Thanks to you, we’re creating opportunities for the leaders of tomorrow and making the world a cleaner, safer, more enriching and equitable place to live.

FRIENDS OF RENAISSANCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HEED THE CALL FOR HELP

Four donors have given $400,000 toward medical school scholarships in match challenge

For many aspiring physicians, medical school is only a dream. The high cost of attending medical school and the resulting debt upon graduation make it unattainable for countless highly qualified students.

More than one-third of the Renaissance School of Medicine’s 2020 graduating class accrued over $250,000 in debt during their time in medical school, and that number is increasing each year, making need-based scholarships an essential tool for recruiting and training diverse and talented cohorts of future physicians, surgeons and others.

Recognizing the need to help these students and in celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the founding of the Renaissance School of Medicine, Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, MACP, announced a five-year match challenge to support endowed need-based scholarships for medical students. The ultimate goal: to build an endowment that will support the next generation of medical students at Stony Brook University.

“If we want to make sure the Renaissance School of Medicine remains a school of choice for the most promising students, we need to make it more affordable for them,” said Dean Kaushansky. “Hopefully, this match program will inspire our friends to reach out in support of our students.”

Longtime friends of Stony Brook the Guru Krupa Foundation and several other generous donors heeded Dr. Kaushansky’s call. In total, the Guru Krupa Foundation; Krishnareddy Gujavarty, MD; Edward Weingarden ’79, MD ’85 and Judith Weingarden; and Stony Brook University Alumni Association President Robert deBrauwer ’87 and Caryn deBrauwer ’86 have donated $400,000 to the Renaissance School of Medicine’s 50th Anniversary Scholarship Match Program — making a total impact of $800,000 and creating four endowed scholarship funds for students in need.

“We strive to provide equal access to deserving students who otherwise could not afford to pursue such opportunities,” said Mahendran Padmanabhan, founder and president of the Guru Krupa Foundation. “There are few who are more deserving of that support than the hardworking students at Stony Brook University. We look forward to watching these leaders of tomorrow as they thrive in the inquisitive, compassionate, inspiring environment at the Renaissance School of Medicine.”
As the sole earner of a family of four and the parent of a child with extensive medical needs, Stephen Pallas works several jobs to support his family. At the same time, he spends hours writing his dissertation, working as a research assistant, presenting at national conferences, publishing his work in academic journals and writing for the English Department blog.

Thanks to the Alumni Association Doctoral Summer Fellowship, Stephen can hone his focus on his dissertation and, ultimately, share with the world his important insight concerning the impact of British Romantic literature on cultivating empathy and inspiring institutional and cultural change.

Kiara Thomas ’21 is a senior journalism major and Africana studies minor. She is the editor-in-chief of "Black World," a newspaper on campus that provides a voice for the Black and Hispanic/Latino communities, and a member of the Women’s Leadership Council.

Her passion for social justice and writing inspired her to study journalism. Her goal is to one day be editor-in-chief of her own newspaper that focuses on the challenges minority communities face. As a 2020 Stony Brook Foundation Trustee Scholar, Kiara can continue to shine an essential light on social justice issues and the needs and struggles of underrepresented students and communities.

Since 2016, 1,196 friends, alumni, faculty and staff have commemorated their Seawolves spirit and memories by purchasing a brick on Stony Brook’s Legacy Way. Funds from these purchases helped pave the way for a scholarship for students who strive to make a lasting impact on the University.

On May 22, 2020, their investment came to fruition, as the first-ever Legacy Way Scholar graduated from Stony Brook. Ricardo Moncada Peon graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. Ricardo was involved in Stony Brook Athletics as a member of the Stony Brook men’s soccer, a representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, a PACE Mentor for incoming freshmen, a facilitator for the One Love Foundation and a TA for the Intro to Stony Brook course for freshmen and transfer students.

Outside of athletics, Ricardo was proud to be part of the Stony Brook Student Ambassadors, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the President’s Council of Student Advisors. In the 2018-19 academic year, Ricardo was awarded the Undergraduate Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement in Leadership.

The Legacy Way Award provided a two-year scholarship for his junior and senior years starting in the fall of 2018 until his graduation this past May. Ricardo is currently working as a controls engineer at Champion Controls, Inc. in Ronkonkoma, New York.

"My SBU experience was a special one; I really tried to squeeze the most out of my time there. I’m happy to have been able to leave an impact on my peers at Stony Brook and honored to leave my mark as the first official Legacy Way Scholar."

Ricardo Moncada Peon ’20

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UNDERSTANDING HUMANITY THROUGH LITERATURE

Stephen Pallas | 5th-Year PhD candidate in English Literature

TRUSTEE SCHOLAR USES TALENTS TO SHINE LIGHT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

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FIRST LEGACY WAY SCHOLAR GRADUATES

Inaugural scholarship helps Ricardo Moncada Peon realize his dreams