The Wesson Idea Fund provides resources for students to pursue independent learning projects that enrich their Colby-Sawyer experience. Students write a grant proposal outlining their goals and timeline, create a budget, and explain how they plan to share their experiences with the college community.

Two Tibets: In Search of Many Truths
Idea Fund project by Kylie Daly ’13 and Yujia “Echo” Wang ’13

“My research partner Echo and I thought the best way to gain a more objective understanding of the Tibetan situation would be to talk to as many people with as many perspectives on the issue as possible. There is a significant Tibetan refugee population in Nepal and India, and we knew that talking to both the refugee and the host populations in these countries would be invaluable to our research. I had planned to spend almost all my savings on a plane ticket to China but the grant we received from the Wesson Idea Fund made extended travel into India and Nepal possible.

“When we returned everyone was eager to hear about our travels. We brought the issues of sovereignty and the refugee situation to the attention of the Colby-Sawyer community; we initiated an important conversation.”

– Kylie Daly

Echo and Kylie with Nepalese women who shared their culture in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Program Highlights

- The Wesson Honors Program offers academic, cultural and social opportunities for the most motivated and capable Colby-Sawyer students who combine a solid work ethic and natural ability with intellectual curiosity.

- To graduate with an Honors Certificate, a student must complete the Honors Pathway sequence in the first and second years (6 credit hours), three additional Honors courses (9 credit hours), or two Honors courses and one Honors contract (9 credit hours), and an Honors Component to their major Capstone course and the Honors Capstone Seminar (1 credit hour).

- The Idea Fund, an initiative of the Wesson Honors Program to support independent student research, awards several grants each year that have supported projects such as a student who tested American teaching methods in a Chinese school; a pair of students who explored relations between China, Tibet, Nepal and India; and organic beekeeping.

- Wesson Honors Program members are committed to taking on leadership roles in a community of scholars and participating as catalysts for inquiry and discussion across the college.

- The Honors Suite in Colgate Hall provides an airy, colorful space with computers and wireless internet access where honors students can study and gather 24 hours a day.

Please return the enclosed card with your decision about participating in the Wesson Honors Program by March 1. Due to limited space, students are placed in the program and awarded Wesson Honors Scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis.

“The impertinent question—the glory and engine of human inquiry—that is the question we privilege in our Honors Program.” — Humanities Professor Ann Page Stecker, program coordinator