



## Dean's Strategic Priorities

Positioning LSA for a vibrant and innovative future

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts has long been a leader in liberal arts and sciences excellence. From game-changing research that matters, to collaborative and interdisciplinary initiatives, to innovative programs and pedagogy, to evidence-driven support of well-being and academic success for all students, the Dean's Strategic Priorities propel our public service mission, connect our rich past to a boundless and bright future, and ensure that LSA's strong legacy of exploration and excellence endures.

**Gifts to the unrestricted Dean's Strategic Initiatives Fund are a powerful investment in the leadership and vision of the College. Your partnership provides the dean the flexibility to bring LSA's boldest and most original ideas to life quickly.**

## Promoting the Value of Liberal Arts and Sciences Education

Liberal arts and sciences education is facing historic scrutiny and external pressures. LSA is positioned to be a national leader, convener, and champion for the critical role of liberal arts and sciences colleges in our society. One aspect of this work is ensuring that our own students and their families see clear pathways from their education to future jobs. LSA is building upon successful career exploration fairs, organizing spring and fall events designed to address different needs—first- and second-year students in the spring and upper-level students in the fall. **Donor support can help us launch these career exploration fairs for all LSA students in years to come, providing experiences that connect their academic studies with internships, jobs, and real-world applications.**

## Incentivizing Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching

The global challenges of the present—and undoubtedly the future—cannot be solved through a single lens or approach, but in fields at the crossroads where traditional disciplines meet. Our recent adoption of the Grand Challenges curriculum means undergraduates will be introduced to new, interdisciplinary courses that address timely issues. With more than 75 academic departments, programs, and museums, LSA will continue to catalyze interdisciplinary research and scholarship that harnesses expertise across the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. **Donor funding is needed in every one of our departments to incentivize partnerships across disciplines that push the boundaries of research and teaching.**

## Expanding Resources and Support for First-Generation Students

Many first-generation students experience tremendous financial stressors and a diminished sense of belonging, while underutilizing university resources. We are prioritizing an expansion of our support for this community of learners by launching the LSA First Fellows Program. First-generation sophomores in LSA will have greater access to programming and experiences at the optimal time. **Gifts are needed to help sustain the LSA First Fellows Program, ensuring all first-generation students have the support they need to focus on their education without financial stress, and providing experiences that fill their educational journeys with meaning and purpose.**

## Fostering a Culture of Purpose and Well-Being

LSA is cultivating academic environments that inspire students to engage in learning, intellectual curiosity, and the discernment of meaning and purpose, without feeding competition and exacerbating stress. In addition to new initiatives, we are bolstering support for several programs, including first-year seminars, living learning communities, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. **Donor funding is needed to help students feel supported so they can do their best thinking and learning without sacrificing personal motivations, purpose, and a sense of well-being.**

## Prioritizing Respectful Debate, Disagreement, and Dialogue

A liberal arts and sciences education equips students with the ability and the responsibility to engage with different perspectives and listen respectfully—especially in disagreement. LSA is committed to preparing students to talk about topics that challenge them. The College will continue to support and expand initiatives that embrace difficult dialogues; combat bias, intimidation, and hatred in public discourse; and foster meaningful conversations across differences. **Donor support will help the College prioritize scholarship and public dialogues, like those hosted by Dialogue Michigan, the Program on Intergroup Relations (IGR), and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute.**



**“Amid widespread economic uncertainty and growing criticism directed toward institutions of higher education, we must intensify our efforts to ensure the success of our first-gen students throughout the duration of their college careers.”**

*—Dean Rosario Ceballo*

*for what's next ▶*

**Look to Michigan**

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