

Scholarship recipients say "thank you"

April 17, 2012 1:30 AM Michael Ramos
mcramos@tulane.edu

Without scholarship support, Kaci McGuire says an education at Tulane University would have been out of her reach. Now, she is pursuing her dream of working for an international women's organization after graduation next year, thanks to the Dorothy Brandao scholarship. More than 100 grateful scholarship recipients like McGuire sat down to write thank-you letters recently.



More than 100 students turn out for the annual scholarship luncheon, to participate in a letter-writing event to donors. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

McGuire, a sophomore from Kenner, La., and the other students participated in a letter-writing event on April 4 to thank scholarship donors. It was one of the largest turnouts for the annual scholarship luncheon, a tradition since 2006.

"This is a great way to give my thanks and celebrate this honor," says McGuire, who is studying gender and sexuality studies, Latin America and dance.

The act of hand-writing donors whose generosity is changing lives exposes students to the ways in which philanthropy touches them, says Lizbeth Turner, director of [planned giving](#) at Tulane.

“It becomes more than just a name on a page when they learn the story behind their scholarship,” says Turner.

Lindsey Klapper, recipient of the Carol Downes Cudd scholarship, says she was moved by the story behind her undergraduate education. “My scholarship comes from a couple who do incredible things for Tulane and who went here, too,” says Klapper, an anthropology and Spanish major in the class of 2013 from Kansas City who is considering an archaeology career.

The event also helped scholarship students learn each other's stories.

“This is the first opportunity I've had in six semesters to talk with other students receiving support,” says Abby Harris, a Spanish major in the class of 2012, from Bath, Maine. “It reminds me that there's a greater community at Tulane like me, and we're all really thankful.”

Michael Ramos is a writer in the Office of Development.