THE VISION

Anthropology investigates the biological and sociocultural aspects of humanity in all its diversity. We do this by documenting, interpreting, and explaining human biological and cultural diversity in time and space. This holistic approach serves Anthropology’s intellectual goal of achieving a comprehensive and comparative understanding of humanity. The Anthropology Department at Michigan is ranked #1 in the country. We owe this, in part, to our success in recruiting and retaining the most talented faculty and students. We need resources to provide and maintain state-of-the-art research facilities and to fund scholarly travel to remote research locales for our faculty members and students. Another important component of our mission is to reach out to the general public as we disseminate the knowledge gained through our research.

THE VALUE

As an important component of a liberal arts-and-sciences college education, Anthropology complements a wide variety of fields. Some of our graduates pursue advanced degrees in anthropology, but many more find success in such fields as law, medicine, social work, public health, and business. An academic background in anthropology is helpful in policy studies, government service, and in a variety of international organizations and businesses.

THE DIFFERENCE

After some 150 years of anthropological inquiry, many questions, often prompted by new discoveries, remain unanswered. With your donation, you can play a role in our quest to better understand the human condition. Your generous support in the following areas can have a tremendous impact and will be much appreciated.

Endowed Professorships  $2 million
Endowed professorships and chairs long have been recognized as both a hallmark of academic quality and a means by which a university honors its most esteemed scholars and teachers. Professorships are reserved for scholars of international stature, with highly distinguished records of teaching, research, and publication. They constitute a time-honored way to recruit or retain scholars with exceptional records of achievement. Areas in which the department needs to recruit include the Origins of Human Culture and the cultural anthropology of South Asia.

Graduate Fellowship/Field Work Fund  $1 million endowed
Competition to recruit the best graduate students grows fiercer every year. We must be able to offer our brightest applicants full funding for a Michigan Anthropology education. In addition, our current graduate students need funding for preliminary field work and revisits to the field, which enables them to define the scope of their dissertation research. An endowed gift of $1 million, which will generate $50,000 annually after being fully invested, will provide tuition and field work funding for one student.

Department Strategic Fund  $1 million endowed
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 challenges such as:

- Seed funding for faculty research projects ($15,000 expendable, $300,000 endowed).
Library and computer lab maintenance and upgrades ($50,000 per year).

The Anthro Club is an undergraduate student organization which meets regularly throughout the academic year. Anthro Club members have attended the annual AAA meetings, and take other field trips, supported by this fund.

MAGA, the Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association. MAGA members have made a tremendous contribution to our academic community, including coordinating several colloquia each year, at which visiting scholars present current research to students and faculty, alike.

Conferences and events.

Research Initiation Fund for Faculty  
$1 million endowed  
$50,000 annually

Many modern research techniques, especially in biological anthropology and archaeology, require sophisticated equipment and costly materials. Many of our faculty members need to maintain sophisticated labs in which they can optimize their own research, while also training graduate students and undergraduates. This fund also will fund preliminary faculty field research, whose results can lead to substantially greater funding from government agencies and other sponsors. This fund also can provide summer support for students working closely with faculty on new projects.

Research Professorships  
$500,000 endowed  
$25,000 expendable

Research Professorships are a valuable tool for recruiting, rewarding, and retaining excellent faculty. This is a rotating professorship awarded for a three-year term. This endowment would help with faculty research expenses and facilitate the involvement of graduate students and undergraduates in faculty research. Such research professorships enable scholars to conduct significant new investigations or to complete a major paper or review of completed research. An endowed gift of $500,000 will generate $25,000 annually for this purpose. The professorship can be named after the benefactor. Alternatively, an expendable gift of $75,000 will provide one three-year Research Professorship.

Undergraduate Program Enrichment Fund  
$300,000 endowed  
$15,000 annually

Our undergraduates are talented and highly motivated, and many of them have financial need. We want all our students to have the opportunity to participate in intellectually rewarding field work, regardless of financial ability. Thanks to existing funds, some of our students have been able to attend the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, most recently held in Washington, DC. Gifts have supported undergraduate research in such varied places as Kenya, Japan, and Central America. This is one of our most compelling ongoing needs; an endowed gift of $300,000, once fully invested, will provide $15,000 annually to be used to enrich the Anthropology undergraduate experience. This amount is based on our annual requests for funding from undergraduates, for which currently we have only about $2,000 per year available.

All donors will be eligible for Presidential Society Recognition opportunities, including the President’s Club ($15,000), the Tappan Society ($50,000) and the Hutchins Society ($100,000).