



## Department of Comparative Literature

### THE POWER

The Department of Comparative Literature is a magnet for innovative research and teaching in graduate and undergraduate courses that encourage multilingual, international and interdisciplinary perspectives on literature and culture. Our faculty have joint appointments in Afroamerican and African Studies, History of Art, Asian Languages and Cultures, Classics, English, German, History, Near Eastern Studies, Romance Languages, Slavic Languages, Women's Studies, and other disciplines, as well as affiliations with area studies centers at the International Institute. In existence for over 70 years, we are one of the best-established centers for the study of comparative literature in the country. Today, our doctoral program is ranked in the top 10 of such programs nationally, and our undergraduate curriculum contributes to college-wide initiatives in international studies and translation studies.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Comparative Literature is building a solid foundation for translation studies at U-M. While academic interest in the theory and practice of translation is growing steadily, skilled translators are also in demand in publishing, business, international communication, science and technology, and in humanitarian contexts. We are introducing an undergraduate Minor in Translation Studies in 2014. This minor will give students across LSA an opportunity to learn about translation across various languages and disciplines and to pursue a capstone project that reflects engaged learning, interdisciplinary exploration, and internationalization. All students in the Department are well-prepared with substantial skills in analytical reading and argumentative writing, as well as with a firm grounding in literature and a broad understanding of the interrelationships among several literary traditions. Most of our graduate students go on to teaching and research in an academic setting, and two-thirds are in tenure-track positions within two years.

## THE IMPACT

We seek funding to support graduate students, for faculty to pursue research and teaching, and to enable U-M to play a leading role in defining the place of translation in American academia.

### **Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship in Critical Translation Studies**

*\$1.5M endowed/\$70,000 annually for 2 years*

We seek the resources to fund a two-year postdoctoral teaching fellowship in Critical Translation Studies, which would provide a unique opportunity for top candidates to participate in intellectual exchange with faculty and students at Michigan while contributing to the expansion of our curriculum. Since very few positions are offered at this level, an international search for a Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Translation Studies would immediately bring attention and prestige to U-M. The Postdoctoral Fellow would teach five courses over two years.

### **Innovation Fund**

*\$1.5M endowed*

An endowed fund could help support our curricular innovation in translation studies, through undergraduate translation projects, professionalization for graduate students, and a faculty seminar on pedagogies of translation. In addition, this fund would also be used to support the innovative work that our department has begun in connecting translation studies to new technologies and new media. During the Fall 2012 LSA Translation Theme Semester, we launched an interactive website that will continue as part of the “Translation at Michigan” programming. Some of our faculty are exploring collaborations with digital humanities—an important direction for future research and teaching in translation studies—and the University of Michigan is positioned to lead the way.



## **Named Prize in Literary Translation**

*\$25,000 endowed / \$1,000 annually*

We would like to expand our annual prize in literary translation to be able to provide two prizes of \$500 each for a literary translation submitted by a graduating senior. These prizes could be named after a donor, or in memory of distinguished alumni or professors in Comparative Literature at Michigan.

## **Graduate Translation Initiatives**

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

Gifts are needed to support professional development of graduate students who are pursuing projects in translation. Funds could be used to enable students to travel to collaborate with authors and/or professional translators, and to provide financial support for students who take the examination administered by the American Translators Association to acquire the Certified Translator (CT) Credential.

In conjunction with our future Graduate Certificate in Critical Translation Studies—which will combine comparative research on multiple histories, theories and practices of translation with critical reflections on the role of the literary translator—funding could enable students to gain a variety of opportunities to integrate translation studies into their doctoral research or their creative work. Also, funds would be used to recognize translators of exceptional promise through a substantial prize for literary translation in an annual contest open to graduate students from any program across the University. Support for translation projects will help us recruit prospective graduate students with strong language skills.

## **Faculty Seminar on Pedagogies of Translation**

*\$10,000 annually*

We would like to offer on a regular basis a faculty seminar on pedagogies of translation, in order to promote curricular development and ongoing discussions about critical issues in the translation classroom. Faculty will be able to collaborate across departments in coordinating courses that integrate new ideas and technologies in the rapidly expanding field of translation studies.

## **“Translation at Michigan” Programming Support**

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

Funding is needed to sponsor a regular series of visiting translators, who would read a work in progress to a broad audience and lead a translation workshop with students, or possibly serve as a translator-in-residence for a longer period of time. Visiting translators will raise the profile of “Translation at Michigan” and contribute to activities that students can pursue as part of the new Undergraduate Minor.



## Undergraduate Translation Projects

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

We seek funding for undergraduate translation projects as we launch the Minor in Translation Studies. Students could propose various kinds of projects that emphasize experiential learning — developing a translation project during study abroad, interning with organizations that specialize in translation, translating for community agencies or local businesses, and working with U-M faculty or staff on campus translation projects. While first priority would go to capstone projects proposed by students for the Minor in Translation Studies, all LSA students would be eligible to apply for Translation Projects. These experiences will help students integrate the LSA language requirement into their studies, deepen their study abroad experience, and provide new options for engaged learning. Gifts would enable the department to provide students with a stipend while they are working on translations.

## Undergraduate Activities Fund

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

Gifts will support a variety of campus co-curricular activities related to translation. During the LSA Translation Theme Semester, groups of three or more students applied for co-sponsorship of translation events on campus, such as guest speakers, discussion groups, panels, performances, student publications, exhibits, and film screenings. Students who received funding blogged about their event on the Theme Semester website. To encourage ongoing student involvement and highlight a wide range of ad hoc translation activities, our department would like to continue this open call for proposals and make funding available to co-sponsor student-initiated events. Support for a variety of activities will make translation more visible on campus, and encourage undergraduates to learn about possible careers related to translation.

### **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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## CONTACT INFO

### **LSA Advancement**

*College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

101 N. Main Street, Suite 850

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

P.734.615.6333 // F.734.647.3061

*lsa.umich.edu*

*lsa.umich.edu/complit*