

NEWSLETTER

Madeleine Jude Brown Foundation

FALL 2019
ATLANTA, GA

MADELEINE
JUDE
BROWN
FOUNDATION



DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILY,

Dear Friends and Family,

We want to wish you the happiest of holidays and bring you up to date on the activities of the Madeleine Jude Brown Foundation. 2019 has been another busy and productive year for the Foundation. This year, a Madeleine Jude Brown Scholarship was awarded to two students from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. Six of our scholars have graduated from college and are employed. Three scholars are living abroad and bringing Madeleine's spirit to distant shores. The six current scholars have settled well into their fall semesters, and our wonderful students continue Madeleine's legacy through their dedication and perseverance. Watching them flourish gives us such pride and joy! We are deeply grateful for them. We hope you will enjoy reading about these wonderful young adults and the Foundation's activities in this newsletter. We are so thankful for the love and support you have extended to us over the years. May the Peace that surpasses all understanding be upon you and your loved ones this Holiday Season.

Peace,

Mary, Reay, Veronica and Annie

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FERDOWS ABDUL QASSIMI | 2016

Ferdous Qassimi is a senior at Emory University, majoring in Environmental Science. Each year, Ferdous has taken summer classes at Georgia State and his hard work has paid off as he is on track to graduate early from Emory in December 2019. After graduation, he hopes to begin a dual degree program (second bachelor degree) in Computer Engineering. While going to school, Ferdous has been interning at Carestream Dental, a software developer for dental patient tracking. Ferdous has been such a hardworking and dedicated student. He writes: "Thank you for being such an inspiration and role model in my life. I have made a few key decisions up to this point but never would I have imagined that my eighteen-year-old version would make the best decision in applying for the foundation scholarship in high school." We have enjoyed watching Ferdous flourish.



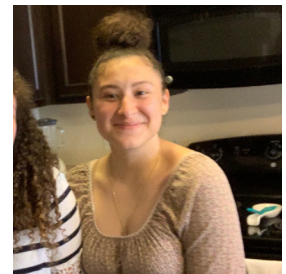
JANKI PATEL | 2017

Janki Patel is a junior at the University of Georgia where she is majoring in Environmental Science and on the pre-nursing academic track. Her ultimate goal is to become a nurse practitioner and she has received excellent guidance from Brittany Mackay Rogers (who is a dear friend of Annie from high school). Janki had a very busy summer. She shadowed a pediatric NP at Dr. Richard Weil's office. She met Dr. Weil through the MJB Foundation (Thank you, Richard!). She also worked in a medical practice and took 2 online classes through UGA. But her greatest accomplishment was that she and her family all passed their citizenship test!!! Congratulations, Janki! We are very lucky to have you in our lives!



LISBETH VILLEGAS | 2018

Lisbeth Villegas had a nearly perfect academic record freshman year at Mercer University and tutored children in a local grammar school. She now is in her sophomore year and plans to major in Law and Public Policy with a minor in Spanish. This year she is honing her speaking and debating skills through Mock Trial. She lives off campus with her sister, Jennifer, who is studying to be a Physician's Assistant. They both are terrific students and a great support system for each other.



DARIANA RUIZ | 2018

Dariana Ruiz is a sophomore at Georgia State and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences with an associate degree in Dental Hygiene. She is living at home and enjoying the time with her family. She continues to work on the weekend at the Buckhead Club. One of her teachers writes: "Along with her academic prowess, Dariana is already thinking deeply about the world around her and how she can contribute...While she may come off as quiet in person, she has found her strong voice in writing."



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ANGELA VASQUEZ | 2019

Angela Vasquez is the middle child of three born to immigrant parents from Columbia (mother) and El Salvador (father). While at Cristo Rey, Angela has excelled in academics, receiving first honors each semester. She was active in many extracurricular activities including altar serving, garden club, catechism teacher, parish youth leader, yearbook and National Honor Society. In her corporate work study experience she stood apart with her “tremendous integrity, diligence and persistence”. One supervisor wrote: “Angela Vasquez embodies every single salient characteristic required to assure her great success in her quest to make a difference in the lives of children and the communities where they live.” Angela has had a smooth transition to Georgia Tech where she hopes to major in Business Administration.



EWNET AYISSA | 2019

Ewnet Ayissa was 13 years old when he moved to Atlanta with his father from Ethiopia; his mother remained in Jimma. At a young age, Ewnet found himself in a new country, at a new school, learning a new language and taking on many of the duties his mother would have handled: cooking, cleaning and laundry. While juggling these activities and the challenges of school, Ewnet worked weekends at Publix. As one teacher wrote: “Ewnet’s parents sacrificed...because their goal for him was to get a first-class education. He will be the first member in his family to graduate from high school and attend college”. Ewnet writes, “By overcoming the challenges of establishing a life half-a-world away from home, I needed to be mentally and physically strong... Working towards what is important may seem impossible, but it is key. Things may be overwhelming, but if we have faith in God, He will lead us --- one step at a time.” At Cristo Rey, Ewnet was a standout soccer player and he now is a member of the Oglethorpe soccer team. He is planning to pursue a degree in Business.



MJB IN THE COMMUNITY

On Saturday, December 15th, the 11th Madeleine Jude Brown Invitational Swim and Dive Meet was held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. Several board members and dear friends were present to greet swimmers and their families. Chris Marshall, the new coach at Marist School, coached Madeleine at Emory University and organized the meet that included 25 schools and 700 athletes. The MJB Meet continues to be one of the largest high school swim meets in Georgia. This year’s meet will be at Georgia Tech on Saturday, December 21st.



The MJB Foundation continues to support Mercy Care which provides medical care to underserved communities. Mercy Care operates 11 clinics throughout Atlanta and extends Primary Care and Mental Health services to homeless camps through its Street Medicine program. In January, the foundation was honored to be a part of the opening ceremony for the Women’s Recuperative Care Center. Located within **City of Refuge**, Recuperative Care is an outreach of **Mercy Care** and provides a place for unsheltered women to safely recover from surgery, trauma or medical illness.

(mercyatlanta.org + cityofrefugeatl.org)



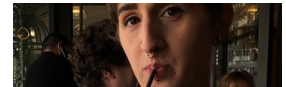
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Yemi Tadesse (2009) lives in Addis Ababa where she is a consultant in microfinancing and development. In May 2019, she was invited to Munich to participate in the Innovation Accelerator Bootcamp sponsored by the United Nations World Food Program and Google. In September she traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi to give the keynote address at the Green Innovation Centres (GIC) Conference that was sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. And in November she took part in the “Unleash 2019” Global Innovation Lab held in Shenzhen, China that targeted UN Sustainable Development Goals. Despite her busy schedule, Yemi made it to Atlanta to visit with Reay and Mary.



Bea Flowers (2010) graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a major in interactive game design. She is living in Seattle as a gay trans woman. In June 2019, she underwent first part of gender reassignment surgery.



Raven Osborne (2011) graduated from Kennesaw State University in Psychology. This summer she left for Nanjing, China to work with First Leap, an afterschool English program. She is immersed in an environment that blends Chinese learning styles and western education to promote education through science and technology. She is enjoying the new experience very much, meeting new friends and posting frequently on Instagram @raayynicole.



Melanie McCall (2012) graduated from Georgia Tech in Computational Media and works as a software developer at The Taproom Agency that creates Shopify ecommerce marketing solutions for fast-growing businesses. In addition to excelling at work, Melanie has become a certified yoga instructor and teaches classes in Grant Park!



Aniya Hamilton (2013) graduated from the University of Georgia in Environmental Sciences and has been living this past year in Lomé, Togo in West Africa. She has become fluent in French, works in public health and tutors the local children. She took up volleyball again and has become integrated into the local community. Aniya and Mary continue to FaceTime, which has been a gift to both



In May, 2019, **Simon Chang (2015)** graduated from the University of Georgia with a major in Exercise and Sports Science and a minor in Chinese Language and Literature. He accomplished this in 4 years. While at UGA, Simon was President of the UGA Thai Student Association. He is spending the next year working at an orthopedic/rehabilitation clinic, studying for the GREs and applying for doctoral programs in Physical Therapy.



Apoorva Thapa (2015) graduated from the United World College USA, Montezuma, New Mexico. He currently is studying at the University of Florida where he received a full scholarship. Apoorva is majoring in Architecture and Urban Planning and hopes to return to Nepal and help “my nation grow towards its potential in terms of development and infrastructure”.

