



M | LSA
VICTORS

Honors Program

THE POWER

For more than fifty years, the LSA Honors Program has helped ambitious students take full advantage of what Michigan has to offer. In 2012, the Program was ranked #1 in the nation for overall excellence among public universities. The 500 students who enroll each year combine a deep exploration of the liberal arts with a comprehensive approach to their major, including research experiences that culminate in a senior thesis. By participating in Honors, they join an exciting, diverse campus community which builds friendships and habits of mind that last a lifetime.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Implicit in the word “Honors” are challenge and intellectual stimulus. The Honors Program at the University of Michigan offers a rigorous academic career through special courses, research with faculty, prime housing and commons space, and a vigorous intellectual community that includes Honors faculty fellows. The Honors Program enables students to identify their intellectual interests and to pursue them deeply. Graduates of the Honors Program are particularly prepared to enter the world and meet its challenges, solve its problems, and make a difference.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The \$400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the frontlines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.

THE IMPACT

Gifts to Honors help us to increase the intellectual vitality of the Program and to admit and recruit students of the highest caliber. By putting a variety of academic and cultural initiatives into place, we bring faculty and students together for informal intellectual gatherings, research experiences, and leadership opportunities that extend and enrich the Honors community. To that end, we also seek an overall endowment to name the Honors Program so that we can continue to provide our highly-ranked offerings and build on our current success.

NAMING THE HONORS PROGRAM

\$25M endowed

The Honors Program has a distinguished history going back more than a half century. It has produced much innovation over the years, not only in the College and University-wide, but also in the nation. As the top-ranked honors program in the nation, LSA Honors sets the pace in honors admissions, course development, and activities. We are a strong factor in recruiting excellent students and top faculty to the College and the University. As we launch the Honors Program into the University's third century, we are poised to offer a naming opportunity. A \$25M endowment would generate \$1M a year for the Program, enough to support current activities and provide funds for significant innovation.

HONORS SUMMER FELLOWS

\$1.5M endowed/\$50,000 to \$100,000 annually

The Honors Summer Fellows (HSF) program provides a unique opportunity for a group of upper-class students to gather from across all three divisions of LSA—the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences—to spend a summer on campus working on their senior theses, sharing ideas, and learning from faculty about research, publication, and professional academic life. Fellows learn from one another about the nature of research, comparing the modes of work, nature of valid evidence, styles of presentation, and special challenges. It is an unusual opportunity to reclaim the interdisciplinary interactions that play such an important role in a genuine liberal arts education. We are building a \$2.5M endowment for HSF. Through the generosity of the Honors Alumni Council and friends of the program, we currently have gifts and pledges of approximately \$1M in hand and are seeking to fully fund the endowment with additional gifts.

HONORS CORE CURRICULUM FELLOWS

\$180,000 annually/\$15,000 per fellow annually

For many decades, Great Books has been the one shared classroom experience for students in the LSA Honors Program. We plan to strengthen the intellectual community of our first-year Honors students by developing a set of Honors Core Courses extending across the three divisions of the College. These courses will also engage all first-year students in a monthly Core Symposium featuring top faculty and visitors engaged in interdisciplinary panels. To develop these courses, we will invite a select group of faculty members, all experienced in Honors and recognized for their excellence in teaching, to join a development team of 12 'Honors Faculty Fellows.'

HONORS STUDENT LEADERSHIP

\$50,000 annually

Honors housing is at the core of our student experience, bringing together all of our incoming students in a vibrant living-learning community. Each year, the Honors Residential Advisors and Peer Mentors develop a rich program of student-led academic, service, and cultural activities both on campus and off. These are premiere leadership opportunities for upper-division Honors students. We provide training, supervision, and guidance to students involved in this work. Gifts would support Honors stipends for our RAs and cover expenses for activities.

HONORS STUDENT ACTIVITIES

\$10,000 annually

To enrich the Honors community and broaden our students' cultural horizons, we sponsor a wide variety of events. Our well-established "Lunch with Honors" series features lunch with faculty and visiting celebrities who give short talks followed by discussion. This series has hosted such illustrious guests as Salman Rushdie, Mary Sue Coleman, and Laurie Anderson, as well as members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, John Beilein, Bob King (UAW President), and Zingerman's founder Ari Weinzweig. Also, we provide group tickets to such activities as concerts, plays, and other events, with group discussions before or afterwards.

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.

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