

Fall 2010

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MERITUS
COLLEGEFUND
BRIDGING THE GAP
TO HIGHER EDUCATION

MERITUS
CONNECTIONS

Back- to- School



Meritus scholars consider themselves lucky; they can count on four years of scholarship funding and one-on-one guidance in a turbulent educational landscape. As tuition continues to rise, Meritus scholarships allow students to bank on covering a portion of their tuition with a specific amount each term. Scholars also know that they have access to a resource network that includes mentors, campus buddies and personal coaches who provide academic guidance and financial aid advice tailored to each student's specific need.

The college landscape has become tricky to navigate. A recent article in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) points to the situation in California. It notes that public colleges are facing economic challenges that have forced them to lay off staff and lecturers, increase tuition, cut courses, freeze hiring, and borrow. In 1990, California ranked above the national average in the proportion of 25-34 year olds who held a Bachelors degree or higher. By 2008, this was no longer the case. And while need-based scholarships continue to provide low-income youth with funding for college, tuition increases of 32% in at the University of California and 40% at the California State Universities over the last year-and-a-half have had a significant impact on our students. This is a sobering reality for all of us concerned about college access for underserved populations and their ability to persevere in the face of challenges to realizing their educational goals. Our scholars need our help now more than ever!

Managing Tuition Increases: One Scholar Reflects



As we all learn to make ends meet in this challenging economic climate, so, too, must our scholars. For many, options are limited. Here is a first hand perspective from a 2008 Meritus scholar:

As my second year of college started, there was a big change in the University of California system. Trying to make up for budget cuts, the UC Regents approved a system wide tuition increase of thirty-two percent that was implemented in the winter quarter of 2010. This tuition increase was one of the challenges I had to face while in school. As my school fees increased, I was left with less

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Join Us!

Help a low-income graduate of San Francisco public schools access and succeed in college through financial support, coaching, and mentoring

[Pledge Now!](#)
[Donate Now!](#)

Learn More!

[Join us](#) at a fall reception for prospective donors and learn more about Meritus, its mission, its scholars, and its programs. Bring a friend!

Be a Mentor!

Join us!

To find out more, contact Ana Moraga at 415.400.8650 or via email at ana@meritusfund.org

Upcoming Events

FALL MENTOR NIGHT

Join fellow mentors to share successes and challenges and to deepen to our understanding of goal setting.

Where: Mission Center Building 1855 Folsom Street (cross 15th St), Room 126

When: Tuesday, October 19th, 6pm-7:30pm

[RSVP here!](#)

ALUMNI CIRCLE EVENT

Join fellow Meritus alumns at a community service event

money to allocate to housing, books, and food. For the last two quarters of the academic year I borrowed books from the library to avoid the cost of buying them, and I lived more cheaply. The tuition increase required me to supplement my scholarship money even more. I worked during the school year, and I have applied to more scholarships for the next academic year. I know I will have to deal with the tuition increase for the remainder of my undergraduate schooling, but I plan to be better prepared to adjust to the increased costs.

hosted by the Meritus Alumni Circle ! In order to build community among alumni and give back to our communities, restore a habitat in Bayview Hunters Point in San Francisco. Where: Heron's Head Park, Jennings St. at Cargo Way, SF When: Saturday, October 23rd, 9:30am - 12:30pm RSVP [here!](#)



Mentors on a Roll!

Mentoring at Meritus focuses on the key transition points where our youth face heightened risk of poor grades, leaves of absence and other short-term problems. We have learned to address these through a palette of flexible and individually tailored support services.

Twenty-three new recruits - among them Meritus alumni! - joined the mentor ranks this spring. Each mentor/mentee pair scheduled a minimum of three face-to-face activities this summer. Leading off with the Awards Ceremony in May, Meritus also helped facilitate a picnic in July and provided complimentary baseball tickets generously donated by the As and Giants (go teams!). Mentors were supported through training, goal setting activities and, now, during the year, with newsletters, tips, and workshops. Lastly, to ensure that Meritus is positioned to assess the progress of its scholars from various angles, mentors loop back to staff with quarterly updates.



Because one size does not fit all, Meritus scholars are matched with "buddies" - older Meritus scholars on their college campus - who act as ambassadors and help our freshmen learn the campus ropes. And career mentors make themselves available to scholars for informational interviews providing insights into a particular profession or company that might offer a career opportunity. [Please join](#) us as we meet the individual needs of our scholars.

Quick Links

- [Meritus College Fund](#)
- [Become a Donor](#)
- [Become a Mentor](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Meritus Donor, Marilu Klar, respected internationally for her knowledge of fine pearl and jade jewelry, celebrated her 50 years with Gump's, the iconic San Francisco retailer. Industry representatives, colleagues and friends gathered to honor Marilu Klar on July 12th with a glamorous dinner in the famous store that remains her base of operations after a half-century. To read more [click here](#).



Marilu Klar

In honor of her years of service, friends and colleagues donated over \$5,000, and Marilu chose Meritus to be the recipient of their generosity. Funds will be applied to Meritus' mentoring program. The program connects scholars with volunteers who are able to provide individualized support to help with the transition to and perseverance in college.

Marilu Klar has sponsored five Meritus scholars since 2003. Her scholars have attended schools including San Francisco State, Mills College, Stanford University, Spelman College and UC Santa Cruz. Her commitment has provided opportunities to students with very limited means and has opened doors to bright futures. All at Meritus are tremendously honored to have received this generous gift in her name.

Photo: Sheryl Schindler, Swanda & Schindler Digital Photography, 109 Geary Street, Third Floor San Francisco, CA 94108 (415) 982-4432
schindlersheryl@aol.com

Making it Count!



Join us in bridging the gap to higher education for low-income, San Francisco public school youth who, in spite of exceptional challenges, are in pursuit of a college education. Please consider supporting Meritus through the following:

Underwrite a Scholarship

Pledge between \$500 and \$3,000 a year for four years to provide reliable financial support to low-income youth, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, and all of whom have overcome significant challenges. [Pledge!](#)

Become a Mentor

One-on-one mentoring helps first-in-family students make a successful transition to college and reinforces their will to persevere in college. Career mentors make themselves available for informational interviews. Share your insights and expertise. [Mentor!](#)

Enable Scholar Coaching

Hand-in-hand with four-years of scholarship funding, Meritus coaches each scholar so they have the resources and skills they need to graduate from college, connect with the community, and begin to work toward post-graduation goals. Your financial support makes this possible. [Donate Now!](#)

Volunteer

Meritus welcomes volunteers from the community to help us execute our programs. In particular, skills in technology, design, communications and public relations, and fund development are especially welcome. [Volunteer!](#)

Sponsor the Awards Ceremony

Each year Meritus celebrates its new scholarship recipients, their donors, families and members of the education community at our annual Awards Ceremony. This is an opportunity for individual, foundation or corporate sponsorship to demonstrate your commitment to the success of our youth as they move beyond high school. [Sponsor!](#)

Create a Legacy

As you plan your charitable giving, please consider the benefits of legacy giving. A significant contribution to Meritus College Fund will provide income, estate and capital gains tax advantages for you and at the same time afford the youth of our community an opportunity to achieve the college education that for many is only a dream. [Consider a Legacy!](#)

Our Thanks!



Thanks to the generosity of the Meritus community, 384 scholars have gained access to college since 1996. Of those, 87% are now college graduates. You have made this possible! We say thank you...

To Our 2010 Donors!

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- * Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation * Mellam Family Foundation *

* Michelson Foundation * WCC Scholarship Foundation *
* Outrageous Foundation *

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* Kate Kelly, Awards Ceremony * Thomas Newmeyer, Jacobs & Co., Financial Management *

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* Rebecca Pringle, Awards Ceremony * Blair Shane, Mentor Event Sponsorship *

To Edwin C. Callan, in Fond Memory

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