



**ROTARY CLUB  
OF MIAMI**

*Thomas Brown  
McClelland Trust*

# ALUMNI NEWS

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Nov-Dec. 2025

## Scholarship Awards Made for 2025-26

Another year is in the books and the Rotary Club Miami, Trustees for the Thomas Brown McClelland Trust, is proud to announce that 76 students have been awarded a total of **\$304,000** in scholarships for this school year. It is always such a pleasure for Miami Rotarians to interview such deserving individuals wishing to become physicians. Here are some stats on our 2025-26 group of recipients.

- There were 14 different medical schools receiving funds on behalf of our accomplished students.
- 71% of this year's recipients are women.
- 35 recipients received funds for the first time!
- Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine students represented well over 50% of those applying.
- The TBM alumni family is now 899 strong, having received over \$8.5 million in scholarships since the scholarships were first awarded in 1983!



Congratulations to all of the 2025-26 recipients! We look forward to following your careers as you study hard and work your way to achieve your goal of becoming a physician. To all of you who have received funding, no matter when, we wish you continued success. Please keep us posted on your activities and accomplishments; we love to share your updates with our membership.



## **Another Way to Give Back to the Trust!**

A gift of appreciated stock is a great way to support TBM's mission of providing scholarships to medical students—helping future physicians pursue their education with fewer financial barriers, while potentially offering the donor meaningful tax advantages. It allows you to contribute securities at full market value without incurring capital gains tax—making it both impactful and efficient.

The donor would initiate the transfer through their brokerage firm, which would send the shares directly to the TBM Trust account. Once received, the trust can liquidate the shares and issue a donation acknowledgment letter to the donor for the full fair market value on the date of receipt of the transfer.

Rules are changing so 2025 is the last year to maximize your charitable deduction under current, more favorable conditions. Please reach out to [miamirotarytbumalum@yahoo.com](mailto:miamirotarytbumalum@yahoo.com) and we will gladly connect you to the Trust's financial institution. They can provide all the details and answer any questions you or your financial advisor might have.

## We Mourn the Passing of Arthur C. Bivins III

The Rotary Club of Miami sadly shares the news of the passing of long-time Rotarian Arthur C. Bivins III. Art was a great supporter of the Thomas Brown McClelland Trust. Some of you may have interviewed with him when you were applying for your scholarship. He was active and very dedicated to everything Rotary.



To honor his memory, besides his family requesting remembrance donations be made to the Trust, the Rotary Club of Miami Foundation has announced it will match 50% all contributions to the Thomas Brown McClelland Trust through the end of the Rotary year – June 30, 2026 – up to \$20,000.

We continue to value your support and everything you do for your patients, family and the community. Please take this moment to consider making a donation that will go that much further to the Trust today in Art Bivins' memory. He is missed by all!

**The 2026-2027 TBM Application is available online now: [www.miamirotary.org](http://www.miamirotary.org)  
Applications must be postmarked by January 3, 2026**

## Maria Abreu ('89) shares her journey!

"There are memories of medical school that are still quite vivid and one of those is going to the Rotary Club to be interviewed by very serious men who wanted to know why I wanted to be a doctor. One was particularly curious about what a woman might bring to medicine. Well, I must have gotten the answers right because I was fortunate to have been awarded a Thomas Brown McClelland scholarship.



It is 35 years later and I am still happy with my choice of profession and my choice of gastroenterology. Gastroenterologists are mostly male physicians yet there has been a tipping of women choosing the specialty. I believe established women, me included, have made the field accessible, relatable, and welcoming. I have been in academia my entire career and am one of few physician-scientists in my field of inflammatory bowel diseases (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis).

I had a wonderful opportunity to spend almost 18 years at the University of Miami—initially as chief of gastroenterology and as founding director of the Crohn's and Colitis Center. I have also had the privilege to be president of our oldest gastroenterology society—the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA). I served as the fifth woman in 119 presidents, the first Latina, and the only woman to follow another woman. In so doing, I represented Miami and indirectly the gift of the Rotary Club's Thomas Brown McClelland Scholarship.

I am now the Executive Director of the F. Widjaja IBD Institute at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles. In this new role, I lead a team of scientists and clinicians united in the goal of curing inflammatory bowel diseases. I continue to pay it forward by helping other young people in their medical careers. Thus, the virtuous cycle continues. Thank you."



**Carlos Cardenas ('85)** is a neuroradiologist in private practice in Tampa, FL. His goal is to provide excellence in every patient experience. Dr. Cardenas is very appreciative of the financial assistance he received from the Trust and hopes his contribution back to the Trust enables others to pursue their dreams.

**Shahil Mehta ('18)** recently completed his Radiation Oncology residency at the USC and has moved to the Bay Area as a radiation oncologist at El Camino Health. His work focuses on providing compassionate, personalized care for patients with a wide range of cancers using advanced radiation techniques. Note: Shahil is interested in connecting with any Bay area TBM alums. If you'd like to connect, reach out to TBM via email and we'll make it happen!



**Ana María Muñoz-Leen ('98)** is Staff Psychiatrist at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC. Her clinical interests are Autism Spectrum Disorder, adjustment to College/Higher Education, Depression, anxiety, ADHD, cognitive behavioral therapy, psychodynamic psychotherapy, and psychiatry in relation to Film/TV and Historical Figures.

**Sonja Richmond ('01)** is chief medical officer of hospice at Blue Ridge Care in Winchester, VA. She has expertise in hospice, palliative and primary care, as well as leadership in medical operations, clinical education and patient-centered care. A nationally recognized speaker and certified yoga instructor, Dr. Richmond integrates mindfulness and wellness practices into her approach to leadership and team development.



**Sayra Sievert ('07)** is co-founder of Sievert and Walsh Gynecology. Her goal in opening this practice was to provide a comfortable and warm office where women could receive the highest level of care without feeling like a number. The practice's sincerity, caring demeanor, depth of knowledge and ability to listen are high priorities. Dr. Sievert wants every patient coming to the office to truly have a great experience.

**Christopher Tarr ('01)** is the CEO of Tucson ER & Hospital. He leads a team that is committed to serving the Tucson community by providing respectful, compassionate, state-of-the-art emergency and hospital care and restoring the physician-patient relationship in a time-conscious fashion.



**Scott Wolf ('99)** is a prolific medical device entrepreneur across a broad range of therapeutic areas. He founded Aerin Medical to create non-surgical therapies to meet the enormous need of patients with the most common nasal airway problems, including nasal obstruction. Prior to founding Aerin Medical, Scott founded Zeltiq Aesthetics, the maker of CoolSculpting, the leading non-invasive method of fat reduction for body sculpting.

**For the upcoming new year, the Rotary Club of Miami sincerely wishes you and your family....**



Please consider making a **tax-deductible** contribution today.  
Complete this form and send to:  
"Thomas Brown McClelland Trust", P.O. Box 43-1466, Miami FL 33143  
**THANK YOU!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*In a few words, please let us know what you've been doing:*

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If you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on the newsletter, please contact TBM Alumni Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Marcia Brod at: [miamirotarytmbalum@yahoo.com](mailto:miamirotarytmbalum@yahoo.com) We would love to hear from you!