Michigan Tradition Award Eases College Financial Burdens

KRISTEN WEHLING / KNIGHT LIFE

Jocelyn Hillard and Sarah Mills study hard in Frank Ryan's physics class. Mills and Hillard will be attending the University of Michigan next year and both have received the Michigan Tradition Award to help pay for college expenses.

Kristen Wehling
News Editor

Senior year of high school is a time for partying, prom, graduation, and preparing for college. At the start of the school year, many students begin filling out their college applications, asking for guidance counselor and teacher recommendations, and making sure they keep their grades in top shape. In addition to applying to schools, parents and students may be curious as to how they will go about paying for college. Tuition rates, housing, and textbook prices are sky-rocketing and there seems to be no end in sight for the debt college students may face.

The Kalamzoo Promise, announced during the 2005 school year, has already assisted KPS graduates in paying for tuition, with 302 students receiving the scholarship in the class of 2006. However, fees for room and board and books are not covered under the Kalamazoo Promise.

According to the College Board, the average tuition for in-state students at the University of Michigan for Fall 2007 was $10,447 per year. Housing averages out to be $8,190 for the 2007 school year. The tuition will be covered by the Promise, but how will so many students come up with $8,000 for housing without taking out loans or applying for several scholarships?

So far this school year, many Loy Norrix seniors have been admitted to the University of Michigan for the Fall 2008 semester. More than ten of these admitted seniors have recieved the Michigan Tradition Award, making graduating from college almost completely free of debt a reality.

The Michigan Tradition Award is awarded to students in underrepresented high schools and neighborhoods at the University of Michigan, or to students who have met one or more of the following criteria: first generation college student, a family income of less than $50,000 per year, or residing in a single parent household. The recipients of the award are determined using a software tool called Descriptor PLUS that applies geodemographic measures to determine what schools and neighborhoods are underrepresented at Michigan. This award provides the recipient with $40,000 to be used over four years, awarding $10,000 per academic year to the student. Seniors Sarah Mills and Jocelyn Hillard expressed their enthusiasm over the award.

"I was excited because I realized with the Promise it will pay for my entire expenses," said Hillard.

Mills shares Hillard's joy over receiving the award.

"Michigan is such a good school and along with the Promise, this scholarship allows a lot of us to go to Michigan basically for free," said Mills.

According to a Vickie Crupper, a financial aid representative from the University of Michigan, the Michigan Tradition Award is a non tuition specific scholarship, meaning that it can be used along with the Kalamazoo Promise for any additional fees. A commonly expressed concern regarding this award was that receiving the Kalamazoo Promise will affect whether or not recepients of this scholarship actually receive the money, since many admitted students to the University of Michigan already are being granted 100% of their tuition through the Promise.

Crupper assures that this is not what will happen. After the Kalamazoo Promise or Michigan Merit Award money has been paid towards tuition, the Michigan Tradition Award will go towards the remainder of tuition (if any) and then will be put towards housing costs. If all funds have been paid off and there is leftover money from the award, students will be reimbursed their scholarship money to be put to use for books and other miscellaneous fees.

With a guarantee of free college to many students from Loy Norrix that were admitted to the University of Michigan, the college decision became a lot easier. For Mills it was between attending Kalamazoo College, where her dad works as a professor, or attending the University of Michigan. Hillard was admitted to both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan for this coming fall, and was also trying to decide where to attend.

"I was debating between U of M and State, but now that I have this money I will be attending Michigan," said Hillard.

The Michigan Tradition Award announcements were mailed out in late December over the winter holidays, a pleasant surprise for several seniors. This award eases the financial aid process for many individuals which greatly eases Mills' mind.

"Applying for scholarships would have been more difficult. I would have had to do more work applying for scholarships. This one just got mailed to us in the mail," said Mills.

Affordable college at one of the nation's top public universities has just been made a reality for many students at Norrix. Receiving this award has caused many students contemplating where to attend this upcoming fall to make their final decision. This decision provides several seniors with the opportunity to attend college without worrying about the financial burdens many retain after graduating.

"I'm just glad that this scholarship will cover all of my expenses," said Hillard with relief knowing that her college years will practically be free of charge.

How the Michigan Tradition Award works

1) Tuition and standard fees are assessed and charged to your U-M student account in August.

2) Campus Housing and Board plan charges (if applicable) are charged to your U-M student account in August.

3) Miscellaneous items such as internet access, cable, course fees, etc. are charged to your account. The date is yet to be announced.

4) Your financial aid, including the Kalamazoo Promise, Michigan Tradition, and any other aid, will be applied to your account in late August. It will first offset tuition and fees (Kalamazoo Promise), and then any applicable Housing/Board charges. Aid will not cover the miscellaneous items listed in number 3 above.

5) If your financial aid fully covers all charges in items 1 and 2, and if there is remaining "excess" aid, you will receive a refund which you can then use to cover books, supplies and/or other miscellaneous items needed.

Juan Roman, Former Loy Norrix Student, Dies at Age 19

Monica Vega
Guest Writer

Juan Roman passed away at the age of 19 on December 10, 2007 after battling with colon cancer for a year. He was born in Chicago, IL on September 17, 1988, and was the son of Vicente and Teresa (Ocampo) Roman.

Juan attended four different elementary schools in Chicago and went to middle school at Maple Street Magnet School before coming to Loy Norrix.

Juan's former bilingual teacher at Maple Street, Melissa Herwick said, "Juan was a wonderful person full of life and energy. He left us many happy memories. Juan will always be remembered in my heart. I feel fortunate to have known him. God bless him and keep him in his care."

Olga Gamboa, another one of Juan's former teachers also has many fond memories of Juan.

"Juan was a student who loved to express his opinion. He enjoyed life and helping his sisters. He will be missed," said Gamboa.

Before being diagnosed with cancer, Juan enjoyed hanging out with friends and playing soccer. He worked at the Angels Crossing Golf Course and was a member of the Iglesia Evangelica Misionera "Yo Soy" Church. He always told a lot of jokes, and he had dreamed of one day becoming a preacher.

Juan had many dreams in his life but they all came crashing down when he found out about his cancer. Instead of moping around and feeling sorry for himself, he asked God for forgiveness and went to church more often. He became very involved with Christian music and played the bass electric guitar at his church. The day before he passed, one of his dreams was to get his sister to go to Encounter at his church, which is a sort of confession, and she did go.

Juan tried very hard and succeeded in changing a lot of people's lives who were close to him. He also became focused on obtaining his G.E.D. (Graduating Equivalency Degree).

Juan's mother and father expressed great pride for the change he made in his life.

"We're really proud of him for the change God made in him, he never stopped believing in God," said Juan's mother, and his father agreed.

Juan's sister Rosalva said, "He was a great brother and very supportive."

One of Juan's close friends Yvette Arteaga expressed that she will also miss Juan greatly.

"He always protected people. He was like a big brother to me. When he found out he had cancer he changed so much. He stopped hanging out with the people he used to and started going to church. He confessed so much so he wasn't scared to move on. He didn't even want to go through chemotherapy, through having to go through it. He changed so many people's lives even though he isn't here. I still love and miss him. R.I.P. Juanito," said Arteaga.

Another one of Juan's friends, Elideth Salas said, "Juan was the coolest homie I've ever had. He was a funny person and with all his qualities he will never be forgotten."

Juan is survived by his parents, Bicente and Theresa Roman; siblings Rosalva, Gricel and Flor Roman; one niece, Princess Angelica Trujillo; two uncles, Juan Ocampo and Gregorio Roman, both maternal and paternal grandfathers, and many friends, teachers and other people who were a part of his life.

Juan Roman ex Estudiante de la Escuela Loy Norrix, Murio a la Edad de 19 Años

Por: Monica Vega
Traducido por Rocio Hernandez

Juan Roman murió a la edad de 19 años el 10 de Diciembre del año 2007, después de luchar contra el cáncer de colon durante un año. Juan nació en Chicago, IL el 17 de Septiembre, de 1988 y era hijo de Vicente y Teresa Roman.

Juan asistió a 4 primarias diferentes en Chicago,IL y antes de ingresar a la preparatoria Loy Norrix asistió a la escuela secundaria Maple Street Magnet. Las ex maestra bilingue de Juan de la escuela secundaria Maple Street Magnet Melissa Herwick dijo, "Juan era una persona maravillosa llena de vida y energía. El nos dejo muchos recuerdos felices. Juan será siempre recordado en mi corazón. Me siento muy afortunada de haberlo conocido. Dios lo bendiga y lo guarde".

Olga Gamboa, otra de las ex maestras de el también tiene muchos recuerdos encontrados."Juan era un estudiante que amaba expresar su opinión. El disfrutaba la vida y ayudar a sus hermanas. El será extrañado," dijo Gamboa.

Antes de haber sido diagnosticado con cáncer, el disfrutaba salir con sus amigos y también jugar soccer. Juan trabajaba en Angels Crossind Golf Course y era miembro de la iglesia Evangélica Misionera "Yo Soy". Juan siempre contaba muchos chistes y soñaba que un día seria predicador.

El tenia muchos sueños en su vida pero todos se vinieron abajo cuando descubrió que tenia cáncer pero en lugar de llorar y de sentir lastima por si mismo, le pidió a Dios perdón y asistió a la iglesia con mas frecuencia. Juan se envolvió mas en la música cristiana y tocaba la guitarra electrónica en su iglesia. Un día antes que el falleciera, el soñaba con que su hermana fuera a confesarse a la iglesia, y ella lo hizo.

Juan lucho muy duro por cambiar la vida de los que estuvieran cerca de el. Y se enfoco en obtener su G.E.D.(diploma de prepa abierta)

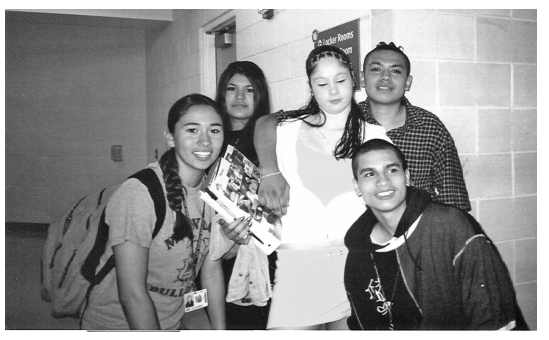
Los padres de Juan expresaron gran orgullo por el cambio que el hizo en su vida. "Estamos muy orgullosos del cambio que Dios hizo en el, el nunca dejo de creer en Dios", dijo la madre de Juan, y su padre reafirma.

Rosalva hermana de Juan dijo,"El era un excelente hermano y muy comprensivo".

Yvette Arteaga una amiga muy cercana a Juan expreso que ella siempre lo extrañara."El era una persona muy protectora. Era como un hermano mayor para mi. Cuando el descubrió que tenia cáncer cambio mucho, dejo de salir con las personas que usualmente salía y empezó a ir con mas frecuencia a la iglesia. Confeso muchas cosas que ya no tenia miedo de avanzar. Ni siquiera quiso tomar la quimioterapia a pesar de tener que pasar por ella. Juan cambio la vida de muchas personas y siempre será amado y extrañado descansa en paz Juanito,"dijo Arteaga.

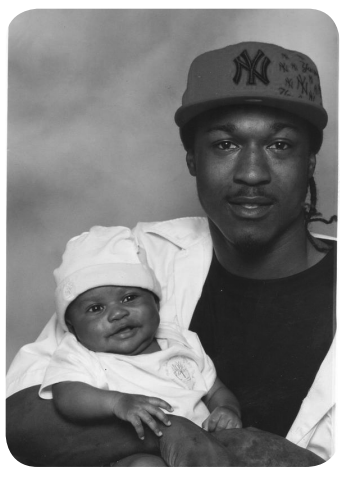
Elideth Salas otra amiga cercana a Juan comenta "Juan era un homie muy buena onda. Era una persona muy graciosa y con todas sus cualidades nunca será olvidado,"

Juan sobrevive por sus padres Vicente y Teresa Roman, sus hermanas Rosalva, Grisel, y Flor Roman, por su sobrina Princess Angelica Trujillo, sus dos tíos Juan Ocampo y Gregorio Roman, y ambos abuelos maternos y paternos y muchos amigos, maestros y otras personas que fueron parte de la vida de Juan Roman .



Juan poses with a group of his friends at Loy Norrix.

Anthony J. Potts Jr., Former Loy Norrix Student, Dies at Age 19



Anthony J. Potts Jr., 19, died on December 15, 2007 after being shot at an after-hours club at 328 Parsons St. on Kalamazoo's Northside. Anthony was born in Kalamazoo on September 21, 1988, and was the son of Delisa Fultz and Anthony Potts Sr.

Anthony was a student at Milwood Elementary and Milwood Middle School before attending Loy Norrix High School. He attended Loy Norrix for his freshmen year, and after dropping out of LN he attended the alternative education program Reach and Teach up until his death. During his freshman year at LN Anthony played on the junior varsity basketball team.

Anthony's cousin Quintiene Campbell said, "Basically all he liked to do was play basketball. It was his favorite thing in the world to do."

In addition to playing on the Norrix basketball team, Anthony also played for the Reach and Teach team, he was in the youth basketball league and the midnight basketball league through the Douglas Community Center.

Campbell said, "He was almost famous for basketball. He was really good at it."

Dondreal Watkins, also Anthony's cousin, agrees that he loved to play basketball.

"He always used to come over to my house and play basketball," said Watkins.

In the future Anthony planned on getting a high school diploma and taking care of his family. He had a one year old son, Anthony Potts III, and his girlfriend, 18-year-old India Thigpen is currently expecting a child.

"He was becoming a good father before he died," said Campbell.

Campbell was very close with Anthony, as he grew up with him in the same house.

"We lived together as a bunch of cousins," said Campbell.

"He was a very real person, he never really lied, and he kept things straight forward and real. He looked out for me for a long time and took care of me for awhile. He was a very good person, very generous," Campbell said of Anthony.

Anthony is survived by his mother Lisa Fultz, father Anthony Potts Sr., sisters Octavia Fultz, Shana Fultz, and "Moomoo," son Anthony Potts III, girlfriend India Thigpen, many cousins including; Curtis Murray, Makella Potts, Ebony Fultz, Tyquan Buckanann, Tyrone Potts, Quintiene Campbell, Dondreal Watkins, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who were a part of his life.