The University of Michigan’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) is one of the nation’s foremost institutes for interdisciplinary research and training on this broad world area. Founded in 1961, CREES is housed at the International Institute, an affiliate of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, and a long-time recipient of federal education funding. Regional strengths include Russia, Central Europe, especially Czech Republic and Poland, Southeastern Europe (notably former Yugoslavia), Central Asia, and the Caucasus. It is home to over 70 faculty area specialists who teach more than 150 courses each year on the business, cultures, economies, history, languages, law, literatures, politics, public policy, and social organization of the region.

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 OPPORTUNITIES

CREES offers a variety of interdisciplinary academic programs, including undergraduate minors that do not require language study and an undergraduate major and graduate-level programs requiring study of area languages (e.g., Armenian; Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian; Czech; Polish; Russian; Ukrainian; and Uzbek). Through its outreach programs, CREES serves as a local, state, Midwest, and national resource on the region, providing instructional and informational services to the public, K-12 and postsecondary educators, media, government, business, and other constituencies. In addition to long-standing breadth and depth in the core area studies disciplines of history, political science, and Slavic languages and literatures, CREES has an unusually large concentration of faculty in anthropology, architecture, Islamic studies, Judaic studies, and sociology. Our alumni have gone on to direct area studies centers at major U.S. universities, pursued careers with the CIA, the Open Society Institute, and in the private sector. Not surprisingly many of our graduates work with international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

THE IMPACT

Gifts to CREES help to insure the Center’s ongoing excellence and guarantee that U-M students will have an opportunity to study the cultures, histories, languages, and peoples of Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus and contribute to scholarship on the region. We seek to build its endowments that help support internships, faculty and student travel, visiting lecturers, and special courses on the region.

NAMED ENDOWED CENTER

$15M endowed/$650,000 annually

An endowment to name CREES will provide for the Center’s annual needs, including faculty- and student-led initiatives, visiting scholars, and programming, operating, and staffing costs. A named center will assure that the University of Michigan remains an attractive destination for the study of this vast region and will allow the Center director the flexibility to execute exciting opportunities.

- Visiting scholars: $50,000 annually
- Faculty research/travel: $25,000 annually
- Undergraduate/graduate fellowships: $450,000 annually
- Conferences, special programs: $15,000 annually
- Named annual lecture: $10,000 annually
- Director, associate director and staff: $100,000 annually

STUDENT LANGUAGE, RESEARCH, AND INTERNSHIP FELLOWSHIPS

$50,000 to $100,000 annually

First-hand experience in the region significantly enhances the education of our students, preparing them for careers where regional expertise is needed, and to become global citizens more generally. CREES welcomes expendable gifts to support merit-based fellowships for study abroad in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, or Eurasia that support language study, research, internships, and volunteering.

ENDOWED LANGUAGE LECTURESHIPS—BOSNIAN, CROATIAN, AND SERBIAN; CZECH; POLISH; RUSSIAN; UKRAINIAN; UZBEK

$1M endowed/$50,000 annually

Language instruction is central to a meaningful and effective understanding of the countries and cultures of our region. With federal government support for less commonly taught languages declining, a gift for a named lectureship in one of the region’s languages will ensure that it will be taught in perpetuity at the University of Michigan.

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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