The Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) promotes and disseminates research on Japan, fosters communication among diverse disciplines, and encourages new approaches in the understanding of Japan and its place in the world. Founded at the University of Michigan in 1947, CJS is the oldest interdisciplinary center devoted exclusively to Japanese Studies in the U.S., making it one of the top places for teaching and research on the region in the nation. Since the 1940s, CJS has played an active role in the recruiting and retention of top flight faculty, has supported a wide variety of faculty research and publications, and has attracted and trained Ph.D. students from departments across LSA. CJS serves as a home to graduate students, faculty from a variety of disciplines and professional schools, visiting artists and scholars, and community organizations pursuing Japan-related interests and activities at the University.

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 front-lines 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

The Center for Japanese Studies is part of the University’s East Asia U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center, along with the Center for Chinese Studies and the Nam Center for Korean Studies. CJS’s outstanding faculty includes more than 55 area specialists from various departments in the humanities, social sciences, and professional schools. The Center offers an interdisciplinary M.A. program, as well as joint M.A./M.B.A. and M.A./J.D. programs, in addition to its undergraduate curriculum.

THE IMPACT

Because federal appropriations to support area studies centers are always at risk, CJS must find ways to ensure the high quality of its programs. Gifts help secure U-M’s position as a leader in the field of Japanese Studies and can support a wide range of CJS activities, including student funding, academic programs, research, and public events.

NAMED ENDOWED CENTER

$10M endowed

A named center will ensure that CJS continues to be the premier destination in the U.S. for scholars of Japanese Studies. An endowment would cover the annual needs of the Center, including staffing costs, operating and program budget, and support for faculty- and student-led initiatives. It would also ensure that a leading scholar will continue to direct the Center for Japanese Studies in perpetuity.

ENDOWED LANGUAGE LECTURESHIP

$1M endowed/$50,000 annually

Language provides our students unparalleled opportunities to explore the Japanese culture broadly and deeply. A gift of an endowed named lectureship will ensure that Japanese language will be taught at the University of Michigan in perpetuity.

CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES INNOVATION FUND

$1M to $2M endowed

The Innovation Fund will ensure that the Center for Japanese Studies is able to do a “big thing” on an annual basis to promote Japanese Studies. It could provide funding to host a conference and invite scholars from around the globe to U-M, or fund exhibits on campus, or support the research of graduate fellows, or even bring visiting professors and artists to Michigan. As the name suggests, this fund will be used to innovate—it will give the director of the program the flexibility to turn big ideas into big realities.

STUDENT TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

$10,000 to $50,000 annually

The opportunity to travel and study in Japan will significantly enhance the education of our students. We seek expendable and endowed funding to provide scholarships that will enable students to participate in a wide array of experiences in Japan or with Japanese institutions and organizations all over the world. We also seek partnerships with Japanese companies in setting up internship opportunities for U-M students. An endowed gift of $100,000 will provide funding for one student to pursue an internship or study-abroad experience.

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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