



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The transformation of minds and spirits by literary study

The Department of English Language and Literature serves as an extraordinary center of creativity, inquiry, and discovery with a proud tradition of leadership in scholarship and teaching. Our mission as educators is to enable students to become the finest readers and writers of literary texts. These texts depict humans in their infinite variety; through them, we equip our students to read the world and write the future with subtlety, acumen, and precision.

Our department has a long and continuing history of excellence. We have more working Golden Apple winners—the highest honor bestowed by undergraduates across the university—than any other department on campus. We are tied with a department twice our size for the most Thurnau Professors, the highest teaching honor the university bestows on its faculty. Our graduate program is highly ranked nationally, and our MFA program ranks second in the country. Building upon these successes, our goal is to enhance our prominence in the field as a pedagogical and intellectual leader.

We teach students about the English language and to read—and re-read—carefully, appreciatively, and critically. Students learn to watch and make meaning unfold, and come to appreciate that knowledge is made through cycles of deepening attention. With these skills of interpretation and articulation, our graduates have achieved successful careers as writers, journalists, and screenwriters. Many more have used their skills in analysis and argumentation for positions in law, medicine, business, and teaching. Still others have gained insight into issues of social justice while reading texts in our courses and have devoted themselves to creating a more just world.

Your gifts will enable us to advance our position as one of the top English departments in the country. By recruiting and retaining the best faculty possible, we ensure our excellence in pedagogy and scholarship for years to come. In offering curricular enhancement funding to faculty, we allow them to expand their courses beyond the four walls of the classroom. We also seek to enhance our extracurricular programming, including internship opportunities for undergraduates and involvement with *Michigan Quarterly Review*, the university's flagship literary journal.

INTERNSHIP SUPPORT FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Students hone their practical skills in real-world situations by participating in internships. For liberal arts students, this experience is critical. With these opportunities, our students gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities. Your gift for internships will help support English majors with funding for summer and academic year internships. We seek to provide students with support ranging from \$1,000 – \$5,000 to help cover travel and living costs, as well as stipends for students in unpaid internships who, without such support, would not be able to participate because of financial barriers. An endowed gift of \$100,000 will provide funding for two to five students.

MICHIGAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

Michigan Quarterly Review (MQR) is an interdisciplinary and international literary journal combining distinctive voices in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, as well as works in translation. Gifts of all sizes to the MQR Strategic Fund would provide discretionary support for student engagement in journal production, literary awards, curriculum development for teaching about literary publication, and funding for both current and new programs.

NAMED ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Support to bring new faculty to the department in the next five years is crucial, especially in the face of increasing competition for top faculty. Outstanding faculty are central to the continuing quality of the program and ongoing leadership of the department. An endowed gift of \$2.5M to establish a Named Professorship will serve as a powerful recruitment tool for distinguished scholars.



“As someone who is interested in reporting on crime and the legal system, I am grateful that my internship on the breaking news desk for the *Chicago Tribune* gave me the opportunity to report on stories relating to Chicago crime and circuit courts, as well as experience in courtroom reporting. This internship also gave me the opportunity to leverage skills I learned in my English courses such as creatively conveying information and writing meaningful pieces on short deadlines. Working at the *Chicago Tribune* enabled me to work with professional journalists and editors and experience professional newsroom production, and I am extremely thankful to the English department for providing me with this opportunity.”

—Navya Gupta, LSA '23

ENGLISH UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT FUND

The English department is committed to providing the best educational opportunities for our undergraduate students. Expendable gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 would fund faculty to provide educational enhancements and opportunities for their students related to their classroom teaching. This funding could also support class trips, guest lecturers, museum tickets, drama production tickets, as well as special classroom activities such as period dance instruction. The goal is to make the classroom experience as memorable and engaging as possible.

DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts are extraordinarily important to the continuing success and growth of the department. Contributions of any size to the English Strategic Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and challenges and might provide seed funding for faculty projects, sponsorship of distinguished international visitors, participation in international conferences highlighting the department's scholarship, or innovative curriculum development.

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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Career networking and mentoring events give students the opportunity to chat with alumni and learn more about industries like journalism, law, marketing, publishing, and consulting. Alumni emphasize the value of writing skills, building a professional network, and starting their career exploration early.
