



MERITUS CONNECTIONS

Completing the Circle: Scholars as Donors



We have always encouraged our scholars to think about "paying it forward" one day, once they have completed their education and achieved a measure of success. This year, Diana Wang-Louie, recipient of the very first Meritus scholarship in 1996,

became the first Meritus alumna to donate a scholarship.

After graduating from George Washington High School, Diana went on to Santa Clara University where she earned a degree in business in 2000. Currently, she is a marketing manager at a Fortune 500 company in the South Bay. Speaking at our 2009 Awards Ceremony, Diana said she had set herself the goal of becoming a Meritus donor one day and was now "excited and honored," finally, with her husband Mark Louie, to take on that role.

In making her pledge to help an incoming scholar, Diana Wang-Louie has connected with Meritus in a new and fruitful way. Thank you, Diana, for bringing our mission full circle!

You may hear Diana's remarks at the Awards Ceremony by going to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY7LN9q1W_w

Meritus Scholarships More Important Than Ever

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Join Meritus!

Meritus is hosting two events this fall:

[Tuesday, October 13](#)
and
[Thursday, November 5](#) -
from 6-7:30pm -

to introduce its scholars to prospective donors interested in learning more about the scholarships and our work. If you would like



With a large majority of 2009 Meritus scholars enrolling in the California university systems, fee increases are having a significant impact and will have serious implications for the future of our program. We are stepping up our efforts to attract more sponsors to meet the growing need for financial assistance (see Join Meritus!).

As a result of a huge state deficit, students enrolled at California State University and University of California campuses are faced not only with stiff fee hikes, but a reduction in course offerings, and, in consequence of that, delayed graduation, as well. CSU annual fees have increased by nearly \$1,000 for undergraduate students while UC regents are considering fee hikes that will total \$1,344 per year, by the 2010-2011 academic year.

In 2009-2010, 58% of Meritus scholars are enrolled in UC, and 20% in CSU. Some of these are reporting that because of the reduction in class offerings, they are forced to take courses that do not fulfill basic requirements, just to maintain their status as full-time students. Further complicating their situation, financial aid packages from the universities remained in flux up until the very end. In these circumstances, Meritus scholarships are a critical resource.

For high school seniors now considering the pursuit of higher education in 2010-2011, a Meritus Scholarship can be the deciding factor. State and federal grants will make up for some of the increasing cost of public higher education, but many students will no doubt have to take out more loans and work longer hours at jobs, potentially impacting their decision to attend college all together.

Because the near future offers no prospect that these circumstances will change, we hope you will join us in this effort to preserve access to higher education for the young people of California. Please join us as we build opportunities for the class of 2010!

to attend or refer a friend to either event, please contact Meritus at 415.346.8677.

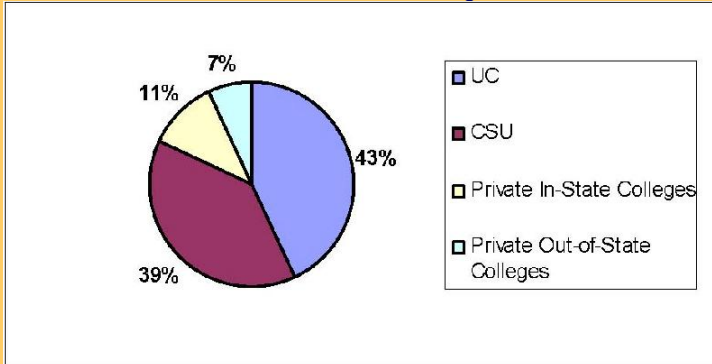
THE CLASS OF 2005 GRADUATES!

As we welcome our new class of sixty-seven scholars, we look back and celebrate the accomplishments of the members of our class of 2005. We are extremely pleased with their overall progress. Of the thirty-two scholarship recipients, 90% remained in the Meritus program. Many have completed or will soon complete college degrees:

7% graduated in 2008
54% graduated in 2009
31% will graduate in 2010

4% will graduate in 2011
4% will graduate in 2012

Our Scholars enrolled in the following universities and colleges:



Their majors included:

Animal Science	Architecture
Art	Biology
Interior Architecture	Bio-Psychology
Business Administration	Business Economics
Chemistry	Child Development
Civil Engineering	Clinical Nutrition
Interior Architecture	Managerial Economics
Music	Nursing
Political Science	Psychology
Public Relations	

NEW MEMBERS JOIN MERITUS BOARD

Much hard work goes on behind the scenes at Meritus College Fund and an active, working board does much of it. As we grow and continue to focus our attention on our community's college-bound youth, we welcome Christopher Boyd, J.D., as the new Board Chair. Our sincerest thank you goes to Heather Sterner, who participated on the board from 2000-2007 and ably led the organization from 2007-2009.

Boyd, who began his tenure in June, has taken the helm at a very exciting time as Meritus looks ahead to take the organization to the next phase of its development. Chris, an active Meritus donor and mentor, is senior director of professional services with the law firm of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto and San Francisco. Earlier he led the knowledge management function at several internet professional services firms. He earned his law degree from Stanford Law School and his undergraduate degree at Princeton University.

In addition to the appointment of Chris Boyd, Meritus also welcomes four new board members, Tonia Karr, Frank Morrow, Warrington Parker and Tony Swei. Karr, a Meritus donor and mentor, supports other nonprofit organizations as a volunteer and adviser. They include Orbis Foundation and Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. Earlier she was vice president with Credit Suisse First Boston. Karr earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard University.

Morrow's expertise lies in business management and restructuring for small groups as well as large operations with multi-state and multi-country operations. He was co-founder of the Stanford Management Organization charged with managing and growing the assets of the Stanford University Endowment. Morrow holds an MBA from Stanford, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, and holds a B.S. from the U.S. Naval Academy. Frank is also a Meritus donor.

Parker is Of Counsel with Orrick, Herrington Sutcliffe in San Francisco where he serves as a member of the Intellectual Property and White Collar Crime Groups. Prior to joining Orrick, Parker was a shareholder at Heller Ehrman in San Francisco and partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges in Los Angeles. Parker is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

Tony Swei, a Meritus donor since 1999, is chief executive officer of Tradar Limited, a leading portfolio management provider for the alternative investment industry, with offices in San Francisco, New York, Hong Kong and London. He began his association with Tradar as general manager of its U.S. subsidiary. Mr. Swei holds an M.B.A. degree from Stanford University and is a graduate of Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in economics.

Meritus welcomes this new class of board members. Each of them brings a varied background and rich experience that we expect will greatly contribute to our success.

PARTING NOTES

- Special thanks to Donald Andreini for his excellent skills in editing this edition of Connections!
- Please consider mentoring a Meritus scholar. More information about mentoring can be found at www.Meritusfund.org or by contacting 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.

Board of Directors:

Chris Boyd, J.D., President · Jacqueline Young, Vice President ·
Tonia Karr, Treasurer · Mauree Jane Perry, Secretary

Bill Drypolcher · Margaret Chiu · Patricia Gray, Ed.D. · Carol McLaughlin
Paula Morgan · Frank Morrow · Warrington Parker, J.D.
Heather Sterner · Anthony Swei · Frank Tom, Ed.D.

Executive Director:

Diana Wolf

Founder: Henry Safrit, M.D.