In 1995, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Board of Directors inaugurated the University’s Presidential Scholarship awards. These scholarships are awarded to first-year students or transfer students who earned a composite ACT score of 26 or greater and ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The scholarships make a significant difference to students because each receives a $10,000 scholarship for four years (or $5000 for two years for transfer students). The awards also generate recognition and opportunities for service that are meaningful to students.

The long-term goal is to establish endowments supporting 1% of the student body, or 120 students. Ten endowments currently support the program. More than eighty donors have given substantial gifts to make this possible. Sponsors of the nearly seventy current Presidential Scholars are enrolled in the College of Business.

Meredith received the Presidential Scholarship, made available to her all four years at MSU. The scholarship essentially gave her “time and encouragement.” It freed her to focus on academics and to get involved on campus, a privilege she appreciated and used to her advantage.

Brian Reilly says he is prepared. He has “nothing but respect” for his Finance Department professors, and appreciates the real-world knowledge they shared in the classroom. “These are great teachers,” he emphasizes. “They know the realities of public- and private-sector finance. They made the work exciting and I appreciated the one-on-one help when there was difficult material.”

Brian found room to grow and change at MSU. After beginning in Financial Planning he changed his course, choosing a new focus in Investment Analysis, which appealed to him because it focused more on analysis and less on sales. Security Analysis was a particular interest; he enjoyed both the subject matter and the small class setting.

“The Presidential Scholarship made my life easier. It removed stress. I haven’t had to worry about a part-time job, or money in general. It allowed me to graduate without debt and make academics my focus.”

As a new graduate Brian will make Saint Paul, Minnesota his home town again. He’s prepared, and eager to make his mark.