



Alumnae legacy fund endows first full scholarship

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Staff Writer

Meredith recently endowed its first full paid scholarship that includes tuition, room and board, internships and study abroad.

North Carolina State University has the Park Scholarship, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has the Morehead Scholarship, now Meredith College has the Alumnae Legacy Scholarship.

The Alumnae Legacy Scholarship is a series of endowments combined to create Meredith's first ever full scholarship. It will include tuition, room and board, internships and study abroad

In the mid-1990's, a group of alumnae, spearheaded by Mabel Claire Hoggard Maddry, class of 1928, were concerned about the direction of Meredith's academic standards. The group worked for many years trying to raise money for the scholarship with little luck. The biggest break for the scholarship came in 1999 when President Maureen Hartford came to Meredith. Hartford hired Jane Dittman to head up the office of Institutional Advancement.

"She got everyone organized and taught us how to fund raise," said Claire Sullivan, class of 1972. With President Hartford and Dittman leading the charge, the Alumnae association began to really work for donations.

"We changed the way we fundraised. We

researched who we wanted to go after, who could afford it," said Sullivan. "We visited people instead of just calling them."

Instead of asking for \$1,000 or small contributions, the minimum amount of giving was raised to \$50,000. With twenty-one endowments, all valuing at least \$50,000, the fund has quickly grown to include gifts and pledges of over \$2.4 million. This money will fund the first four scholarships with the first being awarded when \$2 million is in hand. Eventually, \$10 million will come in to keep the endowment alive.

Two of the bigger contributors for the fund were Elizabeth Tripplett-Beam, class of 1972, and Iona Kemp Knight, class of 1943. Tripplett-Beam gave \$100,000 and Knight left a \$1,000,000 trust from life

insurance.

The Alumnae Legacy Scholarship will provide Meredith with an avenue to recruit the best and brightest students to campus.

"Meredith loses bright students every year because it has been unable to offer generous scholarships as other institutions do," commented Billy Jo Kennedy Cockman, class of 1979 and Meredith's associate director of major gifts.

Alumnae are hoping that the new influx of interest from the best students will make Meredith even more academically competitive. The endowment is also meant to elevate Meredith's prestige and profile nationally, also helping the academic make-up of the college.

Perhaps the most beneficial part of the great fundraising endeavor produced by the endowment commit-

tee is that this might lead to more giving by alumnae in the future.

Meredith, in the past, has had some of the lowest alumnae giving percentages in the country. At one point, Meredith was receiving contributions as low as five dollars from only twenty-two percent of alumnae.

With a better structure in place for fundraising and a better idea of where the money comes from and what it goes to, Meredith alums hope to produce more scholarships and benefits to enhance the value of a Meredith education.

"That's why tuition is so high," said Sullivan "because everything that goes on at Meredith is basically running on tuition money. We need alumnae to do more things like this to help everyone out."

Meredith to host The North Carolina Music Teachers Association

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Meredith College's Department of Music is hosting the annual conference of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association (NCMTA) on October 17-19.

The purpose of the NCMTA is the advancement of musical knowledge and education through discussion, investigation, performance, publication, and the promotion of the general welfare of music teachers in the state of North Carolina.

On Friday, Oct. 17 at 8:15 p.m. in Jones

Auditorium, the Guild Trio will be performing as the principal guest artists for the conference.

The Guild Trio, composed of pianist Patricia Tao, violinist Janet Orenstein, and cellist Brooks Whitehouse, is noted for possessing the highest standards of technique, interpretation, and

collaboration. They have an extensive resume including winning the USIA Artistic Ambassador Competition (1988), being awarded the position of trio-in-residence by the Tanglewood Music Center (1990), and winning the Annual Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition (1991).

The Meredith College Music Faculty will present a concert as part of the conference on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8:15 p.m. in Carswell Concert Hall.

Both of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Meredith College Department of Music at (919) 760-8536.