



The 2011 Broad Prize Scholar Speaker Eugene Fanfan Remarks

Thank you, Mr. McGinity.

First, I would like to thank The Broad Foundation for this amazing scholarship program and for giving students like me the resources to reach a higher level of education. I would also like to thank you all for giving me an opportunity to share my story.

One of the quotes that I live by is “life would not be life if one did not have to face various obstacles and overcome numerous trials and tribulations.” When I was nine, my mother unexpectedly passed away and I was left to be raised in single-family household with four other siblings. My father struggled financially, working long hours in a juice factory to take care of the house and our family.

As the youngest child, the loss of my mother weighed heavily on my life, knowing that the first woman I fell in love with would not see me become a man. But I managed to make it through. I improved my high school GPA from a 2.5 to a 3.5, graduating at the top of my class from William H. Turner Tech in Miami-Dade and earning scholarships to the University of South Florida.

Attending the University of South Florida has been one of the greatest things to happen to me. I came to the university through the Freshmen Student Institute, which paved the way for me to network with and meet new people. In 2009, I became a brother in the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. In 2010-2011, I served as the Community Service Chair for the USF chapter of Black Student Union and also as the Treasurer of Club Creole. This year, I am the Parliamentarian as well as the Community Service Chair in the Theta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

I am now a senior majoring in criminology and sociology, with a GPA of 3.3. I will soon graduate two semesters early on December 9. You can tell I’m counting the days! I hope to become a deputy in the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office and move up the ranks to become a homicide detective. The Broad Prize Scholarship has been such a blessing to me, because if it were not for this scholarship I certainly would not be here today and I certainly would not have the adequate funds to help me through college.

My faith, resilience and continuous support of my family have been the driving force behind all my choices. I strive to be great in all that I do so I can create a better tomorrow for myself.

If my mother were here today, she would be proud of everything that I have accomplished. She is what motivates me. In this very moment, I can feel her watching down on me and listening.

Thank you.