



2007-08

Parents Fund REVIEW

THE MIAMI UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN FOR LOVE AND HONOR

PARENTS FUND HELPS FUND MEN'S GLEE CLUB TRIP TO CHINA

In a memorable year that also marked the organization's 100th anniversary, Miami University's Men's Glee Club made its first trip to China last June when it represented the university and the nation in the Beijing City Festival – Beijing's official kickoff to the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

In all, 60 members of the 100-man organization made the two-week trip, which included performances in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. Thanks to the support of many, including the Miami Parents Fund, no one who wished to go was denied the opportunity.

"A trip like this costs a lot of money, and we had to decide up front if we were going to attempt to fundraise for everyone across the board, or just those who needed aid," said Glee Club Conductor Ethan Sperry. "We chose to focus on those who needed aid, and thanks to the support of so many, no one was left out for financial reasons."

Miami's Parents Fund contributed significantly to support students in need of aid for the two-week trip, which provided

a one-of-a-kind cultural and musical experience. According to Sperry, the benefits of the trip were many.

"Just getting to meet the people of China was a remarkable experience," Sperry said. "Their society was so different from what we expected. They were very open and honest, and the Chinese students we sang with were so anxious to meet and talk

with us. Sharing that common bond of music really helped bridge the differences between our two cultures."

The Miami Men's Glee Club was the largest contingent to perform in the event, which was entitled "Perform in Harmony – With

Olympic Spirit." Among the highlights were performing a concert in front of the Great Wall and receiving two encores while performing in Shanghai's unforgettable Oriental Arts Center.

"The tour gave me more memories than I can count, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to go," said sophomore Chris Greenland. "The word 'incredible' just doesn't do it justice."

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~ Ethan Sperry

PARENTS FUND PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

During the 2007-08 school-year, Miami University's Parents Fund raised \$436,922 in support of Miami students and families.

Among the activities and initiatives supported were more than 80 student opportunities that promoted growth outside of the classroom in areas such as service, leadership, and education. Following is a sampling of some of the activities and initiatives that your Parents Fund dollars helped support during the last year.

- Off-Campus Affairs
- Service Leader Program
- Adopt-a-School Program
- Alcohol Education Program
- Artist in Residence - Chinese Jingju Opera
- New York Multidisciplinary Art Experience
- Diversity Change Agents Conference
- DIYS Interfaith Circle
- Miami Tribe/Dept. of Architecture & Interior Design exchange
- Mali Water Pump Project
- Disabilities Studies in Education Conference - student presentations
- National Council of Teachers of Math Conference
- Women as Global Leaders Conference - Dubai
- "Take the Lead" Dance Program - New Miami School District
- UniDiversity - Latin American and Caribbean Festival

ENGINEERING STUDENTS DESIGN WATER PUMP FOR AFRICAN VILLAGE

The village of Guelekoro, in Mali, West Africa, received a much-needed water pump through the efforts of a group of Miami engineering seniors.

The team designed and fabricated the water pump during the 2007-08 school year and traveled to Guelekoro just after graduation to install the system and train villagers on its maintenance. Parents Fund dollars helped support their travels.

Advised by Osama Ettouney (chair, mechanical and manufacturing engineering), the group of engineering management and mechanical



engineering majors were charged with designing a simple, durable pump with parts easy to find or fabricate locally.

“This is the best project anyone could have been asked to work on,” explains Asha Ananthu, the project leader. “We get to use our education to help other people and that is truly amazing.”

The team incorporated a merry-go-round as an alternate means of powering the pump that can be enjoyed by children in the village. The pump will be used to fill a holding tank with water, allowing the villagers to be self-sufficient during the summer months when area wells dry up.

This is one of a variety of international projects undertaken by Miami’s engineering majors.

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PARENTS FUND PROVIDES BOOST TO MIAMI’S ACCESS INITIATIVE PROGRAM

During his State of the University Address in August 2006, Miami University President David Hodge announced an exciting new initiative aimed at making Miami accessible to all academically qualified students, regardless of income.

The Access Initiative, which provides tuition and fees for Ohio students who have family incomes of less than \$35,000, brought 164 first-year students to Miami’s Oxford campus in fall 2007. Of those, 66 percent were among the first generation of their families to attend college.

“First-generation college students face unique challenges,” said Carla Carick, senior administrator in the Office of the Dean of Students. “Students whose parents attended college can call home for advice about navigating the university system. The parents of first-generation college students haven’t had those experiences and may not be able to provide that guidance.”

With approximately 160 incoming first-year students expected to join the inaugural Access Initiative class in fall 2008, providing support—financial and otherwise—to ensure these students can enjoy the full Miami Experience is a priority.

While the Access Initiative covers tuition and fees, it does not cover costs related

to room, board, books, travel expenses, personal expenses, and many co-curricular activities. Additional scholarships can offset some of these costs but many students require more support.

“These students are academically able—nine of this year’s access initiative students were class valedictorians,” said Carick. “But there are situations that come up where they require special assistance.”

In an effort to assist these students, the Parents Fund has created the Dean of Students Emergency Fund—a stand-alone fund that provides interest-free loans of up to \$250 per semester to help students meet short-term financial needs.

Carick provided the example of a student who needed money to purchase a pair of slacks that were required for a job. Other situations could include requiring money to travel home for a family emergency or needing funds to join a campus or professional organization or participate in a campus activity.

The fund is fully operational entering the 2008-09 school year. Socioeconomically disadvantaged students will be made aware of the program through a variety of means, including faculty mentors.

2007-2008 PARENTS COUNCIL

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2007-08 PARENTS FUND SUPPORT

