

NEWSLETTER

Madeleine Jude Brown Foundation

FALL 2023
ATLANTA, GA

MADELEINE
JUDE
BROWN



DEAR FRIENDS & 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.

Twelve of our scholars have graduated from college. Two scholars continue to live and work abroad. Two scholars are in nursing school and one just completed a doctorate in physical therapy. Two scholars have obtained master's degrees. The seven current scholars have settled well into their fall semesters.

The mentoring arm of the Foundation has evolved beautifully. New scholars have reached out to current and former scholars for guidance. Over the past year, the mentoring team of the foundation (Mary and Karen) held 50 support sessions with the scholars!

All of the scholars have shown tremendous positivity, dedication and perseverance and we are proud of them! We are so thankful for the love and support you have extended to us. It is hard to believe that 17 years have passed since Madeleine took her last breath. 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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Foundation dinner for scholars heading back to school.

- Back Row: RHB, Qudus 2016, Chang 2015, Pizano 2020, Chavez 2023, MGL
- Middle Row: Dae Ta 2021, Johnson-Perez 2023, Villegas 2018, Trejo 2022.
- Front: McCall 2012 (baby Jade behind).

MADELEINE JUDE BROWN FOUNDATION

NEW & CURRENT SCHOLARS

SERGIO CHAVEZ | 2023

Sergio Chavez is the only child of parents who emigrated from Acapulco, Mexico. He graduated from Cristo Rey as the valedictorian. In addition to pursuing a rigorous academic schedule, Sergio played varsity soccer and was the programmer and driver for the robotics team. While at Cristo Rey he was awarded the Intellectually Competent Award (given to two students who strive to advance their intellect, actions and behaviors), the Engineering Award and the Georgia Certificate of Merit (top 5%). His corporate work study sponsor described him as “the consummate professional”. In August, Sergio began his studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he plans to major in Computer Science.



JADA ISON | 2023

Jada Ison graduated from Cristo Rey in the top 10% of her class. She took a challenging curriculum of advanced placement and honors classes and excelled in all her studies. Despite a rigorous academic schedule, Jada participated in student government as a class representative. She was selected as a Cristo Rey Ambassador and a leader for the senior Kairos retreat. Jada worked throughout high school at Chick-Fil-A. In a leader, she values understanding, resiliency and selflessness. “Empowering others to do greater things and being satisfied with other’s success is what a leader should always want”. An experience during sophomore year opened her eyes to the medical profession and she hopes to study nursing in college. She was invited to join the Honors College at Georgia State University and we are delighted to follow her on this exciting journey.



DAISY JOHNSON-PEREZ | 2023

Daisy Johnson-Perez emigrated from Mexico when she was 10 years old; she spoke no English at the time. She began working in restaurants at 15 to help with finances at home and has worked on weekends throughout her high school career. In addition to classes at Cristo Rey, Daisy was given the opportunity to take a for-credit college course offered by the University of Notre Dame on “Technology and Innovation Ethics” and she spent a summer at Loyola University in Chicago in a faith and justice program for emerging leaders. At Cristo Rey, Daisy was a student ambassador, a member of the cross-country team and a varsity cheerleader. At Cristo Rey, Daisy earned the admiration of teachers and corporate work study mentors: “Daisy is one of the most academically capable, ethically engaged, personally gifted, vocationally-driven students I have taught... It would be fitting that this young woman, who has responded to adversity with resilience and compassion, would carry forward Madeleine Jude Brown’s legacy, from great sadness bringing forth hope, wisdom and goodness”. Daisy plans to study Global Health at Mercer University.



MADELEINE JUDE BROWN FOUNDATION

CAMILA TREJO-SALVATIERRA | 2022

Camila Trejo-Salvatierra completed her first year at Mercer University and is considering a healthcare-related major. As a first-generation college student, she was selected to be an Opportunity Scholar and won a university essay contest for the Minority Student Success Conference. This year she joined the Fencing Club!



BRAYAN TORRES | 2022

Brayan Torres completed his first year at Mercer University where he is planning to major in Engineering. He especially enjoyed his Engineering Design classes. He has developed a very good peer support system and plays basketball with friends at the Athletic Center. This summer he took Calculus and worked a full-time construction job.



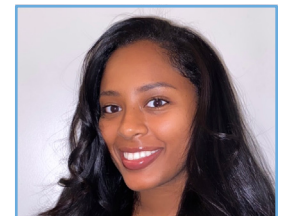
BAE NA DAE TA | 2021

Bae Na Dae Ta completed her sophomore year at Mercer University and was accepted into Mercer Nursing School. She began nursing school in August. During her first two years at Mercer she has tutored children in English and worked at an Amazon warehouse.



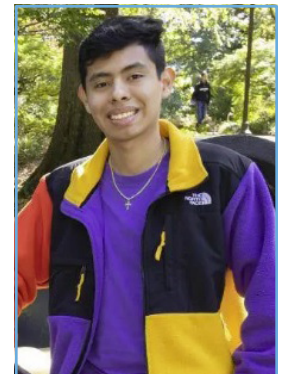
TSION FITSUM | 2020

Tsion Fitsum is a senior at Georgia Tech where she is studying industrial engineering. Throughout her college experience she has worked for Comcast and has rotated through many departments, most recently customer experience, data analysis, coding and SQL database management.



ABRAHAM PIZANO | 2020

Abraham Pizano is a senior at Georgia Tech majoring in Civil Engineering. His 2022 summer internship at Atlas (a project delivery management firm for large-scale infrastructure improvement programs) continued all year into summer 2023. His project on traffic patterns was presented at the Institute of Transportation Engineers forum and he was invited to participate in the Young Member ITE Traffic Bowl competition. He led the Georgia Tech delegation at the American Society of Civil Engineers student competition in Jacksonville and was named president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (Georgia Tech chapter) – the first undergraduate to hold that position! This summer he studied structural engineering in London and Scotland and will be applying to PhD programs.



ANGELA VASQUEZ | 2019

Angela Vasquez graduated from Georgia Tech in May 2023 with a major in Business Administration and a concentration in General Management. Throughout college she was very involved in Mother of God Church in Conyers and Our Loving Mothers Children Farm. She built websites for both organizations and arranged contemplative retreats. She now is applying for jobs.



MADELEINE JUDE BROWN FOUNDATION

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Yemesrach Tadesse (2009) graduated from Emory University with a major in Global Health. For 8 years she lived in Addis Ababa working as a consultant, researcher and field manager for nongovernmental organizations. This past May she graduated with a Masters in Development Practice from Emory University Laney Graduate School and is applying for jobs!



Melanie McCall (2012) graduated from Georgia Tech in Computational Media and works as a coding instructor for NuCamp. She married Kyle Diaz in 2020 and had baby girls Luna (January 2021) and Jade (January 2023). In addition to her coding work, Melanie and Kyle established their own company, Crystal Fengshui, an online metaphysical shop that specializes in crystals, a variety of herbs and tools for meditation.



Aniya Hamilton (2013) graduated from the University of Georgia in Environmental Science and spent three years living in Lomé, Togo in West Africa where she became fluent in French, worked in public health and tutored local children. In July 2023, she obtained her masters degree in International Development at The Paris Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo). She is working for the Innovation for Policy Foundation (i4Policy) and playing club volleyball at the regional level (just short of nationals!) in Paris.



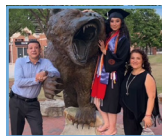
Simon Chang (2015) graduated from the University of Georgia with a major in Exercise and Sports Science and a minor in Chinese Language and Literature. In May 2023 he graduated from Augusta University (Medical College of Georgia) with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. During school, he worked 4 days per month as a Physical Therapy Assistant. He was the recipient of the Georgia Foundation for Physical Therapy (GFPT) Founder's Scholarship, the foundation's highest honor, "awarded to the PT student who demonstrates superior leadership and service capabilities and the potential to significantly contribute to the growth of the profession." Simon lives in Augusta and will wed Erica (a nurse) in November.



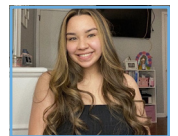
Janki Patel (2017) graduated from the University of Georgia in 2021 with a major in Environmental Science. After graduation, she obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license and worked at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital while she applied to nursing schools. Thankfully, her hard work paid off and Janki was accepted into the BSN Accelerated Nursing Program which she will complete in March 2024! She plans to continue working part time while going to school.



Lisbeth Villegas (2018) graduated from Mercer University in May 2022 with a triple major: Law & Public Policy, Spanish and Political Science. She has been working at a law firm and doing nonprofit volunteering as she applies to law schools.



Dariana Ruiz (2018) obtained her Associates Degree in Health Sciences from Perimeter College in May 2022. In May 2023 she graduated from the Dental Hygiene Program at Georgia State University. She now is fully licensed and applying for jobs!



ACTIVITIES

The Madeleine Jude Brown Foundation continues to support Mercy Care which provides healthcare to uninsured and marginalized communities in Atlanta. A new clinic and administrative space was completed in 2022 and the clinic waiting room was dedicated to Madeleine.

Mercy Care is a gift to Atlanta, providing in 2022:

- 26,173 medical visits
- 10,775 mental health visits
- 9,092 dental visits
- 6,067 case management visits
- 2,765 substance abuse visits

An affordable housing project is moving forward:

- Phase 1: 170 apartments with some dedicated to Mercy Care patients (est completion early 2024)
- Phase 2: 100 apartments for seniors (est start fall 2024)
- NPR ran a feature on Mercy Care Penrose Affordable Housing.

