



Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund, Inc.

State Headquarters

One Datan Center • 9100 S. Dadeland Blvd. • Suite 1010 • Miami, FL 33156-7800

Phone: (305) 423-8710 • Fax: (305) 670-0716

info@440scholarship.org • www.440scholarship.org

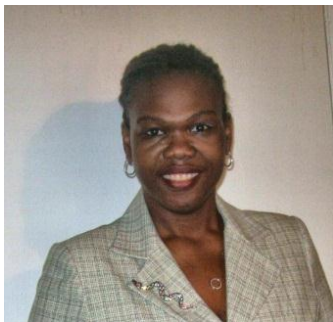
Scholarship Recipients – Where Are They Now?

We are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund this year. We started out in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties awarding scholarships to four students that totaled \$12,000. Now we are a statewide organization that in 2010 awarded a total of \$104,100 to 47 students and in 2011 awarded a total of \$77,100 to 44 students. Over the years we have awarded 608 scholarships totaling \$1,254,775 to students throughout Florida, helping them in their dreams of a college education.



Javier Lopez, M.D., was awarded scholarships for four years beginning in 1997. He graduated in 2001 from the University of Miami with a B.A. degree in Microbiology and Immunology and in 2005 from Yale School of Medicine. He completed an internship in surgery and a residency in anesthesiology at Yale New Haven Hospital in 2009 and has since returned to South Florida where he is currently an attending anesthesiologist at Aventura Hospital where he specializes in cardiothoracic, vascular, and regional anesthesia. He anticipates a transfer in 2011 to Kendall Regional Hospital where he will also perform obstetric anesthesia and trauma and be Vice Chief of the Anesthesia Department.

He was eligible for the scholarship due to a work-related injury of his father. Dr. Lopez said, "All of my work and accolades could not have been achieved had the Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund not assisted early on in my studies. I am truly grateful for the assistance your organization has provided, and I look forward to working with 440 in the future."



Stephanie L. Griffith, MHSa, was awarded scholarships for four years beginning in 1993. A graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and the University of Kansas, she now lives outside Washington, D.C. where she is a healthcare consultant and owns an event planning company.

Stephanie's high GPA made her eligible for a feeder program for graduate school. The president of FAMU was concerned that fewer than 3% of graduate degrees were awarded to African Americans. He created a program that provided free tuition for graduate school for African American students who maintained a 3.0 GPA. Stephanie feels the 3.0 GPA requirement of the Scholarship Fund was the impetus for her to maintain this high academic level. She obtained her Master's

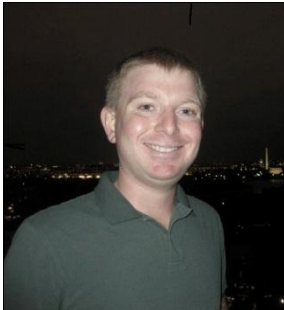
degree in Health Services Administration at the University of Kansas.

Stephanie's father worked diligently throughout his life and had a college degree from University of West Indies. His degree was not recognized in the United States, and he had to start over and work his way up. After working 35 years for the South Bay Growers in Belle Glade, FL, he was injured on the job while helping a colleague. Due to complications from diabetes, he had to have four toes and part of his leg amputated. He died the day Stephanie was to leave for college. She and her mother knew he would want her to go that day, which she did. Stephanie is the youngest of five children and the only one born in the United States. As the first generation in her family to graduate from college, Stephanie stated, "The Friends' scholarship was the financial catalyst that catapulted me to attain my high education goals."



Martha Rodriguez, B.S., M.S., was awarded scholarships for four years beginning in 2004. She is beginning her career in the field of Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISE) as a Manufacturing Engineer at Harris Corporation in Melbourne, FL. A graduate of the University of Florida, she completed a combined B.S./M.S. ISE degree in 2010 with concentrations in Engineering Management, Business Administration, and Sales Engineering. She was eligible for the scholarship due to a work-related injury of her father.

Martha said, "I am an advocate for programs that help financially struggling families send their children to college. Although college is a short period in one's life, the growth attributed to this time is forever lasting. With the help of Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund, young people have the opportunity to experience lifelong learning. Thank you so much for your generosity. I hope your scholarship reaches many more students with big dreams."



Greg Feldman was awarded scholarships for four years beginning in 2006. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2010 from University of Florida with a B.A. degree in political science and economics. He received a national award from Phi Sigma Kappa, his fraternity, for one of the top undergraduates in the country. He now attends George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where he is studying to receive a Master's degree in Public Administration. Greg is an Eagle Scout. He has a paid internship with the American Bakers Association supporting the government affairs team. Greg is treasurer of the student association for the Master of Public Administration Students. He loves Washington and is looking one day for a career associated with the federal government. He stated, "The Friends of 440 Scholarship

helped by providing me with the financial support to broaden my horizons while at the University of Florida. The scholarship enabled me to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available at UF such as Student Government, an internship with the County Manager and other leadership development opportunities. I truly believe that the Friends of 440 Scholarship was an integral part of my success at UF which will carry me forward to achieve greater success."



Melissa L. Berwick was awarded scholarships for four years beginning in 2007. She is currently a senior majoring in psychology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. She is the recipient of our Jennifer A. Sadow Hand of Friendship Award. Her goal is to work in child development. She is particularly interested in the mental development of young children. After graduation she hopes to go to graduate school. She was eligible for the scholarship due to a work-related injury of her father who is a fire fighter. "My dad is my definition of a hero. Every day he risked his life to help our community. I am so thankful to Friends of 440 for awarding me this scholarship because it has allowed me to move one step closer to achieving my goal to follow in my father's footsteps and serve my community!"



Nancy Fajardo, Esq., was awarded a scholarship in 2005. While attending the University of Miami her father was injured. She's stated, "The 440 Scholarship was significant in one particular way – the people of the scholarship sympathized with my struggle – that of having an injured dad, a sick mom, and a young college student trying to realize her dreams. Other scholarships focused on my grades as did the 440 Scholarship, but I felt as if I was not alone because the 440 Scholarship not only looked at my grades, but at my entire person, my achievements as well as my struggles." Ms. Fajardo is now an attorney in Miami specializing in workers' compensation law.

Article for *Florida Workers Compensation Institute Newsletter*, March, 2011

By Nancy Fajardo, Esquire, Scholarship Alumnus

Kaplan & Miller, P.A., Coral Gables, FL

How often do you write down a goal and reflect upon it years later only to realize you have actually successfully completed that goal? I really cannot tell you how many times I have actually done that, but I can say with certainty that it has happened at least once in my life. When I was graduating high school I wrote down a list of goals that I wanted to accomplish by 25. My number one goal was to be an attorney by the age of 25. Years later, when I was about to graduate law school at age 24, I went through all my rubbish in my garage only to find my goal list. As I looked at that list, I thought about everything I had gone through to achieve this number one goal and I felt nostalgic remembering that exact moment I wrote down this list.

Going to law school is never the easiest thing, especially when you have absolutely no guidance. However, I may not have had guidance, but I certainly had a lot of helping hands, one of which was the Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund. While attending the University of Miami my dad was injured while working which led to the discovery of many health complications my dad had, including by-pass surgery. At the time, my father was the only breadwinner of the house being that my mother suffers from Crohn's Disease and is most of the time constricted to remaining at home. Those upcoming months were very difficult as I was working more than part-time trying to contribute to the household while pursuing an education at the University of Miami. The Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund was nothing short of a miracle.

Receiving that scholarship during my last year at University of Miami was a blessing. Not only did it help me financially, but it gave me hope that I could accomplish my dreams because there were people that cared to see me achieve. While I did receive many other scholarships while attending both undergraduate and law school, the 440 Scholarship was significant in one particular way - the people of the scholarship sympathized with my struggle - that of having an injured dad, a sick mom, and a young college student trying to realize her dreams. Other scholarships focused on my grades as did the 440 Scholarship, but I felt as if I was not alone because the 440 Scholarship not only looked at my grades, but at my entire person, my achievements as well as my struggles. This only made me feel more appreciative to be a recipient as well as supported by professionals that I looked up to.

The 440 Scholarship simultaneously helped influence my education and my career. Education-wise I was able to continue my studies without having the fear that I would not be able to graduate simply because of monetary reasons. Career-wise I was on my way to becoming an attorney. Had it not been for the support of the 440 Scholarship, I may have found myself unable to meet tuition at the University of Miami and thus I may have not realized my career goal of becoming a lawyer. Additionally, my love of workers' compensation and the wonderful people that work in this field while contemporaneously help propel the 440 Scholarship Fund made me feel proud to be part of this community and continue participating in this particular legal field. Specifically, I would like to thank Judge Alan M. Kuker for his kind words of encouragement and faith in me and the great and wonderful people at Sadow & Gorowitz who brought me into the workers' compensation field and pushed me to apply for the scholarship.

I can honestly say that many helped me pave the way to my goal, but the 440 Scholarship Fund will always have a special place in that journey. Some may ask how the scholarship influenced my life, and all I can answer is how often do you write down a goal and reflect upon it years later only to realize you have actually successfully completed that goal? Thank you.

Article for *Florida Workers Compensation Institute Newsletter*, January, 2011

By Javier Lopez, MD

Anesthesiologist, Aventura Hospital

I was a scholarship recipient of the Friends of 440 Scholarship during my studies at the University of Miami, and I'm writing to discuss my achievements and to thank the members of the organization for all that they have done.

I completed my undergraduate studies in Microbiology and Immunology in 2001 at the University of Miami graduating Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Thereafter, my career took a fantastic leap to Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. I graduated with my Doctor of Medicine in 2005, completed an internship in surgery and a residency in anesthesiology at Yale New Haven Hospital in 2009, and have since returned to South Florida to be with my fiancé, family, and friends. While at Yale I had several publications and scientific research projects including the following:

Effects of the Anti-Glucocorticoid Ketoconazole on Cocaine Cravings in Addicts (2002)

Doctoral Dissertation: Trends in CA-125 Changes Within the Range of Normal as a Predictor of Ovarian Cancer Recurrence *Yale Journal of Biology* (2005)

A review article on Post Mastectomy Pain Syndrome published in *American Surgeon* (2008)

Pain Management in the Elderly (Chapter published in textbook *Pain Management* 2007)

Editor of *Anesthesiology Keywords* review book for anesthesia boards (2006-2009)

My certifications include US Medical Licensing Boards since 2003 and board certified in anesthesiology since 2010.

I am currently an attending anesthesiologist at Aventura Hospital in South Florida where I specialize in cardiothoracic, vascular, and regional anesthesia. I anticipate a transfer in early 2011 to Kendall Regional Hospital where I will also perform obstetric anesthesia and trauma and be Vice Chief of the Anesthesia Department.

All of my work and accolades could not have been achieved had the Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund not assisted early on in my studies. I am truly grateful for the assistance your organization has provided, and I look forward to working with 440 in the future.