Organizational Studies / Barger Leadership Institute

THE POWER

The Organizational Studies program and the Barger Leadership Institute (BLI) integrate the University’s great strengths — its public legacy, faculty expertise, student energy, and alumni know-how — in programs that begin with rigorous courses but that reach far beyond the conventional classroom. The BLI seeks to provide fundamental leadership education and rich experiential learning opportunities to undergraduate students from all parts of campus. We reach younger students through programs designed to be accessible to all. Organizational Studies (OS) is a small, highly selective, and rigorous concentration whose dedicated faculty and staff offer the best interdisciplinary education available to exemplary Michigan students. Together the program and the Institute can have a defining footprint in the College and on campus.

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.
THE OPPORTUNITIES

Dedication to undergraduate education is a core value in Organizational Studies. The program prepares high-achieving students for the complex organizational world of the 21st century. Our highly selective, interdisciplinary, intellectually rigorous liberal arts program combines theory and research with on-site learning. Students experience a broad exposure to fields such as business, communications, public health, and public policy on the solid foundation of social science. Research opportunities test our students’ ability to apply knowledge while building their store of practical experience and problem-solving expertise in real-world organizations. This comprehensive, balanced approach equips OS graduates with skills that complement their rigorous classroom education.

THE IMPACT

Support for the Organizational Studies program and the Barger Leadership Institute can take many forms. Students benefit from scholarships and seed money for projects that allow them to become tomorrow’s leaders. And as OS and BLI continue to grow in breadth and popularity with students, we need to attract the very best faculty to teach and mentor undergraduates. To that end, support for faculty through research funds, development funds for innovative curriculum, and for other projects helps us to recruit scholars who are leaders in their fields.

BLI ENDOwed felLOWS PROGRAM

$3.3M endowed/$150,000 annually

Each BLI undergraduate fellow would receive up to $1,000 to support leadership development work for such enrichment experiences as internships, conferences, additional courses, or special training. The BLI Fellows program enables students to take part in opportunities that might otherwise not be accessible due to financial constraints. Fellows may share some of their experiences with their peers via a symposium or student interchange to communicate about meaningful leadership opportunities, as well as reflect on lessons learned.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

$2.2M endowed/$100,000 annually for 2 classes

A course with an international component helps students to engage with other cultures and ways of thinking. They learn through personal experience how organizations are affected by their environments and local cultures. Gifts for the International Education Initiative would enable students to take OS leadership into the world by providing them with opportunities for gaining practical experience working with organizations in different parts of the globe. Funding would provide the resources for OS to develop and offer two courses per year.

INNOVATION FUND

$2M endowed

An endowed Innovation Fund would ensure a guaranteed flow of discretionary resources that the Director could use to supplement existing programs, try out new programs, and test innovative courses or teaching methods. The Innovation Fund would be instrumental in enabling Organizational Studies to enhance action-based, experiential learning for U-M students both within and outside the classroom.
CITIZENSHIP FUND
$250,000 annually; $5,000 per project

Gifts to the Citizenship Fund will allow us to guarantee that each student has the opportunity to participate in a project he or she helped design and for which we offer seed funding. These projects enable OS and the BLI to develop our students into citizen leaders who work together on sustained projects that contribute to the betterment of our communities. By working as a member of a team, students learn how various types of work styles and leadership contribute to projects. Projects would provide opportunities for students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to the real world in a way that engages their passions. Also students will have the freedom to take risks on innovative ideas and develop resilience through pursuing ambitious goals in a context that shields them from suffering possible consequences that could occur if similar risks were taken in their careers. The Citizenship Fund will provide the resources for OS and BLI to develop relationships with relevant organizations and sponsor project costs—such as transportation, training, and data collection and analysis—to create these engaging experiences for undergraduates.

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP FORUM
$100,000 annually

The Michigan Leadership Forum is an annual two-day conference featuring a high profile keynote speaker who has been chosen to receive an award for practicing public leadership, or a related achievement. The Forum will serve to cement the reputation of the University of Michigan as a center for scholarship on organizations and leadership. It provides an opportunity to spread the word on campus about the ways in which leadership is applied at all levels of organizations. This event will provide mentoring and showcase OS and BLI student leadership development projects, service learning opportunities, and international experiences.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INITIATIVES FUND
$50,000 to $100,000 annually

A world-class program requires world-class faculty. OS and BLI compete for faculty with other leading universities, and with business schools at those universities that are able to provide enormous resources to their faculty. Also, we ask our faculty members to focus exclusively on undergraduate education and to develop new, innovative curricula. Providing resources for the development of new curricula, funding groundbreaking research, and supporting the integration of research and coursework in OS is crucial in the retention and recruitment of faculty who are at the cutting-edge of innovation.

STRATEGIC FUND
$10,000 to $50,000 annually

Gifts to the Strategic Fund allow Organizational Studies the flexibility to respond to new opportunities and challenges more nimbly. Many of our most successful programs have begun with investments from this fund. The Strategic Fund is also a critical source of support for courses that have value to OS that are developed and taught by faculty from outside the program. This expendable, discretionary fund is a wellspring of new ideas and the source of our ability to respond to shifting needs.

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.