

 **Priority #3: Researchers and teachers of tomorrow**

Our research-driven undergraduate curriculum, our public engagement endeavors, and our faculty's top reputation all depend on and are enriched by our highly regarded doctoral program in Germanic Studies. Recent gifts to the department have made it clear how important graduate studies in international humanities are today. You can build on those previous investments by strengthening our ability to fund the research of tomorrow's scholars.

More competitive **fellowship packages** will ensure the department continues to keep pace with our Big 10 and Ivy League peers in recruiting the most promising graduate students. Fellowships will provide critical research support for graduate students, providing travel funds to conduct primary research at the source and offering students time and resources to work during the summer months.

Because we are fully committed to the success of all our graduate students, including those pursuing a non-academic career path, we seek to expand offerings for graduate internships and workshops. Gifts to support **career diversification opportunities** would fund positions with a range of community partners.

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS
The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of GERMAN, NORDIC, SLAVIC & DUTCH
CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



In the upper Midwest, infused with a strong European immigrant heritage, the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic, and Dutch holds particular relevance in its research, teaching and outreach. The department is a community engaged in interdisciplinary, transnational cultural studies of central and northern Europe and the Slavic regions through the study of languages, literatures, and cultures.

Our research, teaching, and community engagement mobilize these rich cultures to address the complexities of global citizenship; today's complex media landscape; the role of art, culture and history in everyday lives; and our evolving understanding of human rights, migration and immigration, and political studies.

You can help further the mission of our department and create positive outcomes for students and our communities by investing in key priorities.



Priority #1: Faculty excellence

As Minnesota's land grant university, we have both a responsibility and a desire to put our advances to work, bettering our communities and the world. To do that, we must reach new levels of excellence by hiring and retaining top faculty, building on our traditional disciplinary strengths, and broadening our horizons for research and engagement.

Your gifts for new **endowed chairs and professorships** in Germanic, Nordic, Slavic, or Dutch studies will empower expanded research and curriculum in transnational subfields, such as media and visual studies, environmental humanities, race and indigenous populations, and cultural mediation.

Gifts for **visiting professors, artists in residence, and post-doctoral fellowships** would also enhance the curriculum for international humanities in innovative ways.

Charlotte Melin, professor and chair of the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch, lights up when she talks about the multidisciplinary nature of the Environmental Humanities Initiative (EHI)—and the inspiration it's yielding.



“There’s this catalyst effect; you discover there are other scholars in all sorts of different areas doing work that’s related to yours, and you can be in a very productive conversation with these people in completely different fields. You find yourself being much more creative in terms of research, in terms of teaching, and more involved in the public discourse.”

Melin feels strongly that the liberal arts and those who study them are essential to advancing environmental awareness and health. “If you look at what graduates of the humanities do, they are the leaders, whether they’re working in business or government or [academia] or the nonprofit sector,” Melin says. “They’re the ones who go out and change what’s happening in society. This is an opportunity to have a transformative impact—and I think it’s the right thing to do.”

Priority #2: Student success

Multinational experience transforms students. Immersion in another culture expands students’ cultural literacy and is a significant factor in determining whether students attain advanced proficiency in a foreign language. Not surprisingly, multinational experience is among the top criteria international employers seek.

Our department is fully committed to helping all students reach their greatest potential with a goal of sending abroad every one of our major, minor, or graduate students. Your gifts for **learning abroad scholarships** will help ensure this dream becomes a reality, especially for those students who need financial support the most.

Whether our students choose careers in medical fields, international relations, teaching, or research, their GNSD studies prepare them to be dynamic cross-cultural communicators, collaborators, and innovators. Gifts to support **experiential learning opportunities**—internships, volunteer projects, research partnerships, and symposia—help students grow these capacities and foster greater community engagement.

“I love that there is no end to your options here at the U,” says Lily Obeda. “It’s such a big school, but it’s like a choose-your-own-adventure novel; the story is not written for you. Especially in the case of the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch, you are allowed to take a huge number of electives and focus in on what it is that you want to learn.”

Obeda’s adventure? She just graduated with a double major with a Scandinavian & Finnish emphasis and speech-language-hearing sciences. She spent her college career connecting language and cultural studies with the scientific study of how language works.

“Once you find your passion and the piece of you that clicks, everything else falls into place.”

Obeda appreciates how her studies have prepared her to empathize with others and approach global problems from a perspective of openness. “Looking at an issue from multiple viewpoints can give students a much more well-rounded way of problem-solving and critical thinking,”



A distinguished scholar, Obeda received the Finnish Connection Scholarship, the Edelstein Family Foundation Scholarship, the Mary Ann Wilson Hansen Scholarship in Scandinavian Studies, and the Warren C. Locke - Post Office American Legion Post No 540 Scholarship during her time in CLA.