Many donors give generously to Tusculum College over numerous years, often through their entire lives or through bequests. Benefactors are donors, past and present, whose generosity has reached or exceeded $1 million through their cumulative gifts and pledges. The Benefactors of Tusculum College are listed in chronological order.

Nettie Fowler McCormick and family
Nettie Fowler McCormick was Tusculum College’s first benefactor. Her generosity included construction of five campus buildings in the late 1800s and early 1900s: McCormick Hall, Welty-Craig Hall, Virginia Hall, named for her daughter; Rankin Hall, originally called Gordon Hall in honor of McCormick’s son, and Haynes Hall. She also provided the furnishings of Virginia and Haynes halls and made possible the College’s purchase of land for the President’s House and the acreage used for the short-lived College Farm in 1915.

William L. Tredway ’33
His lifelong commitment to the College culminated with a gift that exceeded $1 million through his bequest after his death in 1985. An attorney by profession, he was an active member of the Alumni Association and served on such groups as the College’s Development Council. Mr. Tredway was also interested in his hometown of Chester, N.J., and its history. He served as counsel for the Town of Chester. His sense of duty and obligation, and his character as a kind and gentle man, were praised by all who knew him.

Harriet Reaves Neff ’21
Mrs. Neff remained dedicated to her Alma Mater throughout her life, serving as a trustee until her death in 1989. She taught French at the College in the 1920s and her legacy is reflected through a Chair of Fine Arts and two scholarships that were established in her name. Education was a priority of Mrs. Neff and in addition to Tusculum, she was also a generous benefactor to Tennessee Wesleyan College and Emory & Henry College. A talented actress, she became a strong supporter of Abingdon’s Barter Theatre and the Little Theatre in Greeneville.

Edna Tate Smith
The late Mrs. Smith served on the College’s Board of Trustees. Her father, Albert Columbus Tate, was the valedictorian of the class of 1894. In recognition of her gifts to the College, the library was renamed in her father’s honor when it was rededicated in 1991. Mrs. Smith was an active member of the Board of Trustees and a supporter of the introduction of the block system at the College. In her home community of Tallahassee, Fla., she served on the boards of the Tallahassee YMCA and the Tallahassee Music Guild and was financial advisor to the Tallahassee Little Theater.

Scott M. Niswonger ’87 H’06
Dr. Niswonger is the College’s most generous Benefactor. His gifts have supported many endeavors on campus, including the commons building, the library expansion and renovation, and the sports complex, which has his philosophy inscribed – “Learn, Earn and Return.” His Niswonger Foundation provides opportunities for individual and regional growth through educational programs, scholarships and other charitable activities. He is an active member of the Board of Trustees and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.
Stanley R. Welty, Jr. ’51 H’05
Dr. Welty’s dedication and commitment to Tusculum College was evident not only by his gifts but also his many years of leadership on the Board of Trustees. He was a Distinguished Service Award Winner and held an honorary doctorate from his Alma Mater. He served for several years as the chair of the Board of Trustees. His contributions to the College were recognized with the renaming of Craig Hall to Welty-Craig Hall. At the renaming ceremony, he provided a surprise donation of the original 1892 construction cost of the residence hall ($8,533.96) to be used for residence hall needs on campus.

Stella Lawing Percy ’30
A resident of Virginia Hall when she was a student, the late Mrs. Percy was instrumental in the building’s renovation and reopening in the 1990s. She served on the Board of Trustees and was a recipient of the Pioneer Award and the Distinguished Service Award. The reception area in Virginia Hall is named in her honor. She served on the Board of Trustees in the 1990s. Through her estate, Mrs. Percy left a generous bequest to the College with instructions that it be used for capital projects and to create an endowed scholarship for students from her native Greene County.

Francis J. Nanarone ’52
Students for many years to come will benefit from the generosity of Mr. Nanarone, whose estate gift established an endowed scholarship fund after his death in 2002. A classroom in the Thomas J. Garland Library is named in his memory and his portrait hangs nearby. Mr. Nanarone came to Tusculum as a student after serving in the military during World War II and was an active student. After graduation, Mr. Nanarone began a career in the civil service in New Jersey, and although he had not returned to campus since 1953, he kept an strong interest in the College in his latter years.

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation
The Whitehead Foundation has supported the College for more than 35 years with scholarship grants for deserving female students from the Southeast. It was created by Conkey Pate Whitehead as a memorial to his mother, an accomplished business-woman and philanthropist. Lettie Pate Whitehead was one of the first women to serve on the board of directors of a major American corporation. She served as a director of the Coca-Cola Company for almost 20 years. Her generosity included support of colleges, orphanages and religious organizations.

Hubert C. “H.C.” Smith, Jr. ’53
The late Mr. Smith maintained a lifelong interest in his Alma Mater and he faithfully supported it. His estate gift is providing scholarships for present and future Tusculum College students. Mr. Smith attended Tusculum after serving in the U.S. Navy and suffering a serious injury that limited his mobility for the remainder of his life. However, that injury did not hinder him from having a positive attitude and determination to live an active life. He credited his Tusculum education as providing the knowledge and skills he needed to financially manage his farm.

Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Inc.
The Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Endowed Work-Study Fund provides work-study opportunities for Tusculum students and also provides latitude to assist middle-income families who do not qualify for federal financial aid. The Foundation has supported the College for more than four decades. It was founded n 1950 through the will of Charles A. Frueauff, a successful New York attorney who gave his time and resources to many New York charitable organizations. In addition to education, the Foundation provides funding for human service organizations, hospitals and health agencies.

Verna June Meen
The new science and math facility at Tusculum College will bear the name of Mrs. Meen and her late husband, Dr. Ronald H. Meen. Mrs. Meen made the gift in memory of her husband, who was an organic chemist for Eastman Chemical in Kingsport and held a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Toronto. Mrs. Meen was a “pioneer,” attending college at Indiana University at a time when few women attended and then entering the professional field as an accountant when not many women were working in those types of positions.