



CLASSICAL STUDIES

Applying historical perspectives on Greek and Roman life to today's issues

Classical Studies has been making a significant contribution to academic life at Michigan since the university's founding in 1817. The department is internationally renowned for its scholarly excellence, its graduate programs, and its deep commitment to the education of undergraduates at the university. Our distinguished reputation places us among the top five classics departments in the country. We engage in the study of every aspect of life in Greece (ancient and modern) and Rome—language and literature, art and material cultures, philosophy, history, political theory, law, and religion. Together, faculty and students explore all these subjects, both in the context of cognate Mediterranean and Near Eastern cultures and in light of the later civilizations that drew upon this classical foundation.

Training in ancient cultures and languages is important because many works and thoughts of the Greeks and Romans provide historical perspective to questions that are debated in our time. The study of classical civilizations teaches us to appreciate that people in other cultures think differently, follow different models, and approach the world from different premises. We learn to see ourselves and our society in historical and human perspectives. Faculty and undergraduates work closely with the Kelsey Museum and its collection of antiquities and the Papyrus Collection in the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Students learn valuable skills such as critical and analytical thinking and competence in oral and written communication. As a result, our graduates have gone on to distinguished careers in medicine, law, the media, government, education, business, and many other professions.

In order to maintain and improve our excellence, we seek to recruit top faculty and to provide them with the resources needed to remain at the forefront of research. We must also attract the brightest students to our programs and offer the most rigorous and rewarding educational experience available in the nation. To this end, we seek to create more opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship through postdoctoral fellowships, which would allow our students to work in tandem with other units to conduct research, teach, and analyze materials. Supporting teacher training and boosting our library resources rounds out the ways that gifts can help the department to grow and flourish for future generations of scholars.

UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Gifts ranging from \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually will help off-set the costs associated with enrollment and provide co-curricular activities and off-campus experiences for our undergraduates. Many students cannot spend an entire term studying abroad, so this fund will provide support for an annual short study trip to Greece, Italy, or other parts of the classical world as a capstone experience.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE SUPPORT

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$15,000 annually to this fund will make it possible to bring preeminent scholars to Michigan for a week, a month, or more to teach undergraduates and graduate students, and to collaborate with faculty, perhaps presenting a lecture for the community, and to contribute to scholarly initiatives within the department.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT

Off-campus study and research is crucial to graduate education in classical studies. Support is needed to enable graduate students to travel to attend summer language courses and/or specialized summer courses in technical fields such as numismatics (coins), epigraphy (inscriptions), ceramics, osteoarchaeology or zooarchaeology (study of excavated human or animal bones), or critical theory. A gift of \$5,000 would support one student to attend a course or workshop and help to cover travel, lodging and board, course fees and supplies. A gift of \$10,000 annually would make it possible for all students who qualify to benefit and would make a major difference for their research and for the department.



“Studying classics was the most interesting and personally enriching educational experience I could have hoped for. I found myself feeling more deeply connected to humanity and optimistic of its creativity than I had ever felt before. And the skills I developed by studying classics—close reading, analysis, critical thinking—have really served me well in law.”

*—Alexandra Andre, A.B. '17, J.D. '21,
Staff Attorney at Michigan Immigrant
Rights Center*



BRIDGE M.A. IN CLASSICAL STUDIES FUND

The Master of Arts in Classical Studies (Bridge M.A.) brings to the department exceptional students from non-traditional backgrounds who have demonstrated potential for graduate study and a deep interest in classical antiquity. The program is designed to help them consolidate their command of ancient Greek and Latin before entering a Ph.D. program (at U-M or elsewhere) in classical languages and literature, ancient history, ancient philosophy, or classical art and archaeology. Alumni of the program most often continue with our department, becoming some of the most vibrant and exciting scholars in our Ph.D. programs. A gift of \$10,000 annually would help cover language training, technology and other expenses necessary for a student to participate in the program.

GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SUPPORT

Gifts of \$3,000 - \$5,000 would make it possible for graduate students to be able to participate in unpaid internships at nonprofits, museums, publishers, research sites, and research institutes and universities around the globe. These internships allow the students to gain valuable experience to pair with their formal study in ways that advance knowledge in the discipline and to share that knowledge with their peers and the broader public.

CLASSICAL STUDIES STRATEGIC FUND

To support department activities, including faculty research, events, undergraduate and graduate activities such as study abroad, student clubs, and student conferences. Gifts will be directed where most needed. The strategic fund has supported:

- Excursions and events for our local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and/or Greek.
- Faculty and student research travel to sites, excavations, conferences, and collections within the U.S. and abroad.
- Bringing scholars from around the world to the Department of Classical Studies for public lectures, conferences, and workshops.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

for what's next ▶

Look to Michigan

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