Rackham Student Government Funding Application

Organization Name: Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association (MAGA)
SOAS Account #: U030063 / 933356
Registered with MSA? Yes No

Primary Contact Name: Michael Prentice
Title: Treasurer / Conference Chair
Email: mprentic@umich.edu
Phone: 845-664-4834

Secondary Contact Name: Leigh Stuckey Saris
Title: Conference Student Advisor
Email: lstuckey@umich.edu
Phone: 734-764-7274

Please check any of the following that describe your organization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic/Professional</th>
<th>X</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts/Expression (Visual, Performance, and/or Exhibition)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural/Ethnic</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
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<td>Political</td>
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<td>Publications/Journalism</td>
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<td>Religious</td>
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<td>Science/Technical</td>
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<td>Social Justice</td>
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Describe the overall purpose/mission of your organization and the planned initiatives and activities intended to uphold said objective(s).

The Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association (MAGA) is an organization of devoted anthropology graduate students. All graduate students within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan receive automatic membership. Formed in 2000, MAGA works for the following purposes:

- To support and facilitate student initiatives
- To provide an official forum to air and address student concerns
- To provide an institutionalized and collective voice to present student concerns with departmental policies and procedures to faculty and administrative staff
- To disseminate pertinent departmental information
- To encourage mentoring relationships with faculty and among graduate students

This year we are holding our third annual “Four Field Conference,” a two-day academic conference for graduate students to present their research, receive feedback from faculty, engage with distinguished speakers in the field, and build bridges across sub-disciplines around a common theme.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”. 
# of active student members: 80
# of graduate student members: 80

Average attendance at group meetings (Board, committee, event planning, etc.): 25
Average attendance at similar events: 30
Average graduate student attendance at similar events: 30

How often does your group meet? 2/month

Does your group charge dues to members? Yes No

Do all of your activities/events take place on campus? If yes, where do you prefer to hold your programs? If not, where else do they take place?
Yes; We hold our programs in Anthropology Department space in West Hall.

Does your group engage in political activity, i.e., electoral, partisan, etc.? If so, describe this activity.
We do not engage in political activities outside of supporting the GEO.

Does your group engage in lobbying efforts? If so, describe these efforts.
We do not engage in lobbying efforts.

Does your group work with any University department or other student organizations in any capacity? If so, please describe this collaboration.
We work very closely with the Department of Anthropology in a number of capacities. Graduate student representatives from each of the sub-disciplines attend all faculty meetings, and we also have a representative on the department Executive Committee. We are able to input feedback on new hire decisions.

We also promote faculty and graduate student collaborations through our “Meals-With-Professors” program, grant-writing workshops, and faculty-led professionalization workshops.

Through our annual conference, we provide the opportunity for faculty and students to interact in conference setting, and for students to receive feedback from Department professors on their research.

Is your group affiliated with a national, parent, and/or umbrella organization? If so, please describe this relationship and how it plays a role in your organization's functioning.
We are not affiliated with any national organization.

What is your yearly budget? What % of your budget have you set aside for this event?
Our annual budget is $3,850. Of that, we have allotted $2,300 for the conference. We anticipate our costs for the conference to now be $2,700 in order to bring Professor Silk from UCLA.

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Event Description

Event name: Annual Four Field Graduate Conference
Event date(s): March 16-17 2012
Event location: Ann Arbor Michigan, Department of Anthropology

1. Briefly describe this event. What is its overall purpose?
   The annual Four Field Graduate Conference brings together students from all four fields of anthropology – sociocultural, biological, archeological and linguistic – for a gathering each spring to share research around topics common to all. Its overall purpose is to bridge disciplinary gaps and foster new relationships, while providing a professionalized environment for academic presentations.
   Each year we invite graduate students (candidates and pre-candidates) to present their research and receive comments from Michigan faculty members. This year we have decided to invite two keynote speakers on the year's selected theme of “Kinship.”

2. Describe how this event will affect our campus and the graduate student body.
   We have chosen a topic this year – kinship – that we think will appeal to a broad number of disciplines and research interests. Every year our conference takes up the issues of sociality versus biology in discussing human culture and evolution, issues that have been in constant debate in academia for hundreds of years. Additionally, we promote the event to undergraduates in introductory Anthropology courses to introduce them to current research in the field and the possibilities of continued studies in Anthropology.

3. Describe how this event will include other groups or departments.
   Anthropology students regularly engage with students and faculty in other departments and this conference was designed to appeal to research across numerous disciplines. Including joint-degree programs in Social Work and History, our students regularly collaborate with those in Linguistics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology and area centers, such as the Center for Japanese Studies, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, and many others. Each year, the conference attracts graduate students from these various fields, and we welcome abstracts from all relevant disciplines.

4. With which other groups or departments are you sponsoring this event, if any?
   We have only received funding from the Department of Anthropology. RSG would be the main listed sponsor on our event poster.

5. If your organization is traveling, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community.
   We are not traveling.

6. If your organization is purchasing food, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Also, where are you ordering from and what is the approximate food cost/attendee?
   We are providing three meals – dinner, breakfast and lunch – as well as coffee at our event. We find that providing food helps encourage students and faculty to come and is also a key site for socializing among students and faculty after presentations where more in-depth discussions can take place.
   We order food from local vendors like Jerusalem Garden, Espresso Royale, and Madras Masala.

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7. If your organization is bringing a speaker, performer, DJ, photographer (or any other paid individual for services rendered), explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Please explain how the amount he or she will be paid was determined based on similar services. Additionally, attach a short biography to the end of this application.

We have secured two speakers for the event. One is a professor from UCLA, Joan Silk, an eminent anthropologist who specializes in primate kinship and social behavior. We have also asked a UM anthropology professor, Gillian Feeley-Harnik, who is one of the leading cultural anthropologists in the field of kinship studies, to give a talk. By having professors from two sides – one representing the biological approach, the other a cultural approach – as well as one from UM and one from another university, we believe we are providing a rich frame for our conference that will attract a diversity of students from a broad range of disciplines.

8. If your organization is applying for capital goods (anything that can be reused after the event has taken place), explain why such goods are integral to the event.

We are not applying for capital goods.

9. Who is eligible to participate? (Keep in mind the more diverse the graduate student participation, the more likely RSG will fund)

All graduate and undergraduate students at UM are invited to attend the conference, and it is open to the public. We have also invited graduate students from 20 Midwest universities to submit papers. Our call-for-papers was sent to students in all of the social sciences at UM as well.

10. How many participants do you expect? What % of those participants do you expect to be graduate students?

We expect about 125 participants, and about 75 of those to be graduate students. We expect 25 faculty, as well as 25 undergraduates.

11. Are your date and location confirmed? Yes No

12. Will you charge admission? Yes No

If so, how much per person?

13. Will this be donated to charity? Yes No

If yes, what percentage will be donated?

14. How do you intend to advertise, in particular to graduate students?

We have already issued our call-for-papers to a broad range of graduate students in related fields at UM. Two months before the event, we will begin putting up posters in departments around campus and emailing flyers. We also have a website set up. (http://sitemaker.umich.edu/maga/dynamic_kinship_2012)

15. To what other funding bodies have you applied and/or have received funds from? Please note each funding body here, the amount for which you applied, the amount that was granted, and to what purpose you intend to put those allocated funds. Requests of funding for the majority of events cost solely to RSG will rarely be fully funded, please seek out additional funding sources as well.

Outside of our original funding we have not applied to other funding

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organizations.

16. If RSG does not fully fund your event in the amount requested, how do you intend to cover those costs? Will the event still be held?

   The event will still be held, however, to accommodate Professor Silk’s visit, we will have to cut into our food budget, which will likely negatively effect attendance and participation, as well as hurt our reputation for putting on a professional conference.
Event Budget

List all expenses. Please use the notes section below each category to explain costs in greater detail. Be sure to cover ALL costs, not just those you are asking RSG for funding for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from RSG</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advertising &amp; Publicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Posters/fliers</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Office supplies (please specify): Packets, pens for conference attendees</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Printing &amp; Publications</strong></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities &amp; Equipment Rental</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Equipment (please specify):</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Room rental</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Speaker honorarium</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Speaker travel</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Speaker lodging</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other: Non-conference meals</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Travel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lodging</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transportation</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vehicle Rental</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<td>• Gas</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<td><strong>Capital Goods</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• T-shirts</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food:</strong></td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other:</strong></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$2700</td>
<td>$400</td>
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</tbody>
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Please remember to attach a mock-up version of the flier, publication, or t-shirt design with the RSG logo or “Sponsored by the Rackham Student Government” statement to your application.

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The Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association invites graduate students in all four fields of anthropology and related programs to address the seminal question of kinship in our third annual Four Field Conference held on March 16-17, 2012.

We are seeking research papers that explore the study of kinship in innovative ways: as it is constructed and unmade, emergent and embedded, rooted in the past and oriented to the future. How are the boundaries of kinship defined, rehearsed, and enacted? What differences are made between biological kin and other forms of relatedness? What lines are drawn between humans and other species? What constitutes the substance of kinship? How is kinship tied to space and place?

A wide range of topics are welcome. Examples include:
- Kinship regulation and adoption
- Terms of endearment and honorifics
- Kinship in the digital age
- Primate kinship structures
- Burial and birth rituals
- Exchange, inheritance and political economy
- Migration, memory and extended kin networks
- Iconographies of kinship
- Housing kin and kin houses

Abstract submissions are due Friday, January 6, 2012.
Please email abstracts to fourfieldconference@umich.edu

Please include:
1. Title of presentation,
2. University, department & subfield affiliation
3. Abstract of 250 words or less

Students will have 15 minutes to present their papers. If abstracts are accepted, complete papers will be due March 1. The conference is free to attend and presenters will be hosted by current UM graduate students. Meals during the conference will be free for all attendees.

For any questions or inquiries, please email fourfieldplanning@umich.edu
**Professor Joan Silk**  
*From her webpage:*

“*I am interested in how natural selection shapes the evolution of social behavior in primates. Most of my empirical work has focused on the behavioral and reproductive strategies of female baboons (*Papio cynocephalus, P. ursinus*). Recent work documents the adaptive benefits females derive from close social bonds.*

*I am particularly interested in questions that explicitly link studies of nonhuman primates to humans. Experimental work conducted with chimpanzees and children focuses on the phylogenetic origins and ontogenetic development of prosocial preferences.*”

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**Professor Gillian Feeley-Harnik**  
*From her webpage:*

“*Gillian Feeley-Harnik is the Kathleen Gough Collegiate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her areas of ethnographic and archival research include Madagascar (since 1971), the United States (since 1994) and Great Britain (since 1998). She is also interested in the history and anthropology of the Bible and biblically inspired religions in the Jewish and Christian diasporas and beyond. Her research in these areas has been published in many articles and books, including *A Green Estate: Restoring Independence in Madagascar* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), *The Lord’s Table: The Meaning of Food in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2nd ed., 1994), and two books in progress: comparative studies of Charles Darwin and Lewis Henry Morgan, their kin and co-workers, focusing on popular ideas and practices concerning kinship and ecology, religion and science. These are tentatively entitled: “The Art of Propagating Life: Charles Darwin and the Pigeon-Breeders of London” and "Lewis Henry Morgan and the American Beaver." This current work is based mainly on archival research in Great Britain and the U.S., but includes some ethnographic work in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (and some forays into the work of British missionary-botanists in Madagascar). Morgan, Darwin’s American contemporary, was the founder of the comparative study of kinship, and through kinship, the founder of anthropology in the U.S. Both Darwin and Morgan argued that "descent is the hidden bond of connection" linking all forms of life (Darwin’s words). Both drew on biblical language to articulate social, biological, and moral concerns they hoped to resolve through science. The goal of the research is to illuminate how people grasp the "mystery of life" in their everyday social practices, in reckoning who is kin to them, how they are connected to other creatures living and dead, and how popular practices of kinship and ecology in nineteenth-century Great Britain and America contributed to the life sciences of biology and anthropology.*”

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