



# 2010 ANNUAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

*“Securing Brighter Futures”  
Since 1952*



## VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Since 1952, the VFIC has been raising money to strengthen the 15 leading independent colleges in the Commonwealth and has helped to ensure that access to independent higher education in Virginia remains an affordable option for students from all backgrounds and levels of financial need. Through the 2010 Annual Campaign for Academic Excellence, **the VFIC secured more than \$2.9 million** as a result of the generosity of the VFIC’s corporate, foundation and individual partners. On average, **the VFIC distributed \$132,000 to each of the Member Colleges** to be used for scholarships, educational student and faculty programs, capital improvements, library enhancements and so much more. To see first-hand how charitable allocations to the VFIC are being put to use, we have provided some highlights from the 2010 campaign.

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generous support of donors interested in providing financial aid for need-based students, the VFIC this year provided over **\$1 million in scholarships to 632 students**. For many of these students, an education at an independent college such as those in the VFIC would not be an option without financial aid, so our donors can take pride in having a tangible impact on so many deserving students.

### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

**Twelve students were provided summer science research fellowships** through the VFIC, enabling each of these young men and women to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor on a significant scientific research project. The projects included topics like “Antioxidant Activity and Phenolics Content of Selected Red Grape Varietals” to the “Evaluation of the Strength and Specificity of the Binding Interaction between the LL37 Peptide and DNA using an Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay.”

### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The VFIC distributed grants to **15 faculty members to pursue scholarly research in their respective fields of study**. Projects ranged from the “Analysis of Ion Channels from Simple Nervous Systems” to “Latinization of the Southern Visual Landscape.” These projects are very important to the faculty members and to the colleges, as the projects reinvigorate faculty about their field of study – and this excitement (and new knowledge) is transmitted back to the classroom, so students are the ultimate beneficiaries.

### MINORITY STUDENT ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Through our New Horizons program, the VFIC works closely with high school “college prep” programs such as Richmond’s Partnership for the Future, to provide access to our colleges. Currently, **19 PFF Graduates are attending VFIC institutions and receiving scholarship support** as a result of VFIC partners.

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## TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

More than \$220,000 was distributed to the member colleges to help with technology and capital improvements. The majority of the projects focused on improving accessibility to campus buildings and providing new equipment and technology to enhance the educational departments on the campuses.



## LIBRARY ENHANCEMENTS

Each of the 15 member colleges received VFIC grants to provide library acquisitions and enhancements. These dollars represent an investment in providing quality educational resources for the campus libraries which serve students, faculty and the general public.



## ETHICS BOWL

More than 175 students, faculty, business and civic leaders and special guests attended the 11th Annual VFIC Ethics Bowl at the University of Richmond. Seventy-five students represented all fifteen member institutions on teams to discuss case studies based on current-day ethical dilemmas centered on the topic of Education. Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk serves as host college for the 2011 Ethics Bowl. The theme will be "Ethics and Privacy."

## CAREER WORKFORCE

Since the official launch date in January 2008, CAREER15 has become the best way for Corporate HR recruiters to reach students at the VFIC's 15 private liberal arts colleges. Central to the program is the web site through which HR recruiters can connect with students about internships and full-time jobs, and coordinate events for students to meet employers. This past year, the VFIC awarded grants to each of the 15 member colleges to aid their Career Development offices. At the end of FY10, more than 2,532 students and more than 100 companies had registered on the CAREER15 web site: [www.vfic.org/career15.html](http://www.vfic.org/career15.html).



## THE MISSION OF THE VFIC

*The mission of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) is to advance the distinctive values and strengths of 15 small, independent undergraduate liberal arts colleges in Virginia. We do this by securing financial support from the private sector, increasing visibility, facilitating innovative and collaborative initiatives between the colleges, and supporting initiatives which ensure that this personalized educational experience remains an affordable choice for tomorrow's citizen-leaders.*

## MEMBER COLLEGES

Bridgewater College  
Emory & Henry College  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hollins University  
Lynchburg College

Mary Baldwin College  
Marymount University  
Randolph College  
Randolph-Macon College  
Roanoke College

Shenandoah University  
Sweet Briar College  
University of Richmond  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Washington and Lee University