



MERITUS CONNECTIONS

Winter 2010

Scholar Newsletter

Dear Diana,

Welcome to the first edition of the Meritus College Fund Scholar Newsletter! We're looking forward to staying in touch and bringing you important information about Meritus events, notifications, and spotlights. Please feel free to provide any feedback on how we can better connect with you or help you connect with other members of the Meritus community.

Read on for important info regarding our upcoming holiday party, some tips on writing your donor letter, the launch of our newest program, Career Connections, and more!

As always, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

In friendship and community,

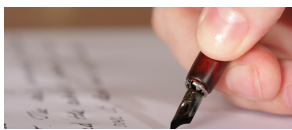
Cedrick and Danielle, Student Relations Team

Want Your Next Scholarship Check? *Grades and Donor Letters*

It's that time of year! All Meritus scholars write a donor letter and submit their grades with cumulative GPA and evidence of full-time enrollment twice per year. **The next deadline is January 15, 2011**, although we encourage you to submit your materials as soon as possible.

These items are required before you can receive your next scholarship check, so start writing!

As a reminder, donor letters (at least 3 paragraphs) serve as an opportunity to update your donor(s) on how you're doing personally and academically. You should feel free to talk about your challenges as well as your successes so far this year, your goals for the next term, and anything else that you'd like to share.



Remember, a well-written letter makes a good

Graduation Survey for Seniors Are You Graduating Soon?

All 2007 Meritus Scholars **must complete a Senior Survey to receive a final scholarship check**. The survey confirms your expected graduation date and other details that we need as you transition out of college.

You will automatically receive the survey within the next week, so please look for it in your email!





impression and is an excellent way to practice your writing skills. Think about what you want to write, prepare a draft, revise it, and, if necessary, ask someone to proofread it for you, including Meritus staff or your mentor. **Don't forget to use spell check!**

If your donor does not have an email address, please be sure to send your letter to their mailing address. Please Cc a copy to us at scholars@meritusfund.org when you either mail or email your donor(s).

Your grades only need to be sent to Meritus, although if you're especially proud of your hard work, you can share a copy to your donor(s).

Please remember that all of your donors must receive a copy of your letter, either by email or snail mail.

Meritus Holiday Party

Join us on Sunday, December 19 (4-6pm) for our annual white elephant holiday party. Bring a fun, funny, or frivolous gift to swap (no more than \$5) and your best stories about college life. It's also a great chance to get to know Meritus staff and other scholars. Please let us know if you'd like to come by emailing Danielle [here](#).



We're More Than A Check! Student Coaching & Support Services



Keep in mind that Meritus is way more than your scholarship money! **The Student Relations Team is always available to assist you** with any issues that come up with college, including your

academic progress, issues with financial aid, connecting with a support resource on your campus, or any other challenge that you're facing.

Whether you just need encouragement or a plan to tackle your busy schedule, asking for help is a good sign that you're in control and on your way to being a success. Contact Cedrick Andrews or Danielle Pizzi via phone, email, or [Facebook](#) anytime you need some help.

Cedrick: cedrick@meritusfund.org

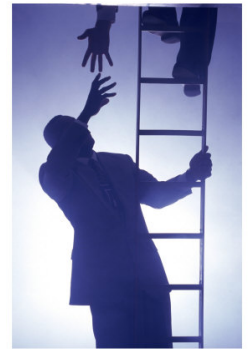
415-400-8642

Danielle: danielle@meritusfund.org

415-400-8641

Career Connections! New Scholar Support Program

The **Career Connections Program** provides Meritus students with an opportunity to meet professionals in different fields for informational interviewing, job shadowing, and workshops. We'd like to extend a big thank you to the nearly 30% of all Meritus scholars who responded to our career interest survey last month!



The first event, a training on **informational interviewing** and **presentation skills**, will take place on **Tuesday, December 28 from 10am to 1pm**. We're bringing in a presenter who will coach you and provide helpful tips on job shadowing, informational interviews, and making a good first impression, all of which can give you an advantage in a competitive job market. We'll also talk more about the Career Connections program and how you can be paired with a career mentor, but attendance at this training is required to be matched.

All scholars who responded to the survey are eligible to sign-up for this training, and if you didn't complete the survey but would like to participate, please email Danielle [here](#).