



OFFICE OF
PARENTSPROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STUDENT LIFE

Request for Funding Proposals
Sponsored by the Office of Parents Programs

Each year, parents of University of South Carolina students donate money to the Parents Annual Fund, which is sponsored by the Office of Parents Programs. The money is used to fund programs to benefit undergraduate students at the university.

The Parents Annual Fund annually supports Dinner Dialogues, a program that increases the interaction between faculty members and their undergraduate students beyond the classroom. The Office of Parents Programs reimburses faculty members up to \$10 per student when they invite their undergraduate classes into their homes for dinner. Dinner Dialogues helps break down the barriers that exist between students and their professors. After the dinners, students often find it easier to ask questions in class or visit their professor during office hours because they've gotten to know their professor during a visit to the professor's home. Students express positive feedback about the program and enjoy the opportunity for a home-cooked meal while seeing what their professors' lives are like outside of teaching.

Last year, the Parents Annual Fund provided funding for upgrades to a student lounge area in the third floor of the Russell House University Union to provide more space for studying and socializing; technology improvements for the conference room shared by Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research and Fellowships and Scholar Programs to assist with presentations about these offices, getting students/staff ready for study-abroad trips, etc.; and digital video cameras and laptops for University 101 to allow students enrolled in the courses to make films and edit them. This year, students used them to make films related to the First-Year Reading Experience book *No Impact Man*.

In the past, the Parents Annual Fund has funded projects such as a van for community service activities, a sound system for Rutledge Chapel, training materials for Pre-Professional Advising, equipment for weight-loss programs sponsored by Campus Wellness, upgrades to the waiting room and common space in the Counseling and Human Development Center, lights for the intramural fields beside the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center and upgrades to technology in the Career Center. The Parents Annual Fund will continue to support Dinner Dialogues annually.

For 2012, the Office of Parents Programs is offering up to \$30,000 in available funding through the Parents Annual Fund, which can fund one or more projects. The project(s) must be one-time capital expenditures with high visibility and broad-based student appeal focusing on current undergraduate students at the University of South Carolina. This funding **cannot** be used for operating or on-going expenses or programs. Proposals to start a program which will need future funding will not be reviewed. The money for the project must be spent by September 1, 2012.

To be considered for this funding from the Parents Annual Fund, please submit a proposal to the Office of Parents Programs (by email or campus mail to Russell House, Suite 115) by **Monday, Feb. 27, 2012**. The proposal should explain the project in detail, its impact on and benefit for undergraduate students at Carolina and a detailed cost estimate for this one-time capital expense. For more information, contact Melissa Gentry, director of parents programs, at 777-5937 or mfgentry@sc.edu.