



MERITUS CONNECTIONS

Summer 2010

Mentor Program Newsletter

It is officially the summer! We would like to start off these sunny and (hopefully) hot-weather days by welcoming our newest staff member Ana Moraga, 2001 Meritus Scholar, to the team! She will be in close contact with you as our Mentor Program Manager. We are proud to have Ana on board.

Summer is a great time to start to get to know your mentee for those of you with 2010 Scholars or to further develop your relationship with your student who is in town for the break. In order to do that, take advantage of our M&M* Events coming up. Below find a reminder to RSVP for our Community Day at the San Francisco Food Bank on June 19th and an invitation to our Passing the Torch Picnic and BBQ scheduled for July 24th.

In this newsletter you will also find suggestions for activities to do with your mentee

. Be creative and plan sometime that you will both enjoy! Remember that for 2010 mentors, Meritus expects that you meet with your mentee at least three times this summer. It will be easier to build on your relationship in the fall if you develop a strong foundation now.

Also read on for an interview with seasoned Mentor Beate Boultinghouse. She shares the most rewarding and challenging experiences as a mentor as well as excellent advice.

Enjoy! In community,
Meritus College Fund

*Mentor and Mentee

M&M Community Events Coming Up:



There's still time to RSVP for you and your mentee for our M&M Community Day!!

When: Saturday, June 19th
8:30am-12pm

Where: [SF Food Bank](#), 900 Pennsylvania St. at 23rd St. in Potrero Hill

We will conclude the day by celebrating our volunteer efforts over lunch at Goat Hill Pizza (300 Connecticut St. at 18th St.). This is a great chance to get to know one another, support the SF community, and have an awesome time!

Also mark your calendars for Meritus' Passing the Torch Picnic & BBQ

Join us for an afternoon of celebration as we welcome our 2010 Scholars and congratulate our recent grads in their success.

When: Saturday, July 24th
11am-2pm

Where: Thoreau Center Courtyard, 1012 Torney Ave. at Lincoln Blvd. in the Presidio

Please RSVP for these events at ana@meritusfund.org or by calling Ana at 415-400-8643

If you have any ideas for activities in support of your mentor experience, we would love to hear from you.



Summer Fun Ideas to Enjoy with your Mentee!

- Do you both like music? Stern Grove Free Summer Concerts! They are every Sunday starting on June 20th at 2pm. Check out the [2010 Season Calendar](#).
- How about a little nature fun at Fort Funston? You can hike and/or volunteer at their native plant nursery. For more information visit the Fort Funston section at the [Parks Conservancy webpage](#). There are also plenty of [volunteer opportunities](#) at other City parks.
- San Francisco also has a wide range of museums that have [free days](#) during the month. And if those days do not work for you and/or your mentee check out these [museums and guided walks](#) around the City that are always free!
- How about tickets to Oakland A's games? Free tickets are: June 27, July 9, July 23, and July 25. If you would like to take your mentee to one of these games and/or would like more information please contact us at ana@meritusfund.org.

On Our Radar . . .

Community Events Coming Up!

Summer Fun Ideas

Mentor Beate Boutinghouse Speaks

Ana Moraga, Mentor Program Manager

A bit more about our newest addition,

Ana Moraga

Mentor Program Manager

Ana received a Meritus Scholarship in 2001 as a Leadership High School graduate. She went on to Loyola Marymount University where she double majored in Psychology and Spanish. She comes to Meritus after having spent over four years abroad in her native Guatemala where she co-founded and served as Executive Director of US-registered NGO - [MuJER: Women for Justice, Education and Awareness](#). Ana comes with extensive experience in community outreach and directing programs for organizations such as LMU's Center for Service and Action and Amnesty International.

Ana can be contacted at 415.400.8643

ana@meritusfund.org

Quick Links

[Stern Grove 2010 Season Calendar](#)

[Fort Funston- Parks Conservancy](#)

[Volunteer- Parks Conservancy](#)

[Free City Museums and Guided Walks Year-Round](#)

[Free Days for City Museums](#)

[SF Food Bank Directions](#)

Experiences and Tips from Seasoned Mentor Beate Boultinghouse



Beate and 2009 Mentee Cindy Braki working together at the SF Food Bank

- **Could you describe the most rewarding experience as a mentor?**

My most rewarding experience as a mentor is knowing that I am making a difference in my mentee's life. Guiding her through decision making and seeing her take some suggestions and turn them to gold in her life is very gratifying.

- **What do you find most challenging as a mentor?**

There are challenges along the way. Seeing her struggle and not being able to help her through those life experiences is as heartbreaking as if she were my own child, because in many ways she has become someone I care about and want to see succeed with as little pain as possible. Like any young adult, she keeps much to herself which is not always in her best interest. Someone cannot help if they do not know the full story. But we share stories and have become closer.

- **Do you have any tips for fellow mentors?**

What I have learned as a mentor is to be consistently there for my mentee. She is on the East Coast and therefore not readily accessible. There are many ways of communicating. Her communication vehicle of choice is FaceBook. Calls, e-mails, snail mails garner virtually no results. But with FaceBook, I have been able to keep up a "conversation" of sorts. I can read between the lines to glean much of what is going on. I keep it light and non-judgmental. Sometimes with two word phrases, but she knows I am here and caring about her and at times she does reach out. It is all on her terms. It is what makes her comfortable.

Final Thoughts

Thank you so much for your dedication and commitment in supporting the Meritus Scholars. We recently had two greatly successful events with the Awards Ceremony and our Mentor Training. In addition to the Training and our summer M&M Events, we hope to have many more Mentor-gearred activities in the future. If you have any ideas please let us know.

In the meantime, come check out our M&M Community Events! We hope to see you there!

- Meritus College Fund