



# ANTHROPOLOGY

Providing answers to questions about ourselves and our past, present, and future

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 versatility and excellence of its faculty and the real research opportunities it provides for its students. Anthropology appeals to a wide range of students, who are united by their desire to understand key aspects of the human condition. Our students have successfully applied what they learn here in a variety of careers, including business, government service, medicine, law, the arts, and social work. Many of our graduates continue in the discipline itself and become leading scholars in anthropology and related fields.

Anthropology explores what it means to be human. It does so by acknowledging the full range of our cultural, biological, and linguistic diversity across space and time. From corporate boardrooms to expanding urban communities, from the remotest settings to the most familiar locales, anthropologists can be found asking and answering difficult questions about how we see the world and how moral and material interests shape our lives. Anthropological research enhances self-understanding, offers practical solutions to global problems, and influences policy and business practices in international and domestic arenas. No other discipline can match the holistic vision of anthropology, which studies all aspects of the human condition, whether philosophical, theoretical, or applied.

Anthropology's relevance is more vital today than ever before. A global society demands constant attention to issues of cultural difference and change: How are humans affecting the planet? Are our political and economic systems just and sustainable? Where are we headed as a species? Your support will improve our ability to tackle these questions and prepare new generations to engage an increasingly complex world with intelligence, insight, and compassion. Moreover, the impact of your generosity will touch lives far beyond the university campus.

## UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

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 annual support of \$25,000 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.



## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP/FIELDWORK FUND

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. An expendable gift of \$50,000 or an endowed gift of \$1M will provide tuition and fieldwork funding for one graduate student.

## DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FUND

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 Students. Gifts of any size are appreciated and gifts from \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually ensure much needed financial support.

## 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.

“All the subfields of anthropology make this such a diverse major since it draws on biological/evolutionary, linguistic, and social perspectives of humans as well as material culture to create a holistic understanding of humanity. This major challenges you to consider a wide array of perspectives and forces you to question basic assumptions that are taken for granted. You come face to face with complex questions and ideas which make you grow intellectually and force you to consider your own identity. Ultimately, I think people who study anthropology want to continue to bridge the gap in our understanding of humanity so that we can apply it to the world.”

—Isabel Matias, LSA Class of '23

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