Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology

THE POWER

Archaeology includes the study of the visual and material evidence for past cultures, and the ongoing exploration of their physical remains. Archaeologists at the University of Michigan specialize in subjects such as ancient burial customs, the study of pottery and other artifacts, and the investigation of archaeological sites around the world. But archaeology also sheds light on a wide spectrum of subjects of broader interest: on historical issues such as state formation, imperialism, and colonization; on sociological issues such as the study of gender and household organization; and on ideological concerns such as the formation of social, religious, and ethnic identity. Archaeology illuminates the histories of regions of great contemporary interest such as Greece, the Middle East, and China; it sheds new light on vital religious and political institutions...
deeply rooted in the past; it illustrates modes of cultural accommodation and conflict, and problems of ethnicity and identity, that are still very much alive in our own multicultural world.

The University of Michigan offers an Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology [IPCAA], which derives special strength from an innovative and inclusive approach to the study of antiquity. Formally sponsored by the Departments of Classical Studies and History of Art, and located in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, IPCAA draws on a distinguished range of faculty in several disciplines and on the rich museum and library resources of U-M. Today IPCAA is widely acknowledged as among the very top programs in the country for the professional training of graduate students in Classical Archaeology.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Students in IPCAA are encouraged both to build a broad and solid foundation of knowledge within the field, and to widen their intellectual horizons by taking advantage of the exceptionally varied range of course offerings and of faculty expertise in the half dozen or more academic units at U-M whose interests overlap with IPCAA’s. As they work to attain their Ph.D., students are offered opportunities to gain professional experience by teaching, assisting in archaeological research and the preparation of museum exhibitions and catalogues, and participating in archaeological fieldwork sponsored by U-M or other institutions. IPCAA is now over 30 years old and its graduates hold positions in academic university departments and in museums widely throughout North America and beyond.

THE IMPACT

The University of Michigan is among the very top programs in the field of archaeology, but we will not be able to maintain our standing in archaeological education and research without support from alumni and friends to establish a university-wide Institute for Archaeology, which is our top campaign priority. Gifts are also vital to support the work of our graduate students to enable them to contribute new knowledge to the field.

INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

$10M to Name
$6M endowed/ $4M expendable to launch

Archaeology provides a unique perspective on the past, and the University of Michigan has been a national leader in archaeological research and education for several decades. Unlike most of our peer institutions, moreover, Michigan is equally strong in both Old World and New World archaeology, and in both the area-studies based traditions of Classical and Near Eastern archaeology, and the anthropological approaches of prehistoric archaeology, including the archaeology of the Americas. The top fund-raising priority of the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology is to establish a university-wide Institute for Archaeology, which would build on and strengthen existing ties between departments, and forge new links with students and scholars across the University who share common interests in the material aspects of human culture.
The Institute we imagine would provide both a physical and an intellectual meeting place for students, research scientists, and members of the faculty engaged in all aspects of archaeological education and research, or in learning more about the archaeological perspective. Different units, especially the Kelsey Museum and the Museum of Anthropology, as well as the Departments of Anthropology, Classical Studies, the History of Art, and Near Eastern Studies all currently provide support for both teaching and research in archaeology. The new Institute would complement that support by contributing independent teaching and research facilities and work space for both student- and faculty-directed field projects.

One increasingly important aspect of contemporary archaeology not presently supported by the University is digital spatial analysis, ranging from remote sensing to geophysical prospection, and from GIS (Geographical Information Systems) to complex photo-modeling. By providing these services (through both equipment and staffing), the Institute for Archaeology could enhance teaching and research, draw interested units closer together, and strengthen ties with related units, such as the College of Natural Resources and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Another unusual aspect of archaeology in relation to other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences is its intersection with the Natural Sciences, especially biology (archaeobotany and archaeozoology) and geology (chemical analysis of pottery and stone, for example). A new Institute of Archaeology would strengthen the University’s existing commitments to archaeological science by providing a home base for research scientists in fields not currently covered by the university, such as archaeological geology.

The nature of archaeological discovery gives our field unique popular appeal. Although focused on the past, archaeology is still very much a living discipline, as new discoveries from every corner of the world continue to add to, and sometimes to confound, received wisdom. Archaeology is thus uniquely well-suited to advertise the University’s commitment to the study of the past, both to students and scholars, and to the public at large.

FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT TO LAUNCH:
- Teaching and research facilities: $3.5M expendable
- Laboratory Equipment: $500,000 expendable

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NAMED INSTITUTE:
- Directorship: $2.5M endowed
- Two postdoctoral positions: $75,000 each annually/ $1.5M each endowed
- Laboratory equipment and maintenance: $25,000 annually/ $500,000 endowed

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT
$50,000 annually

Off-campus study and research is crucial to graduate education in classical art and archaeology. IPCAA currently provides limited support for research travel. We would like to raise support to address two specific needs: a) research projects and internships in museums, and b) study visits to overseas research institutes and universities.

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.