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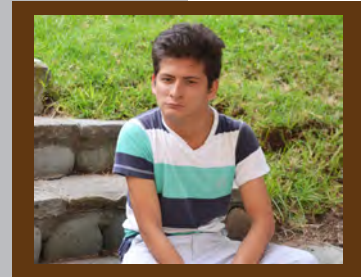
Rosa Corasaica Coraizaca

Age: 24
City of birth: San Juan, Gualaceo, Azuay Province.
Program: Mechanical Engineering
Semester: 4
Campus: Cuenca



Jonnathan Vargas López

Age: 29
City of birth: Machala, El Oro Province.
Program: Automotive Mechanical Engineering
Semester: 6



Lisbeth Molina Sandoval

Age: 22
City of birth: La Maná, Cotopaxi Province.
Program: Engineering in Biotechnology of Natural Resources
Semester: 8
Campus: Quito



Roberto & Diego Gómez Delgado

Program: Electriciy & Electrical Engineering
Age: 20 years
City of birth: Guayaquil, Guayas Province.
Semester: 5 & 4
Campus: Cuenca



Martina Choloquina Choloquina

Age: 23 years
City of birth: Poalo, Cotopaxi Province.
Program: Veterinary Medicine
Semester: 8
Campus: Cuenca



ROSA CORAISACA



Rosita is the older of two sisters. Since she was 8 years old, her parents are divorced and her family economic situation is very hard. Her mother income comes from the raising and sale of farm animals. They live in the San Juan a rural parish in Gualaceo, Azuay, along with her sister and niece.

With sacrifice and effort, he won a scholarship from the State, which only covers her studies and demands to maintain an impeccable academic record every semester to maintain it. Rosita joined the Universidad Politecnica Salesiana in 2016 to study Mechanical Engineering. She decided to study this career because it is broad and his goal is to specialize in software-assisted design. At the beginning, it was difficult because a there more men than women and the technical subjects were complex, but she managed to overcome all the obstacles and continue studying.

During his first cycle, she had to travel 3 hours a day and 3 hours back from home to the University. This began to affect her academic performance. Besides, she did not have internet access at home, and sending the online assignments became an issue so she made the decision to quit college. The university, through a program, help her with a housing and food scholarship so Rosita can continue studying.

"Accessing the Universidad Politecnica Salesiana through a scholarship has been a life opportunity because I have met with good-hearted people who have helped me to continue my studies. If not, I would have abandoned my studies and be working. Doctor Fausto has always told me that academic training is in the heart and mind, because we must be good professionals and better people "Rosita.

JONNATHAN VARGAS



Jonnathan is 29 years old and moved from Santa Rosa (Machala) to Cuenca (Azuay) in 2010 to start studying and become an automobile mechanic at the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana. At birth, he suffered a severe fever that ended in cerebral palsy, affecting the movements of his body. His mother has made a huge effort to raise him and provide him all the care he needs, including therapy since he was little.

During high school, a friend taught him how to use AutoCAD because as a teenager he liked to design and engineer. Since then, AutoCAD has become a great support tool to replace the technical drawing. Her mother has been a fundamental support in his life, she is the person who he most admires and respects in the world.

Since entering college, his financial situation was complex, despite that, his motivation and desire to study has encouraged him. His father helped him the first years of university, but he could not continue doing it.

Currently, her mother works in a market and receives \$ 5 dollars per day as the only source of income. For this reason, the community of Universidad Politecnica Salesiana have carried out actions and initiatives to support Jonnathan so he can fulfill his dream of graduating.

Jonnatan is a leader, during his first years of university he organized Christmas campaigns to bring gifts to his community in Machala; planned a meeting with leaders of other universities to encourage the participation of students with disabilities in various college activities; has developed various inclusive projects within and outside the university.

"One of the most important moments I have lived was when I had the opportunity to travel to Chile in 2015, as the representative of Ecuadorian universities for a Latin American Meeting of of people with disabilities to tell my experience as a university student. However, what I like the most is to design and engineer for people with disabilities, because I want to help others to live the experiences I have had".

LISBETH JUDITH MOLINA SANDOVAL



From a young age, Liz has had to face many challenges. Both lived with their father, who suffers from a critical illness that paralyzes his muscles. When she was 14 years old, she had to leave home because of a family situation with his sister and moved to Zumbahua, a small rural town in the Andes. There she studied and worked to support herself. During her first year in the community, she had only contact with her father, but the following year she stopped hearing from him because he became sick at that time and almost lost his life.

One day, a Salesian mission came to the community and began the construction of a residence, which became Lis's new home and she was part of missions and visits to nearby communities to help people. This event opened her the doors to continue studying the University and as a support, she lives in the Salesian residence in Quito.

Lis enrolled for a national exam and obtained an academic scholarship from the State to study Biotechnology at the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, so she must maintain her academic record. She traveled with other friends from Zumbahua and began a new stage in her life. She found out about the Coworking StartUPS space while she was at fourth semester and was going through a strong personal crisis. Then, Lis decided to participate in the Bootcamps organized by the University and helped her a lot.

She has always had the vocation to help others and the projects with which she participated in BootCamps focused on improving the living conditions of rural agricultural populations through direct trade and development in cultivation. Everything was improving and together with her team, they won the Rethos (final BootCamp). Unfortunately, she had to abandon the project because her father relapsed again and her sister was hospitalized. Despite these difficulties, she has managed to get ahead with a lot of effort and hard work.

The coworking space has helped her a lot because she has found support and a family. There, she met more people and a new project arose, that without thinking, took her to San Francisco (USA) to the Full Price regional contest. Her long-term goal is to promote places like the coworking in other communities like those in Zumbahua, so that people can have more opportunities and a space to develop.

"Who is great if does not believe in God, in himself and in what he can do for others? I believe that it is possible to transcend in this world, by transforming lives and generating opportunities. Zumbahua, the Residency and the Coworking has changed my life and helped me to discover my my life goals, to do something for someone else, because I was not born to be locked up studying while outside there are many people who are dying from hunger. I want to be a social entrepreneur because I share what Hanad Ashark has said -we are not human if we do not help others- ". Lis

ROBERTO GÓMEZ DELGADO DIEGO GÓMEZ DELGADO



Diego and Roberto are twin brothers, the oldest of four. They are 20 years old and their family economic situation is complicated. As their own initiative to support their parents they have worked in masonry from the age of 14, In the neighborhood other friends also did it and they were excited about the holidays so they can work. This experience has allowed them to appreciate many things, among them the value of money and the sacrifice that their parents make each day for their family.

Diego ran through the State exam and obtained an academic scholarship for Electrical Engineering, so he has to maintain an academic average to maintain the scholarship. Roberto worked in Diego's first semester to be able to help his brother with the materials, books and other needs. A year later, Roberto ran through the same program as his brother, and enrolled to study Electricity.

Thanks to a project of the university to build a bottle house at Roberto's and Diego's community, Juan Pablo (Vice-Rector of Research) got to know the community and the twins parents. Later, the University, through the research groups, gave

Diego and Roberto food allowance. For their family it is a very important support because the work of a bricklayer is not a permanent job, and they need to be able to pay the rent and other household expenses. From student welfare, they have also received support and help.

"My mom always says that education is the only inheritance that parents leave their children. Studying for me is an opportunity not only to improve myself, but also to be able to help others, being pleasant and appreciating the sacrifice that our parents make so that we can be professionals. Recalling the words of Beng. Juan Pablo, the goal is not only to become engineers, but to become better human beings" Diego.

"The resources are necessary to help someone, but more important is the will to do it, remembering where we came from. Because it is not worth having if we are not caring and supportive with the people around us. We do not feel ashamed if we do not have and ask for help, because we are doing nothing wrong. Trust a lot in God, study and work hard to achieve our goals, without giving up despite the obstacles that arise along the way" Roberto.

MARTINA CHOLOQUINGA



Martina was born in the parish of Poalo, Cotopaxi province and moved to Cuenca to study. She is the youngest of five children and her parents maintain the home through the raising and sale of animals. Her mother suffers osteoporosis and her family low income does not allow them to help her with the studies, because they are a big family and the rural situation of her community is difficult.

Martina studies Veterinary medicine thanks to an academic scholarship from the University. She decided to study this career to be able to help his parents and the community where she is from in the future. In her first semesters, Martina sold chocolates, worked from time to time in houses and looked for the way to be able to continue living in Cuenca. Later on, practical classes increased so as the material. It began a complicate time for her and the debts began. She borrowed money from friends and well-known people, but she could not pay them back. For 8 months she did not pay rent, the situation became tense and sometimes she did have nothing to eat.

One day, she went to the Student Welfare office, willing to quit university because she had no chance of continuing like this. Through a scholarship program linked to the research area, Martina is a part-time research assistant and that helps her to cover the living expenses. Currently she has no more debts and can help her family from time to time. "That was everything for me, it changed my life".

"I thank again the people who have supported me, for opening their arms to help me financially in my studies, believing in me. I feel privileged to have met incredible people during my time at the University; people who always make me forget the worries and many the times prevent me from making any mistakes. Infinite thanks to the Universidad Politecnica Salesiana for opening the doors to form myself in the person I am now. I can proudly say that I am a woman who practices the mission of the institution. I hope that this help that goes beyond academics, reach more people with extreme conditions".



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