

## Undergraduate Scholarships

**Eileene Braxton T'08** is an enthusiast. "I like everything I do," she says. "I consider life my hobby and everything I do—planned or spontaneous—adds to the joy of living."

Braxton likes chick lit and magical realism, mainstream movies and foreign films. In high school in Graham, NC, she was a cheerleader, lettered in track and field (in four events), lifted weights, headed her school's chapter of the National Honor Society and was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, and organized a volunteer community-service program. Small wonder that she's considering a double major in religion and philosophy prior to going to law school. Or perhaps to a graduate creative-writing program. Or becoming a judge. Or a writer. "Or maybe fashion editor of *Vogue*," Braxton adds.

Braxton has been enthusiastic about her Duke education from the moment she got to campus. She calls Malachi H. Hacothen, who taught a history seminar in the FOCUS Program's Visions of

Freedom, "the most intellectually stimulating professor I've ever had." Hacothen, the Fred W. Shaffer Associate Professor of History, Political Science, and Religion, "treated us as equals, as colleagues as capable of leading discussions as he was," she says. She also praises Associate Professor of English Michael Moses and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religion Kelly Jarrett. Not surprisingly, she's taken two courses with each.

Studying or volunteering with Into the City or taking a phys ed class in wilderness skills or listening to bluegrass music or serving as an officer of her sorority or taking part in the Presbyterian fellowship—Braxton likes them all. And she has a purpose: "It is my goal in life to make an impact on others and to change their lives for the better."

Duke has a commitment, rare in higher education today, to admit qualified students regardless of their ability to pay, and to meet the demonstrated need of all financial-aid recipients. Four of every 10 students receive some financial aid,



and the education of all students is subsidized by income from endowment and from the Annual Fund. Eileene Braxton holds an **Alyse Smith Cooper Scholarship**, awarded to students from Alamance County, NC, in honor of the late Alyse Smith Cooper W'30, a Duke trustee from 1975-80. "Your scholarship has allowed me to enjoy the benefits of one of the best institutions in the world," Braxton said in a letter to the Smith Family Foundation. "Your support has changed my life in so many ways. I'm far from the country girl I used to be, both in my daily life and in my outlook on the world. Thank you so much. You have truly made an impact."

*Your gift of... will...*

**\$250,000**

*endow a restricted named scholarship, for example, for a student studying in a particular department, or from a particular secondary school or geographic region.*

**\$100,000**

*endow an unrestricted named scholarship.*

**\$50,000**

*endow support for the operations of the Financial Aid Office.*

**\$15,000 - \$25,000**

*contribute to an existing endowment that supports undergraduate scholarships.*