



LSA

DEPARTMENT OF

AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



## Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

### THE POWER

Endowed with a diverse faculty of African Americanist and Africanist specialists, the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) at the University of Michigan is one of the foremost departments in the world for the study of people of African descent. DAAS embraced a comparative and diasporic framework of study long before most other Black Studies departments. It has three distinct geographical areas of focus—Africa, African America (U.S.), and the Caribbean (extending into Latin America)—and an interdisciplinary emphasis on research, instruction, and community outreach. The department's mission is to strengthen the fields of African American, Caribbean, and African Studies by encouraging the production and public dissemination of creative, original research and exceptional scholarly knowledge. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, the goal is to train not only informed, productive, and active citizens, but also the next generation of leading scholars in these fields.



## THE OPPORTUNITIES

DAAS faculty are committed to innovative scholarship and teaching on the history, societies and creativity of the peoples of Africa and its diaspora. Undergraduate students participate in a comprehensive and rigorous program of study in courses examining the role of African-descended people in shaping the societies, cultures, religions, and political institutions of the Western world in such fields as history, sociology, psychology, economics, political science, literature, and the arts. The curriculum provides students with the critical and analytical facility that is central to liberal arts training. The department's study abroad programs have long played a pivotal role in providing students, both undergraduate and graduate, with unique and valuable opportunities for intercultural exchanges and experiential learning. Students also participate in community engaged scholarship in Detroit focused on civic responsibility and social change. Both undergraduates and graduate students leave DAAS prepared for a wide range of careers in both the professions and public service.

## THE IMPACT

Support for DAAS will provide more opportunities for students to gain hands-on learning that also benefits communities. Gifts also are needed to advance the department's efforts to capture and convey a sense of the holistic cultural history of Africa and the diaspora by using the arts in research and teaching. And support for graduate students, research, and visiting scholars continues to help DAAS to grow and thrive.

### **Visiting Artist Residency: DAAS Art Gallery**

***\$200,000 endowed/\$10,000 annually***

Gallery DAAS highlights the work of African American, Caribbean, and African artists. Nationally, it is the only art gallery attached to a Black Studies department. DAAS would like to inaugurate and endow an annual Visiting Artist Residency that combines a gallery exhibition with classroom and community talks about contemporary African art by the artist.

### **Community Engaged Learning Initiative**

***\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually***

The DAAS Community Engaged Learning Initiative launched in 2011–12 to identify, strengthen, and highlight faculty research and teaching projects that move students beyond the classroom and into community spaces to foster civic responsibility and enact social change. Through a grant from the Center for Research, Learning and Teaching (CRLT), a new course on community engaged scholarship and action is being developed, as is a DAAS Race and Social Justice internship program for undergraduate students. Internships focus on:

- Public Health Education (fostering HIV/AIDS prevention in Detroit, South Africa, and Jamaica; as well as malaria prevention in Nigeria)



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- Detroit Studies (investigating and analyzing the history and current state of Detroit)
- Environmental Justice (identifying and combatting race, class, and gender concerns in local and global environmental issues)
- Mass Incarceration (studying and challenging the mass incarceration of people of color in American cities)

Additional funding is needed to support undergraduate scholarships for the residential Semester in Detroit program, travel by undergraduates to community sites, graduate student and staff assistance, and faculty research. Student scholarships for the Semester in Detroit are \$2,000 per student.

## **Caribbean Travel and Research Funds**

***\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually/ \$2,500 per student***

DAAS boasts a decade-long history of hosting study abroad trips to Africa and is committed to providing an increasing array of international and cross-cultural experiences for our students, who must be prepared to live and work in a complex global world. We are fortunate to hold gift funds designated for African projects that support student scholarships and faculty stipends for annual study abroad trips to countries such as South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya. DAAS would greatly benefit from a fund designated for Caribbean studies that parallels the fund for African studies, so that we might support student and faculty travel to the Caribbean, as well as visits to our department by Caribbean scholars.

## **Named Annual Lectures**

***\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually***

Three geographic sub-areas define the department's research and teaching: African studies, African American studies, and Caribbean studies. DAAS is seeking support for its two named lectures—the Zora Neale Hurston Lecture in African American Studies and the CLR James Lecture in Caribbean Studies—that are held annually, and also for the creation of a new lecture in African studies.

## **Graduate Program Feasibility Study**

***\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually***

The DAAS Graduate Studies Certificate Program has grown and currently has 17 students enrolled whose major courses of study are in other U-M departments. DAAS faculty members are currently engaged in strategic discussion about the feasibility of launching a graduate program or programs in African, Africana, and/or African American studies. DAAS would benefit greatly from a seed fund to support the exploration and development of an M.A. or Ph.D. program, including further internal preparation and planning, external consultation, and inaugural graduate student scholarships.



## **DAAS Music Salon**

***\$5,000 to \$10,000 annually***

The DAAS Music Salon was created to encourage informal talks, accessible to students and non-experts, about different musical genres as well as the poetic arts. Held in the Lemuel Johnson Center, a newly designated DAAS space for students, community, and the arts, the impetus behind the salon is the belief that people connect across cultures through the language of art. The strong tradition of music in Africa and its diasporas makes music the perfect catalyst for fostering creativity and connectivity for the department's various communities. DAAS would like to ensure the growth of the DAAS Music Salon to foster connection, inspiration, and intellectual improvisation in the unit and across the campus community.

### ***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.

### **[GIVE ONLINE NOW](#)**

Your one-time gift of any amount supports our programs and student experiences. We are working together to reimagine the world and create positive, purposeful change.

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## **CONTACT INFO**

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