



## LINGUISTICS

Linguistics at the University of Michigan is widely recognized for unusual synergies and interdisciplinarity driven by innovative theoretical, experimental, and field-based research.

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Michigan is one of the very few departments in the United States that captures the inherent breadth of the discipline by exploring the cognitive, social, cultural, and developmental aspects of language. Faculty and students investigate language structure, history, knowledge, behavior, and use. Faculty research aims to integrate these diverse approaches to language in ways that engender new modes of linguistic inquiry and new research domains.

By virtue of language's role in human interactions and activities, linguistics is situated at the intersection of the humanities and the social, biological, and behavioral sciences. Linguistics forms an important part of a strong liberal arts education because it trains students to develop skills in data analysis, analytic thinking, qualitative and quantitative reasoning, problem solving, and critical inquiry. Our undergraduates pursue careers that span the professions, including publishing and communications, computational fields, and teaching at a variety of levels.

Our undergraduates are highly competitive for placement in top graduate programs in linguistics, psychology, law, speech and hearing sciences, anthropology, philosophy, and information technology. Our graduate students become professors at universities and colleges across the United States and throughout the world, bringing with them a commitment to the broad-based exploration of human language and to maintaining linguistics as a vital part of undergraduate education.

Gifts from alumni and friends enable the department to compete with leading private universities for top faculty and students. Our capacity to attract and retain leading scholars, outstanding graduate students, and competitive undergraduates is linked to strengthening our standing both nationally and internationally. Support for the research of undergraduates is vital and enables them to complete projects, attend conferences, and work with high-profile scholars.

## LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT

Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates are eager to conduct substantial fieldwork, especially to document and help preserve endangered languages. This is a top priority for the field of linguistics today, with 50 to 90 percent of the world's 6,000 languages predicted to vanish by the end of this century. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually for field research will enable more of our faculty and students to document the languages of the communities where they conduct their research.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

Our undergraduate curriculum centers on making the results of linguistic research accessible to undergraduates while providing them with opportunities for hands-on experience in conducting their own original research projects. Our undergraduates often present their research results at national and occasionally international conferences, where their work is showcased alongside that of well-established scholars. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually for undergraduate research will enable us to offer these kinds of opportunities to more of our students.

## RESEARCH LABORATORY SUPPORT

Experimental research is becoming increasingly necessary in a wide range of subfields of our discipline. We now have three active laboratories, but keeping them running smoothly can be difficult, especially since only a small amount of grant support is available for linguistic research. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually are essential for us to maintain state-of-the-art laboratories.



**“My five years as a linguistics student at Michigan gave me everything. Full stop. Every linguistics course I took prepared me for my future career, even if I didn’t know it at the time—the challenge of untangling grammars, of reducing systems of impossible complexity down to just a few simple rules; the responsibility of looking after a lab, of collecting and annotating data, of being there for your research partners; the ability to form an opinion, then stand up in front of others and defend it. But even more important than all of that, the faculty and my fellow classmates within the department gave me the confidence I needed to step out into the world and apply these tools. I learned a lot of linguistics, which I expected, but I never guessed that the department would teach me just as much about the world and about myself.”**

**–Tony Natoci, A.B. '13**



## STRATEGIC FUND

This fund will support projects such as on-campus conferences, faculty research, and new teaching initiatives. Annual gifts from \$50,000 to \$100,000 are extraordinarily important if we are to create and take advantage of exciting opportunities, and gifts of all sizes contribute to reaching our goals. We continue to develop new, often collaborative, teaching initiatives, especially ones that help us implement our vision of integrating cognitive and social aspects of language knowledge and use. Support will also help us organize conferences that bring leading scholars to our campus. Additionally, funding will enable us to continue to build our experiential practice program, which links promising undergraduates with highly innovative projects in industry, education, and the non-profit sector.

## GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Educating graduate students is closely connected with our undergraduate educational mission, both because our graduate students, in their role as apprentice teachers, work with our undergraduates and because graduate students will embark on teaching careers after they receive their Ph.D. While we offer a full five-year funding package to all incoming graduate students, our ability to offer more than one year of fellowship/research support is limited; most graduate students have teaching assignments for the majority of their graduate careers. The ability to guarantee an additional year of fellowship/research support, with an endowed investment of \$1M or \$50,000 annually, would enhance our students' professional development and also help us attract top applicants.

## 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.

## CONTACT INFO

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