



# What is the impact of a Florida Library Association scholarship?



**Since 1990,  
FLA has awarded  
89 scholarships to  
aspiring librarians!**





**Meet some of our prior  
scholarship recipients!**



“The scholarship was a welcome financial and encouragement boost. I'd been paying for most of my schooling, undergraduate and graduate, out of pocket; it had been a long financial struggle for me.

Having the FLA scholarship and eventually my MLIS degree also boosted my resume. It opened new and peripheral avenues in the library and literary world.”

Brenda Patterson '03

Fine Arts/Adult Programming Librarian  
Lakeland Public Library





“ Many scholarships operate on a much broader scope, but this award is special because it is for students in Florida who strive to continue working in Florida. I think those local ties are a very important component in cultivating engaged, well-educated librarians who can best serve their communities and the people of Florida.”

## Christopher Brackett ‘16

Librarian  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

“The Deborah Robinson scholarship is especially an honor since it is dedicated to the memory of a woman who believed in the merits of service, community and youth encouragement, and as someone who works in a public library and has extensive experience in youth services, this particular scholarship really spoke to me as I hold these principles close to my heart. I implore all who are able to support this and other scholarships and the Florida Library Association. Your efforts can make a difference in the lives of many.”

**Shedriek Battle ‘18**

Librarian  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library





“ At the time I received this scholarship, I was working in the computer center of a public library, while completing online MLIS courses at USF. This scholarship propelled me to never stop learning and most of all, realize the importance of giving back to this wonderful profession!  
#ReadersAreLeaders”

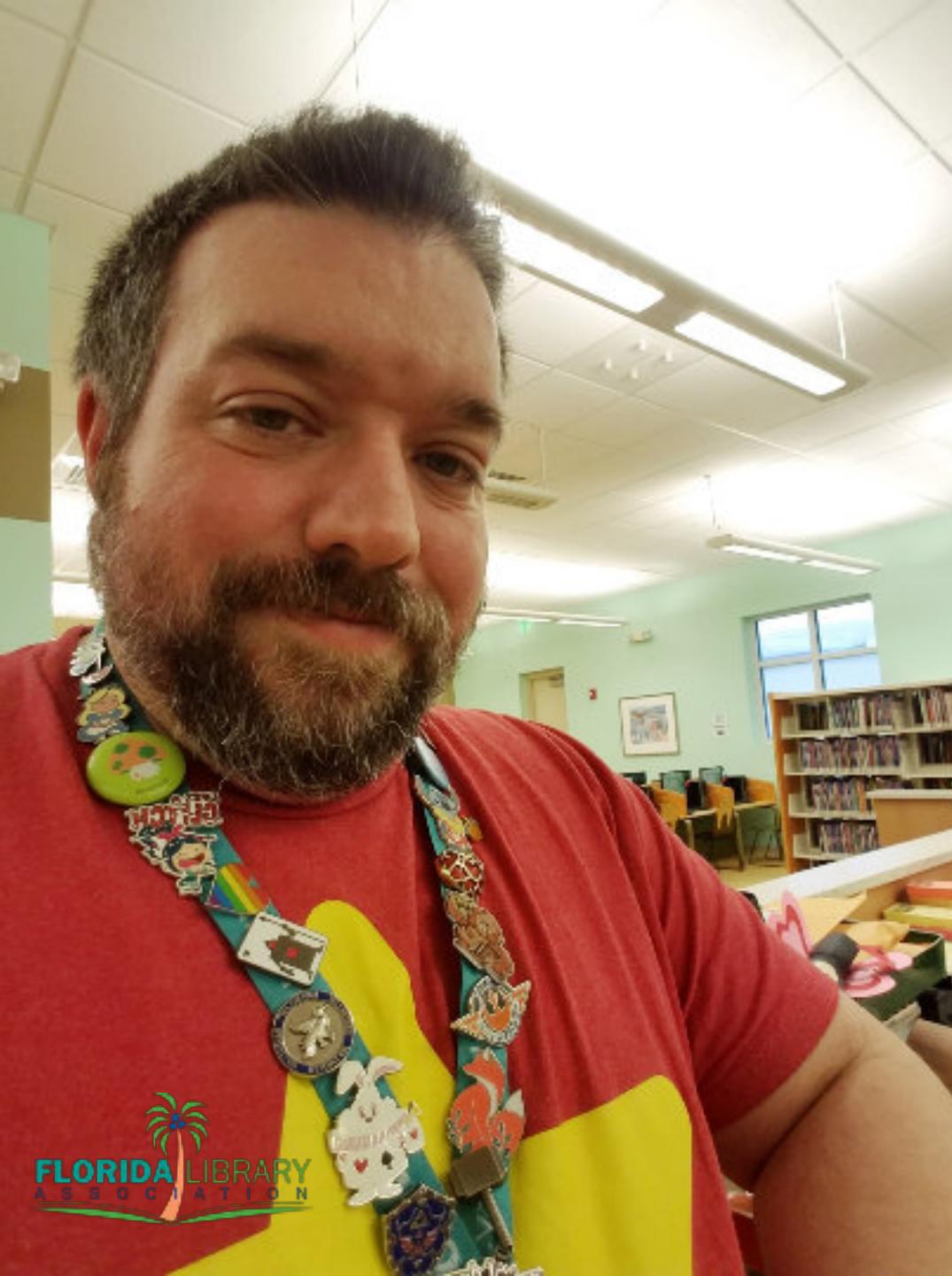
Desiree Roland ‘08  
Librarian  
Broward County Public Library

“ The FLA organization and its members supported, mentored and inspired me to pursue my dream career as an academic librarian. Today I work full-time as a reference and instructional Librarian. In addition, I serve as an archival consultant and library advocate in Palm Beach County. I’m especially indebted to Barbara Stites, who was FLA president at my first FLA annual meeting. Barbara’s radiance and friendliness made a lasting impression on me. I look to her and other FLA leaders as role models.”

Janet Naughton ‘14

Librarian/Professor I  
Palm Beach State College





“The FLA Scholarship made it possible for me to fulfill my dream of completing library school at a time when both my husband and I were in school and buying our first home. As the child of Cuban immigrants and the first in my family to graduate from college and now graduate school, I was so grateful that FLA helped me achieve this dream. Since then, I have been happily leading as the Head Children and Teen Librarian for the past 6 years to a wonderful staff.”

**Aramis Troche ‘10**

Head Children and Teen Librarian  
Palm Beach County Public Library

“In 2011, I was a Library Assistant at Deltona Regional Library. I graduated in May of 2012 and was promoted to Teen Librarian in November of the same year. Today, I am the Adult Programming Librarian at the Deltona Regional Library. I am thankful for my USF degree and to FLA for the scholarship. Both were instrumental in my path to a career I thoroughly enjoy.”

**Carole Hanna ‘11**  
Adult Programming Librarian  
Volusia County Public Library





“ Being recognized with an FLA scholarship is an honor I am proud of. I feel confident in my future knowing that I have made an impression on the Florida library community. I am sincerely appreciative to have received the scholarship, and it could not have come at a better time. This wonderful scholarship allowed me to enroll in a summer course I was eager to take. I had previously thought I would have to skip the summer semester due to other financial obligations. Thank you, FLA for believing in my future and making my summer semester a possibility!”

**Jessica Black '18**  
Acquisitions Specialist  
Stetson University

“I think the scholarship helped me most by reassuring me that being in a library world things are very diverse. You get people from all walks of life who enter into the library world and can prosper as one unit. It’s not for just one race or gender of people. It’s for everyone. If you have the drive then you have the chance.”

Erik Rivers ‘14  
Help Desk Analyst  
Florida Virtual Campus





“ My research interests are on multicultural literature for youth, especially literature for Latinx, which I currently teach a course on for the USF School of Information. I had the privilege of being a member and the chair of the Pura Belpré Award Committee (a REFORMA and ALSC award). I also was an ALA Spectrum Scholar and 2012 Emerging Leader.

I am forever thankful for the support that the FLA scholarship provided during my time at USF. I love my career, I enjoy what I do every day, and I am grateful to all the leaders, mentors, and associations such as FLA that allowed me to get to where I am now.”

Alicia Long ‘10

Access Services Supervisor  
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota

“In 2011 I was a struggling twenty-something that couldn’t afford to complete the graduate program I had started in 2009. When I received a scholarship from the Florida Library Association it changed my life. I had been out of class for almost a year, but the scholarship gave me an opportunity to get going again and I never missed another semester.

Working in a public library has taught me so much about my community and the power of people working together. I am thankful for the privilege that I have to serve my neighbors. I am thankful for the Florida Library Association and the opportunity that it gave me to pursue my educational goals.”

**Angel Davis ‘11**  
Librarian Supervisor  
Lakeland Public Library





“ I was working with Palm Beach County Library System at the time (early 2000s). I was transitioning from public school teacher to public librarian. I was able to continue to apply my interests and passion in education and adult literacy by becoming a librarian. After getting hired by Broward County Libraries, I wanted to continue my education. I earned my doctorate degree in adult and community education in 2011. I am grateful for my education and I love to share it by teaching and encouraging others every day.

**Mary Anne Cassell ‘02**

Library Senior  
Broward County Library

“I had been in the library profession for many years as a paraprofessional when my desire to become the head of the reference department at the public library where I worked took me on my college journey.

The scholarships I have received from FLA meant far more to me than merely financial support, though that was substantial. I felt as though they were supporting me personally in my goals, my desire to be part of the profession; and that they believed in my ability to succeed. With the support of an organization as respected and strong as FLA, I did succeed.”

## Betcinda Kettells ‘09 & ‘13

Administrator  
Pinellas Public Library Cooperative





“ I had just started my MLIS when I was awarded the 2012 FLA Minority Scholarship. I couldn’t believe that my journey towards librarianship was actually coming to fruition, and that I was being recognized for my passion and desire to pursue a career in helping others. Seven years later I’m so proud to call myself a Florida librarian and have the opportunity to influence the field, and give back to the profession by being a member of the same FLA committee that awarded me a scholarship all those years ago.”

**Natasha Williams ‘12**  
User Services Librarian  
UCF, College of Medicine

“ At the time I received the Minority Award Scholarship, I was working as the Multicultural Program Coordinator for the Lee County Library System. I have worked several positions at LCLS with my most recent promotion coming in 2017, when I was asked to become a district manager. Needless to say, my career has really taken off since the time I won the FLA scholarship. I have worked hard and with lots of enthusiasm and initiative. I attribute a lot of my success to those FSU professors like the late Dr. Maria Chavez-Hernandez, Dr. Koontz and leaders at the Lee County Library System who believed in me and pushed me along the way.”

**Maria Palacio '08**  
District Manager  
Lee County Library System





“ Juggling a full-time job, FSU, and my family was difficult in many ways, especially financially. The scholarship would pay for approximately two classes, and I knew it would really help ease the burden.

I've been the Library Director at Florida Gateway College for five years, and I do believe that the Florida Library Association has helped me get here.”

**Christine Boatright '08**  
Library Director  
Florida Gateway College

**Donate to the Scholarship Program at the Annual Conference!**

**~ 50/50 Raffle ~  
~ Silent Auction ~  
~ Wine Toss ~**

Or at <https://www.flalib.org/donate>

**Thank you!**

