

The Annual Fund at Work

2010

The Annual Fund comprises gifts that support each facet of the Sweet Briar College experience and provide annual budget support to the entire College. Unrestricted Annual Fund gifts are crucial to the success and growth of the College. The Annual Fund supports basic necessities such as salaries for faculty and staff, academic programs, utility bills, office supplies, maintenance, and other less exciting costs associated with the operations of the College. In addition, it also makes the planning possible for significant campus priorities and new initiatives.

In order to understand the importance of the Annual Fund to the budget of the College, the data below give some specific examples of how gifts to the Annual Fund are applied. This list is not exhaustive but is only meant to be illustrative. These data were gathered from several sources, including the Dean's Office, several academic departments, Co-Curricular Life, Admissions, Athletics, and others.

- ◆ \$700 allows one student to present her work at a national conference.
- ◆ \$200 to \$4,000 provides one subscription to an academic database that provides the most up-to-date scholarship in a field of study.
- ◆ \$250 purchases one electronic subject encyclopedia from Oxford University Press.
- ◆ \$7,000 underwrites the technical needs for one theater production.
- ◆ \$500 is the average support provided for each senior research project in the sciences.
- ◆ \$2,000 provides a data projector for one classroom.
- ◆ \$12,000-\$20,000 funds a Babcock Season event.
- ◆ \$300 brings a guest artist to campus to work in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program.
- ◆ \$5,000-\$6,000 funds faculty / student research for eight weeks during the summer for intensive one-on-one faculty / student mentoring.
- ◆ \$80,000 will purchase a new GC Mass Spectrometer which is a current need in the sciences.
- ◆ \$120 provides a day of peer tutoring in the Academic Resource Center.
- ◆ \$1,500 covers the cost of the stipend for one foreign-language tutor for one year.
- ◆ \$1,000 provides one student with a work/study job for the year, which for many is an important source of financial aid. (70 percent of current students have work study jobs.)

- ◆ \$6,800 is the average gap between financial aid award of actual need per student, per year.
- ◆ \$900 on average covers the costs of an athletic team traveling to one away game.
- ◆ \$5,000 will refurbish a typical classroom. (Many classrooms in Benedict, for example, were last refurbished in **1976**.)
- ◆ \$4,500 underwrites the Late Night Vixen Programs to enhance student life.
- ◆ \$5,000 covers the cost of the Annual Student Leadership Conference at Sweet Briar.
- ◆ \$5,500 covers the cost of recruiting one student to enrollment. (This figure is calculated per enrolled student and includes the costs of recruiting, mailings, travel, open houses, staff, etc.)
- ◆ \$600-\$1,700 provides the supplies and specimens for one biology lab for one semester. (This figure is for supplies and specimens only and does not account for the cost of instruction, permanent equipment, technicians, or student assistants.)
 - \$1,700 for Genetics
 - \$1,250 for The Plant Kingdom
 - \$1,350 for Comparative Vertebrate Morphology
- ◆ The campus network is all new and wireless all over campus on a single system. This new system increases the capacity of the network by 1,000 fold with an investment of only \$500 per user.

In a time of underperforming funds, the Annual Fund provides vital support in helping to underwrite student scholarships in tough economic times. Here are a few interesting facts to bring the importance of scholarship support into focus.

- ◆ 93 percent of all students receive some form of merit or need based aid.
- ◆ \$21,016 is the average award for need based aid including scholarships and grants but not parent loans.
- ◆ \$7,460,543 was awarded in institutional scholarships and grants in 2009.
- ◆ The current comprehensive fee at Sweet Briar is \$39,795 and the *cost* per student is \$52,017. That means that a student paying full tuition with no assistance still only pays 77 percent of the total cost of her Sweet Briar experience per year.

Hopefully this information will help to explain just how important support for the Annual Fund is to the College – to her programs, her students, her faculty and staff, her facilities, and her future. If you have any questions or wish to receive more information, please contact Laura Glover, Director of Annual Giving, at 434-381-6268, toll free at 1-888-846-5722, or via email at lglover@sbc.edu. Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund – **EVERY GIFT IS IMPORTANT!**

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