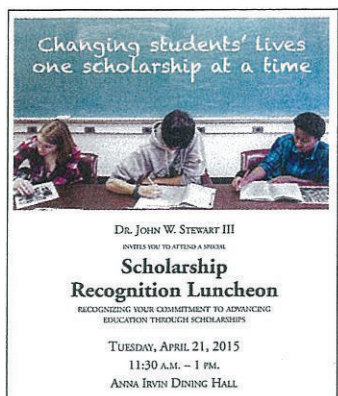


STUDENTS AND DONORS RECOGNIZED



FOR MANY STUDENTS, A SCHOLARSHIP IS A KEY INGREDIENT IN THE SUCCESS OF THEIR COLLEGE CAREER.

For those who receive scholarships thanks to philanthropic support, they rarely—if ever—get the chance to meet those donors responsible for making a difference in their academic lives. The University of Montevallo, however, is taking steps to change that.

Photos by Amy Baldis '10



Scholarship recipients and donors have the opportunity to meet and socialize at the University's Scholarship Luncheon recently held on campus. Above left, AJ Jackson with Kit Waters '78 and John Gasson. Above right, Judy Rogers, emerita and Maggie Spiller. Left, Andres Morales, Jeannine McElroy '53, Katie Nelson and Tiffany Polson.

ON APRIL 21, 2015, the University, hosted a luncheon to honor scholarship donors and allow them to meet the students who had benefited from their support.

"The University of Montevallo is fortunate to have many donors who are passionate and committed to supporting our scholarship fund, but they don't

often get to see firsthand the difference their support makes in students' lives," says Susan Brenner, manager of donor relations. "We are making a concerted effort to change that. We want our donors to meet and get to know our students to strengthen the bonds among the Montevallo family."

According to recent statistics, about two-thirds of full-time students pay for college with the help of financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships. Approximately 57 percent of financial aid dollars awarded to undergraduates are in the form of grants, and 34 percent take the form of federal loans.



Scholarship recipient, Abby Alger, meets her scholarship donor, Tim Lupinacci '88 at the luncheon.

Photos by Amy Baldis '10

“WE VIEW THIS CONCEPT OF ‘PAYING IT FORWARD’ AS HELPING CHANGE OUR WORLD, SINCE THE STUDENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MONTEVALLO BECAUSE OF OUR SMALL SCHOLARSHIP MAY WELL BE THE PERSON WHO DISCOVERS THE CURE FOR CANCER, FACILITATES PEACE IN SOME CORNER OF THE WORLD, OR HELPS END CHILD TRAFFICKING ACROSS THE GLOBE,” LUPINACCI SAYS.

At Montevallo, 60 percent of students are on needs-based financial aid. In the 2014-15 academic year alone, the UM Foundation awarded more than \$609,000 in scholarship funds to more than 400 students.

Such scholarships would not be possible without the generous support of private donors. One of those donors is Tim Lupinacci '88, who, with his wife Ellen, supports multiple scholarship funds at UM. “I benefited from receiving a leadership scholarship to the University of Montevallo in 1984,” says Lupinacci, who was the featured speaker at the recent scholarship luncheon.

“We began funding scholarships slowly over a decade ago with contributions as we had opportunities, and it has been rewarding to see it grow.” That growth led to the Lupinaccis making a multi-year commitment to fund a more substantive scholarship to assist deserving applicants who plan to attend UM.

“We view this concept of ‘paying it forward’ as helping change our world, since the students who are able to attend Montevallo because of our small scholarship may well be the person who discovers the cure for cancer, facilitates peace in some corner of the world, or helps end child

trafficking across the globe,” Lupinacci says. “It could also be a person who ends up working in rural Alabama, teaching children and challenging them to dream big dreams. A scholarship to worthy UM students is our small step to change the world that we live in.”

Charlotte Quinn '15 is an example of such a student. “The scholarships I received during my academic career at Montevallo gave me the motivation to keep moving forward,” she says. “Scholarships provided opportunities for me that I would not have been able to experience otherwise, and I benefited greatly from my time at the University



Top left: Tim Lupinacci '88 addresses attendees of the scholarship luncheon on April 21.

Top right: Dean Mary Beth Armstrong, sits next to student AJ Jackson. The luncheon provided an opportunity for alumni and faculty to interact with students.

Above left: Donors Tom and Pat Monroe meet students Amber Quinn and Alex Cottrell.

Above right: Cathy Jo Wheeler '75, Dean Steven Peters and student Charlotte Quinn enjoy the luncheon.

Left: Student Maggie Spiller shares how scholarships have enhanced her experiences at UM.

of Montevallo due to the generous giving of alumni and friends of the university."

"One of the major reasons I came to Montevallo was because of the scholarships I received," says John Gasson '15. "Coming from a family with three children all relatively close in age placed a burden on my parents to finance our education. Throughout my years at Montevallo, I always had enough scholarship money to cover my tuition, which helped my parents tremendously—especially during my senior year, when all three of us were in college."

As tuition costs continue to rise nationwide, additional scholarship funding is be-

coming more and more critical to the success of every university and its students, Montevallo included. "The university's mission statement compels us to provide students an affordable and accessible higher education," says University President John W. Stewart III.

"When we lose a high-quality student to another university during recruitment, it is often because the competing school is able to offer more scholarship dollars. Scholarships are so much more than a way to pay for tuition. They provide students the freedom to focus on their academics and enjoy the college experience."

With the increasing importance of

scholarships, Tim Lupinacci plans to continue donating to UM and strongly encourages others to do so as well.

"For the alumni and other friends of the university, we have the challenge of living our legacy today of noble purpose, generous service and work well-done," he says.

"I can speak from experience as a scholarship recipient, that there are few more effective ways to impact your world and live your legacy than by committing to help fund additional scholarships at UM so that more future students have the opportunity to learn and grow and lead at the University of Montevallo and in our world." **M**