communities, from the remotest settings to the most familiar locales, anthropologists can be found asking and discovering answers to difficult questions about the full diversity of people’s ways of living, seeing the world, and defining their moral and symbolic motivations for action. Their findings enhance self-understanding, find application in practical solutions to global problems, and influence policy and business practices in international and domestic arenas. No other discipline shares the holistic vision of anthropology with its attention to all aspects of the human condition, whether philosophical, theoretical, or applied.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the front-lines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.
Michigan’s Department of Anthropology has been ranked in the top three in the nation for more than 50 years. The key to its prominence is the diversity and excellence of its faculty and the real research opportunities it provides for its students. It appeals to the widest range of students, who are united by a desire to understand foundational human motivations. Students are attracted to the discipline for countless reasons and have successfully applied what they learn here in a variety of careers, including international business, government service, medicine, law, and social work. Many of our graduates continue in the discipline itself to become prominent contributors as the next generation of scholars.

Anthropology’s relevance never grows stale. A global society demands constant attention and ever more complex answers to enduring questions: How do we get along? How can we work together? Your support will advance our understanding of the human condition and prepare new generations to engage our rapidly changing and challenging world with intelligence, insight, and compassion. Your contributions to our efforts will make an impact that will touch lives and extend far beyond the University campus.

ANTHROPOLOGY INNOVATION FUND

$1M endowed

A gift to the Innovation Fund would make it possible to respond to groundbreaking opportunities and advance innovative ideas. Your contribution could provide seed funding for trailblazing faculty research projects, or bring visiting scholars to campus, support public lectures, or facilitate colloquia that intrigue and enhance the intellectual discussion on campus. Your generosity will help us promote the high stature and dynamic contributions that Michigan anthropologists—faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates—offer to our society in all of the career paths they pursue.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP/FIELDWORK FUND

$50,000 annually/$1M endowed

Competition to recruit the best graduate students grows fiercer every year. To recruit our brightest and most promising applicants, we must be able to offer competitive funding for a Michigan Anthropology education. In addition, our current graduate students need funding for preliminary fieldwork and return trips to the field, which will enable them to define the scope of their dissertation research. A gift of $50,000 will provide tuition and fieldwork funding for one graduate student.

UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

$25,000 annually

Students are most inspired when they’re able to learn outside the classroom, working alongside faculty in laboratories or field research sites across the world. They develop a deeper understanding of their area of interest and of the field at large, and also gain valuable experience analyzing data and synthesizing results. Your support will provide the resources for students to participate in faculty research projects or pursue independent study. Also, gifts to this Fund will enable students to present their research at annual meetings of the American Anthropology Association. This is one of our most compelling needs—to make these opportunities available to students regardless of financial ability.
DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FUND
$10,000 to $50,000 annually

Expendable, undesignated gifts are extraordinarily important to the continuing success and growth of the Department. Contributions to the Strategic Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and respond to opportunities including organizing conferences and events, upgrading the library and computer lab, and supplying the resources that strengthen and enrich the activities of student-led organizations such as the Undergraduate Anthropology Club and the Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT
Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.