



**UF**

**Machen Florida  
Opportunity Scholars**

F L O R I D A   F I R S T .   G A T O R S   F O R E V E R .

Some people **overcome great odds** to be Gators.

Fortitude, optimism and sense of obligation push them to **dig deeper** and **reach higher** than their parents could.

Confident that **destinies are made**, they refuse to allow circumstances to determine their fate.

When some people dream of college – well aware that cost and family history conspire against them – they **challenge themselves** to work harder.

Some people are **Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars**.



COVER  
Andres Vergara: now a UF political science graduate student

Darius Rucker: now working with Teach for America >  
Jinyu Shao: now an engineering graduate



*Bright, talented and ambitious with proven strength of character, Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars have everything it takes to become **tomorrow's leaders**.*

*It's a select group. Opportunity Scholars are **academically exceptional**. All are Florida residents. None have parents with a college degree. And none are from families that earn more than \$40,000 a year.*

*Opportunity Scholars are trailblazers. Their education not only changes the direction of their own lives, **it sets a new course for their families, improves their communities and strengthens Florida's workforce**.*

*Jake Kennedy: (top left) now assistant manager at Walmart*

*Angelica Rojas: (top right) now a UF master's graduate in school guidance counseling*

*Taly Cruz: (bottom in cap and gown) now a criminology graduate*



The Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program is transformational. Additional support will help ensure that more, qualified Florida residents have an opportunity to earn a University of Florida degree.

#### FIVE REASONS TO CARE

1. The program can transform the state of Florida by increasing the number of college-educated citizens from all walks of life.
2. It improves Florida by raising families out of poverty, creating healthier communities and generating a stronger workforce.
3. It ensures that Florida's brightest and most talented students have the chance to earn degrees from the state's flagship university.
4. It helps end generations of unmet academic and professional potential in low-income families.
5. It is one of President Machen's most endearing and important legacies, and supporting it is a way to honor Bernie and Chris for their decade of service to UF.

< **Carolina Bermudez:** now a graphic designer for the Tampa Bay Lightning



**ORGANIZATIONS THAT EMPLOY OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS**

*Amazon, General Electric, Department of Homeland Security, Teach for America, PriceWaterhouseCooper, Deloitte, JPMorgan Chase, ESPN/SEC Network, Time Inc., Siemens, Intel, Space X, Eli Lilly, New York Mets, Lockheed Martin, UF Health, Disney and Chrysler*

**SAMPLE CAREERS**

*Speech-language pathologists, attorneys, engineers, teachers, audiologists, dieticians, accountants and business analysts*

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS**

*Florida, Stanford, Harvard, Boston, Miami, Michigan, Indiana, Syracuse, Southern California and Northwestern*

< **Antonio DeLeon:** now a UF pharmacy student

**\$18,292**

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME OF SCHOLARS

**\$9,229**

AVERAGE ANNUAL COST FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP

**3000**

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EACH FRESHMAN CLASS

**1,596**

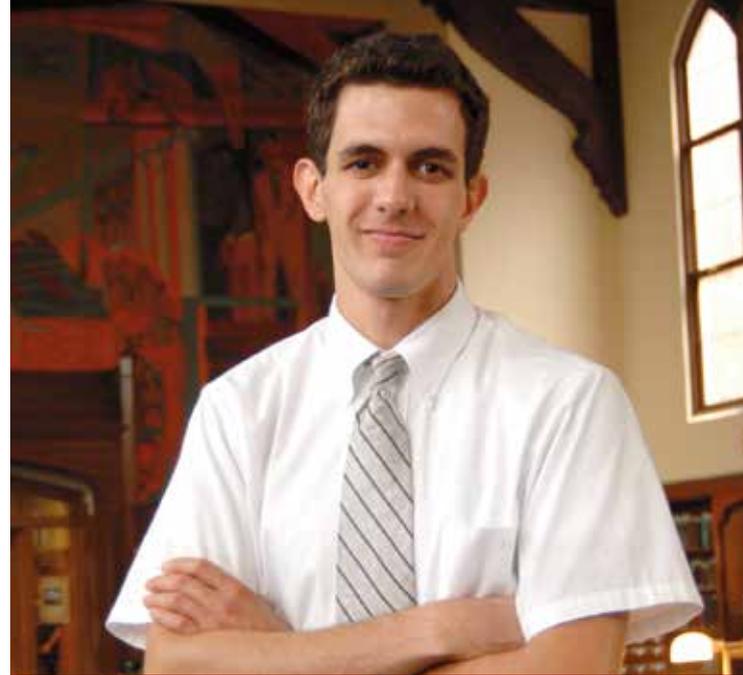
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS WHO ARE NOW PROUD UF GRADUATES

**62**

OF FLORIDA'S 67 COUNTIES THAT ARE HOME TO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS



**Virlany Taboada**  
now a business analyst, AXA US



**Austin Eklund**  
now a graduate student at New York University



**Hamardo Sinclair**  
now associate editor at the SEC Network



**Lindsey Hidenrite**  
now a UF veterinary medicine student



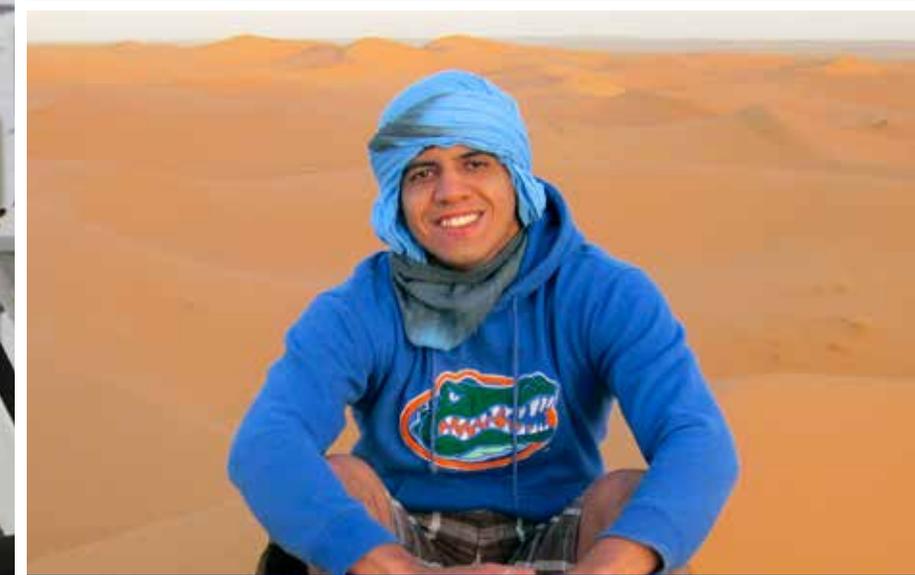
**Antonio Dowels**  
now a law student at St. Thomas University



**Heather Loran**  
now a graduate student at the University of North Florida



**Monica Solomon**  
now a health education and behavior graduate



**Luis Roca**  
now completing a Princeton fellowship in Peru



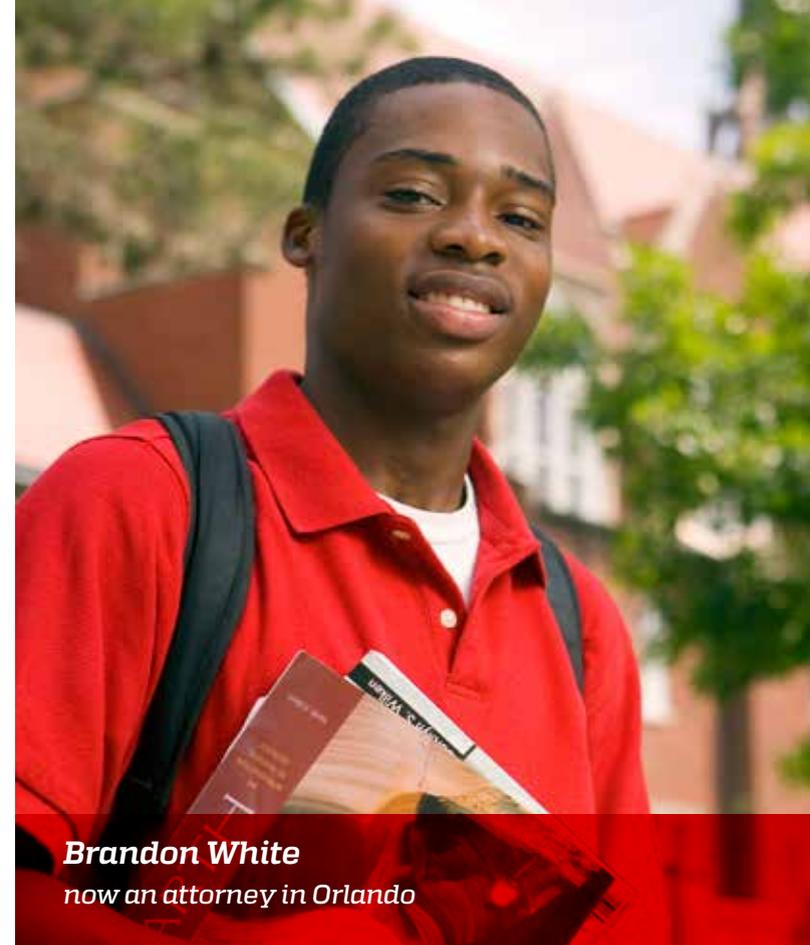
**Alexandra Montero**  
now a graduate student at American University



**Martin Parks**  
now earned a UF master's in engineering



**Sayra Suarez**  
now a psychology graduate



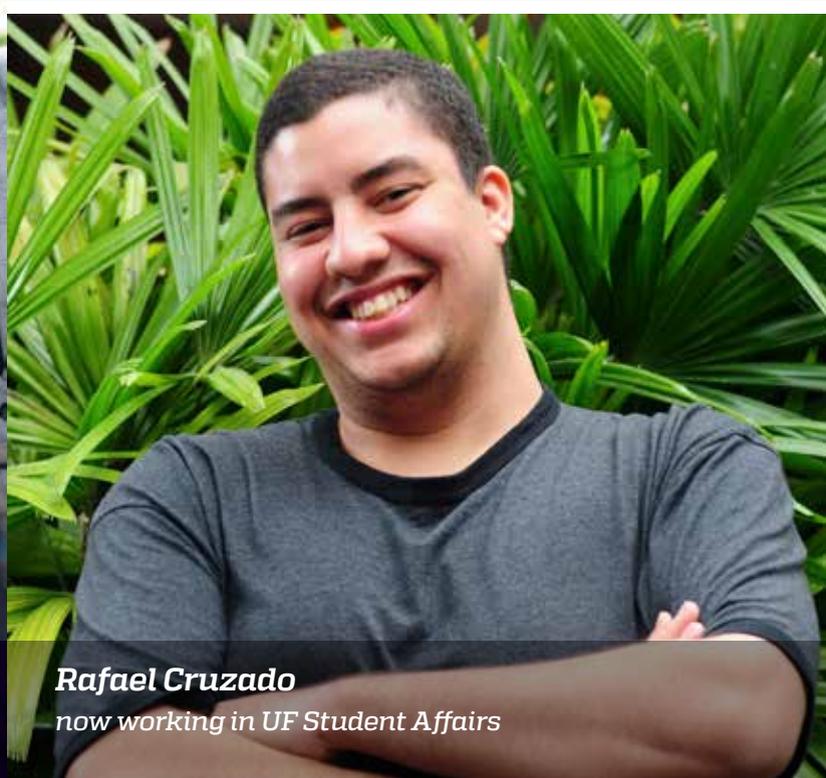
**Brandon White**  
now an attorney in Orlando



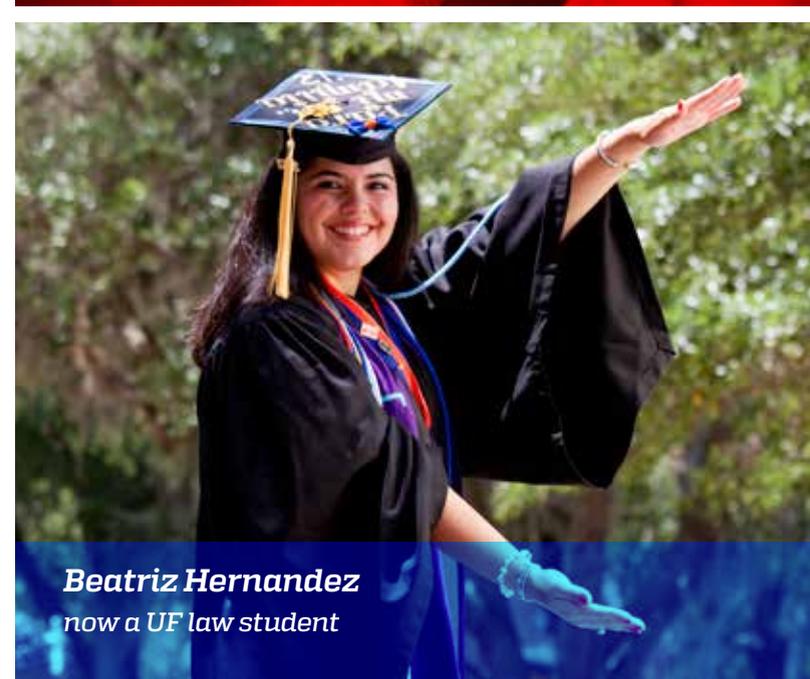
**Bernadette Behrmann**  
now working for the Department of Homeland Security



**Latayla Gordon Stevens**  
now a sports management graduate



**Rafael Cruzado**  
now working in UF Student Affairs



**Beatriz Hernandez**  
now a UF law student

## OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

### Why was Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars created?

Because we can't afford to leave smart and talented people on the outside looking in. For Florida to be vibrant and healthy, we need everyone to contribute. Too often, young people from poor neighborhoods don't attend college, even when they're academically gifted.

### What does an Opportunity Scholarship cover?

Tuition, books and living expenses.

### Who is eligible for an Opportunity Scholarship?

Before students can even be considered they must be accepted into the freshman class. Then, if they're Florida residents, neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, and they come from homes with incomes of less than \$40,000, they might be offered a scholarship.

### Why "might be offered"?

We are currently funding 300 new scholarships for freshmen; in all, there are 1,200 scholarships available a year, 300 for each class. Unfortunately, many freshmen who qualify will not be offered the scholarship and might decide not to enroll.

### Who supports the program?

This is a partnership initiative with investors that include the university, the state and people like you who believe in the program's mission. Donors include UF administrators and professors, alumni and friends, and even students. In fact, many Opportunity Scholars give back after they graduate and have jobs.

### What's our immediate fundraising goal?

Donors have committed nearly 20,000 gifts worth \$62 million since the program started in 2006, including commitments to the endowment totaling \$35 million. Our working goal is to increase private support to \$100 million and the endowment to \$50 million by 2020.

### How do Opportunity Scholars give back?

As students, many Opportunity Scholars mentor other students and volunteer in their communities and on campus. Once in their careers, alumni continue to give back through volunteer work and professions that serve others, such as teaching and counseling.

**Some people** talk about making a difference. People who invest in Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars actually do.

Because of them, young people reach higher. Families discover hope. Communities are healthier. The state of Florida is stronger.

We invite you to join us as we strengthen our commitment to helping future Gators pursue their educational goals and dreams.

### Yes, I'll ...

- Make a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Host a leadership briefing to encourage others to support the program.
- Connect UF with friends who might be interested.

Friend 1's name \_\_\_\_\_

Friend 2's name \_\_\_\_\_

Friend 3's name \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**

**WE COME TOGETHER  
FOR THE GATOR GOOD  
KNOWING THAT ALMOST  
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE,  
GIVEN THE RIGHT  
OPPORTUNITY.**

**FOS**  
*alarm*

**FLORIDA FIRST. GATORS FOREVER.**

**“I think often of the donors who make  
Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars  
possible, and I thank each of you with  
the deepest sincerity.”**

*— Shelby Powell (class of 2010)  
now project manager, World of Change Inc.*

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**FLORIDA**

**352-392-5401 | [OPPORTUNITY.UFL.EDU](http://OPPORTUNITY.UFL.EDU)**