The Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) is committed to the scholarly study of the region of South Asia, comprising the nations of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. CSAS draws over 45 faculty associates from units across the university, including the social sciences, the humanities, and the professional schools such as law, business, architecture, and public health. The rich cultural and historical heritage of this region has enabled scholarship to flourish over the years, as has its rising economic and political importance on the world stage.

The center’s mission is to promote a broader and deeper understanding of South Asia and its histories, cultures, and peoples. To advance its mission, CSAS promotes education, broadly, about South Asia by offering study abroad opportunities, helping to recruit international faculty, and by arranging visits by prominent scholars, artists, public officials, and others from the region. It also supports collaborative research projects with scholars and institutions throughout the world. CSAS supports and organizes educational and research programs in South Asia that help to make U-M a national leader in the field. To increase the impact of these scholarly activities, CSAS also organizes public programs for the university and broader community.

Unrestricted gifts of $10,000 to $50,000 annually to this fund permit the center to support ongoing programming: scholarly lectures, film series, student conferences, outreach to schools and other events and programs that further public knowledge and awareness of South Asia. Gifts of any amount increase the center’s ability to respond to new initiatives and needs as they emerge.
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT

Endowed or annual support of $10,000 to $50,000 annually for graduate student research would enable students to engage in field study and internships in South Asia, as well as to participate in professional conferences and present research findings.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

CSAS is a hub for the scholarly pursuit of inquiry into the region. We continue to attract the very best young students interested in the area. Finding ways to adequately support their education is more critical now than ever. We seek funding to support graduate students through fellowships for CSAS M.A. and departmental Ph.D. programs. An endowed gift of $1M or $50,000 annually would allow us to offer reliable support for students in a broad range of country and disciplinary fields, and to attract the very best students to the University of Michigan.

NAMED CENTER DIRECTORSHIP

The income from an endowed directorship will provide ongoing resources that will allow the director to initiate special and consequential projects on South Asia, including academic conferences, arts performances and scholarly and community programming. It also will allow for support to graduate student and faculty research at key moments when funds are needed for research travel or training. An investment of $2M to endow the directorship would provide center-sponsored programs the flexibility to address ongoing developments in this vibrant and quickly changing region of the world.

“With CSAS’ support, I’ve been able to engage both in and outside of the classroom, gaining experience from research projects abroad, advanced language courses, and participating in conferences and workshops at U-M. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities and mentorship granted to me, an experience unparalleled in other South Asian Studies programs.”

—Brittany Puller, Ph.D. Candidate, Asian Languages and Cultures
NAMED CENTER ENDOWMENT

An endowment of $10M to name the Center for South Asian Studies assures the future position of South Asian Studies at the university, with endowment income providing anchoring funds for academic programs, faculty and student research, and staff support. The center is the hub of a vibrant and wide-ranging community of scholars and students of South Asia at the university. CSAS provides national and international leadership for the training of the next generation of specialists on South Asia. It also organizes a range of public events with South Asian Studies content. Endowing and naming the center would be the most significant catalyst to ensuring that the center’s programs remain supported at the highest level for the future.

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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