Department of Screen Arts & Cultures

THE POWER

Screen Arts & Cultures (SAC) is uniquely positioned within the College of LSA to encourage students to explore the intersection of intellectual study and creative practice in the arts. In contrast to a film school or art school model, SAC offers a well-conceived liberal arts integration of critical studies and creative production that examines American and world film, video art, television, and digital media, as well as the development of particular genres and the careers of individual artists. With a strong undergraduate curriculum of production and screenwriting, experience in the disciplines of film studies, television studies, and digital media studies, a burgeoning doctoral program in screen arts, and a faculty of award-winning scholars and media makers, Screen Arts & Cultures offers a vibrant intellectual and artistic community here at Michigan.

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

SAC offers our undergraduate students exceptional practical experience in filmmaking, video, television, and digital media, as well as a challenging sequence of screenwriting and television writing courses for qualified students. Our award-winning alumni build successful careers throughout the mainstream and independent media industries as television and film screenwriters, directors, producers, editors, animation artists, documentary filmmakers, entertainment writers and critics, and writers and producers for cable, mobile, and web video. Many continue on to graduate school and teaching careers.

Our doctoral program emphasizes the study of those forms of representation produced for exhibition and consumption through a screen—whether a cinema screen, television screen, video monitor, or computer display. Graduates of the doctoral program go on to distinguish themselves as top-notch scholars, authors, and educators in the field.

THE IMPACT

The Screen Arts & Cultures curriculum, with its integration of critical studies and creative practice, is acknowledged at peer institutions and universities as a model for excellence. Maintaining our educational excellence requires significant financial investment. Your support makes a difference in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FUND

$100,000 annually

Maintaining a high level of up-to-date technology for teaching production courses is financially intensive. This fund enables SAC to maintain this level of teaching technology. These funds are used to enhance the studios, shorten equipment cycles, and replace worn or outdated technologies to ensure our students are using relevant, innovative, and cutting edge technology.

GRADUATE STUDENT ENHANCEMENT FUND

$50,000 to $100,000 annually

This fund provides tuition support, research support, and recruitment funds to allow SAC to admit and nurture its graduate students. Doctoral students are deeply involved in undergraduate teaching and represent the next generation of film scholars who will spread the Screen Arts & Cultures vision to universities both nationally and internationally.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES

$50,000 annually

Most of our visiting artists and scholars must travel to Michigan from around the world, and especially from New York and Los Angeles. Personal contact with distinguished visitors immeasurably enhances classroom experience—inspiring students to reach high and connecting them to a global network of artists. Currently, obtaining funds to host most distinguished visitors requires the submission of four to ten grants to units and partners across campus, which limits opportunities for this critical component of the undergraduate experience.
PRODUCTION FACULTY ENRICHMENT FUND
$50,000 annually
The purpose of this fund is to help recruit and retain the best production faculty, ensuring undergraduate students access to professionally active artists in our classrooms and studios. Funds will be used to support faculty creative practice/productions, attendance at professional conferences, summer residencies, or educational workshops.

DONALD HALL COLLECTION SUPPORT
$50,000 annually
Teaching Screen Arts & Cultures requires a very specialized collection of media resources tailored to our pedagogy. Gifts to this fund would enable faculty to purchase materials necessary for teaching: DVDs (or some future format!), film prints, and screenplays, as well as cover fees for rental of film prints for the classroom.

UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITIES SUPPORT
$25,000 annually
This fund supports undergraduate students in a wide variety of ways, including grants for student productions, special screenings, internship support, support for the student Film and Video Association, and support for study abroad.

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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