

About the Jones/Frank Memorial Scholarship Fund



Marisa Jones '05 and Wesley Jones

Why would a black Methodist man and a white Jewish woman establish an endowed scholarship at Holy Names University, a Catholic institution? Surprisingly the question is asked of Wesley and Martha Jones often. Their short retort is “because we wanted to.” The real answer is rooted deep in their commitment to family and education.

The Jones’ relationship with Holy Names University began with a phone call from their granddaughter, Marisa, in October 2001. Marisa told them she had attended Transfer Day at her school, Modesto Junior College. Marisa said, “There are three schools I like — Menlo College, Mills College, and Holy Names,” adding “these are all private schools and expensive.” After researching the institutions with her granddad, Marisa zeroed in on Holy Names. On December 18, 2001, Wesley accompanied his granddaughter, at her insistence, to a scheduled campus visit and interview with Holy

Names’ Admission Counselor, Ché Phillips. When Marisa was accepted at Holy Names, the Jones’ participated in the New Student Orientation activities and were always there for Marisa during her matriculation in college. She graduated with the class of 2005.

Currently, Marisa is in her second year of a three-year Master of Social Work Program at California State University, Stanislaus. The following excerpt from her MSW entrance essay says it all.

“I am biracial (African-American and Hispanic) and have experienced the effects of the lack of understanding of people of different backgrounds. I have lived and worked in Oakland as well as Turlock, California. Oakland is extremely urban whereas Turlock is more rural. The majority of children I work with in Turlock are Caucasian and Hispanic. The majority of children I worked with in Oakland were African-American and Asian. I attended Holy Names

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Martha and Wesley Jones and Bess Frank
(Martha's mother)

University where I lived and worked in a multicultural environment. I felt very lucky to be in classes where so many different ethnicities were represented and it certainly added value to my education. While attending Holy Names University, I really thrived. I felt confident and smart. My greatest accomplishment so far is graduating from Holy Names University with a B average.”

During Marisa's years at Holy Names, Wesley came to know and trust Liz Aswegan, Student Account Manager. In early June 2007, Wesley called Liz to thank her for all her help. While they were talking he asked her, “If we wanted to establish a scholarship at Holy Names, how would we go about it?” She referred him to Sister Carol Sellman and soon after the Jones' notified Holy Names of their decision to establish an endowed scholarship. Their desires were: 1) to establish an endowed scholarship, 2) that biracial children have preference, 3) that descendants from either of their families have preference for the scholarship (if all other scholarship criteria is met), 4) that contributions to the Scholarship Fund be tax-deductible, and 5) that the university or college administering the scholarship fund have a diverse student body.

Why did they ultimately choose HNU? Holy Names was willing to do everything they wanted. Martha's mom, Bess, told them on numerous occasions how she would not have gone to college, let alone graduated, if it were not for a full scholarship she received from Immaculata College, a Catholic woman's college in Philadelphia. Since Wesley and Martha had been so impressed with the education and individual attention their granddaughter had received from HNU's faculty and staff, it just made sense to them that a scholarship in honor and memory of their parents, Thomas and Emma Jones and Morton and Bess Frank be entrusted to Holy Names. The Jones/Frank Memorial Scholarship Fund is a dream fulfilled. As of October 2007, the Jones' have included Holy Names in their estate plan.

Wesley and Martha recall sitting at the welcome dinner for new students back in 2002 and hearing Sister Rosemarie Nassif describe Holy Names as the place that liberates minds and transforms lives. They were sure she was speaking only of the students. It never occurred to them that their association and friendship with Holy Names would liberate *their* minds and transform *their* lives. The Jones' are proud and blessed to be able to honor their parents with this scholarship. They know that Thomas and Emma and Morton and Bess are smiling upon them.

Since the establishment of the scholarship, the Jones' have continued their commitment to Holy Names University through a legacy gift that will perpetuate their family values. For more information about establishing a scholarship or making a legacy gift, please contact Sister Carol Sellman, SNJM, Director of Planned Giving, at 510-436-1265 or sellman@hnu.edu. ■



Wesley and Martha Jones