



# MERITUS CONNECTIONS

## JOIN US! THE 2009 AWARDS CEREMONY

What an exciting year this has been: 217 applicants, 104 finalists, and 66 college-bound recipients of \$12,000 scholarships. And now it is time to celebrate!

Please join Meritus College Fund as we welcome this year's class of Scholars at the 2009 Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, from 5:30-8pm in the Cowell Theater at Fort Mason. Don't miss this celebratory event which brings together Scholars - new, current and alumni - families, friends, high school counselors, principals, donors, mentors, and the community at large.

We are pleased to be joined by two guest speakers: Carlos Garcia, Superintendent, SF Unified School District, and Diana Wang-Louie, the first Meritus scholarship recipient and scholarship donor. RSVP by May 26 via phone at 415.346.8677 or email at [Awards@meritufund.org](mailto:Awards@meritufund.org). This event has been generously underwritten by First Republic Bank and Union Bank of California.

## In This Issue

- [2009 Awards Ceremony](#)
- [College - Here We Come!](#)
- [Alumni Adventures](#)
- [Check It Out!](#)
- [Parting Notes](#)

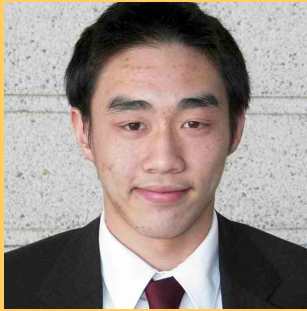
## Quick Links

- [Meritus College Fund](#)
- [Become a Donor](#)
- [Become a Mentor](#)
- [Donate Now!](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

## COLLEGE - HERE WE COME! THE CLASS OF 2009

Welcome to the 66 new Scholars of the Class of 2009! Their stories are as diverse as they are. Here are two Scholars for you to meet.



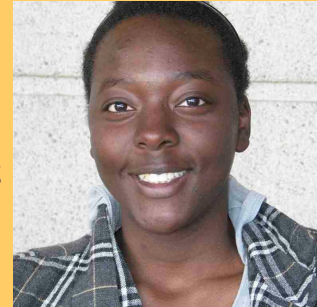
**Dennis Xie: from Balboa High School to Manhattanville College**

As a little boy, I feared leaving my home, not because I was attached, but because my community created a fear within me. I was afraid to walk outside even a few blocks because of gangs that flooded my neighborhood. I plan to major in philosophy because I believe that the study of human nature will ultimately help me to improve the causes of poverty, especially in my community. It is a positive change that I can make to the people in this world.

**Evelyn Bellinger:**

**from Thurgood Marshall High School to CSU East Bay**

I come from a family with nine children, and we value education and strive to be the best at whatever we do. Many times, though, I've seen myself as someone who isn't going to make it because of coming from a low-income family, and living in poverty. I look past all my hardships and obstacles, though, and they have made me a stronger being. Now my life is more incredible because I'm continuing my education - I'm going to college!



## ALUMNI ADVENTURES: MEET 2000 SCHOLAR LINDA BLAKE



Linda, who "grew up with a wise-cracking, taxi driving father in the heart of San Francisco's Mission district", is a graduate of School of the Arts high school. Having received her Meritus scholarship in 2000, Linda ventured off to New York where she earned a B.A. degree - magna cum laude - from NYU in both journalism and psychology.

Linda is a journalist through and through. When we connected last August, Linda was a producer/reporter for The Tavis Smiley Show in Los Angeles where she was doing a piece on college debt/affordability and how young Americans were navigating the work-force post-college. Linda shadowed and interviewed other Meritus scholars for the piece.

The last year has been a busy one for Linda. She covered the Presidential elections with the Tavis Smiley Show. This took her to the political conventions and to the inauguration, radio microphone in hand. Hours after the inauguration, she hopped a plane to India to work as a television producer for Voice of America News and The Wall Street Journal. Linda has covered the Indian elections extensively, Nepal's political instability, and is going to Sub-Saharan region of Africa where she will cover how Kenyans who were displaced during the recent election turmoil are recovering as well as head to Rwanda to explore the impact of the genocide on political expression - 15 years later.

We look forward to her future adventures as she, in her own voice, is "keeping busy and keeping my nomad spirit alive!" For more on Linda Blake see: <http://www.lblakemedia.com>

## CHECK IT OUT!

For all of your unanswered questions about Meritus College Fund, be sure to visit us at our NEW website ([www.meritusfund.org](http://www.meritusfund.org)). Prospective and current Scholars, donors, mentors, and the general public will see that it brings the Meritus mission home: from our scholarships and Scholar program, to student information and alumni networking, to events and current news,

to getting involved, and how to contact us. Mostly, we hope you will enjoy reading about our Scholars as they share their ambitions, challenges, and perseverance to graduate from college. They are our true motivation!

## PARTING NOTES

- Meritus monitors the academic standing and courses taken by each of our Scholars and reviews each letter that Scholars are required to write to their donors. Letters to donors are due every January 15 and June 30. If you have changed your email or mailing address, please be sure to let Meritus staff know by calling us at 415-346-8677 or emailing [Shane@meritusfund.org](mailto:Shane@meritusfund.org). We'd like to pass that information on to your student.
- If you have a summer internship or job opportunity for a current Meritus Scholar or a recent graduate, please contact us at [Danielle@meritusfund.org](mailto:Danielle@meritusfund.org).
- If you would like to host an event for a group of friends to introduce them to Meritus, please let us provide you with support by contacting [Diana@meritusfund.org](mailto:Diana@meritusfund.org).

### Board of Directors:

Heather Sterner, President · Bill Drypolcher, Vice President ·  
Tonia Karr, Treasurer · Ann Ludwig, Secretary  
Chris Boyd · Margaret Chiu · Patricia Gray, Ed.D. · Carol McLaughlin · Paula  
Morgan · Frank Morrow · Mauree Jane Perry · Anthony Swei ·  
Frank Tom, Ed.D. · Jacqueline Young

Executive Director:  
Diana Wolf

Founder: Henry Safrit, M.D.

### [Forward email](#)

#### ✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to [carolpeltz@comcast.net](mailto:carolpeltz@comcast.net) by [diana@meritusfund.org](mailto:diana@meritusfund.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Meritus College Fund | The Presidio of San Francisco | P.O. Box 29024 | San Francisco | CA | 94129

Email Marketing by

