



**Brillantes
Caminantes A.C.**
Guanajuato, GTO

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE WITH EDUCATION

Newsletter

November 2022

Return of the Pastorela

Save Sunday, December 4!

Our annual Pastorela – Brillante Caminantes' major fundraising event of the year - returns after a two-year break due to the pandemic. A Pastorela is a traditional short play presented during the Christmas season. Our 24 students will take part in full costume as they show the problems facing Joseph, Mary, and a group of shepherds trying to get to Bethlehem. They must struggle against the devil, who puts all kinds of traps, tricks, and temptations in their way. This promises to be a fun-filled event. Please join us for delicious botanas following the production. Hope to see you there.

WHAT: The Devil's Bread

WHEN: Sunday, December 4

TIME: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

WHERE: Hacienda la Escalera #1,
#32 Calle Alhóndiga



TICKETS: 400 pesos suggested donation per person – tickets available from members or at the door

Directions to Pastorela:

To arrive: go past Glorieta Dos Rios toward San Javier. A block or so past Dos Rios there are garbage containers next to the driveway to La Escalera. Walk up the driveway and climb the stone stairs with a green handrail on the left.

Please note: there is no parking available!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ingrid Barradas Bribiesca

Dear Friends,



Do you want to make a difference in this world? Have you seen the power of education to change lives? Brilliantes Caminantes is a scholarship-granting, volunteer-run, not-for-profit 501c3 organization located in Guanajuato City, Mexico. Thanks to you and our members, volunteers, and donors we are changing the world, one scholar at a time.

Brilliantes Caminantes provides the very brightest local high school students with the greatest financial needs an opportunity to attend college. They will graduate with their degree from an excellent university here in the state of Guanajuato.

Our success rate is 95% due to our comprehensive program and selection process. We thoroughly assess potential students and their families to determine their financial needs and college readiness. When students are selected, we assign a Spanish-speaking Brilliantes Caminantes mentor to work directly with a single student. The mentors are volunteers and receive specific training on the mentoring process.

Financial support includes full tuition, books, and fees including vision and dental care if needed. Each student receives a computer and technical support is readily available. We provide monthly student sessions that include valuable topics with group discussion. These monthly meetings also allow our young scholars to socialize with their peers and extend support to one another. Learn more about our work in future issues.

Your gift/pledge of \$1,200 will fund an entire year of a student's full-time study. A \$6000 contribution will support a student for the entirety of their five-year program. However, any amount you give today will help us serve more students in 2023.

Please see the text box below to learn about charitable gift tax advantages in 2022. Consider donating or planning for a future gift today. Use the GIVE NOW button on the Brilliantes Caminantes Guanajuato website- <https://brillantescaminantesgto.org/es/home-es-translation/>

Thank you so very much.

I am yours sincerely,

Ingrid Barradas Bribiesca

President, Brilliantes Caminantes

NEW STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Students in their own words



Ximena Argote Hernández

Bachelor of Marketing

Interactive and Distance University of the State of Guanajuato

Mentor: Rees Storm

I am studying marketing and in the second year of my bachelor's degree at the Interactive and Distance University of the State of Guanajuato. When I began the task of selecting my area of study, I considered several different options. When I found out about marketing, I was convinced that this was the area for me. I feel marketing is a profession that will allow me to be creative and spontaneous without limitations. This career allows me to maintain my love for the visual arts and combine it with my curiosity and creativity. Since the beginning of my studies, I have experienced several obstacles. But the difficulty of each one of these has given me the courage and inspiration to continue. My mission as a marketer is to achieve consumer satisfaction. I aspire to obtain a degree in Brand Marketing and work outside of Guanajuato.

Angeles Valentina Aguilar Rivera

Social Psychology

University Institute of Central Mexico EDUCEM

Mentor: Christina Rockrise

I attend the University Institute of Central Mexico. I am in my first semester of the Bachelor of Social Psychology program. I chose to study Social Psychology because I feel I have good communication skills, and want to support others. In life, we will always run into obstacles. We do not have to look back, we must face them and solve each of our problems. By having clear goals, we can achieve what we want more easily. When I fail, I do not hesitate for a moment to look for other ways to achieve my goal. During my free time, I enjoy reading, listening to others, and being outside in nature. I try to improve myself day by day.



Edgar Alfredo Lona Macías

Industrial Engineering

Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Guanajuato,

Mentor: David Rosen

I attend the Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Guanajuato, located in Puentecillas. I am studying Industrial Engineering. My future goals are to improve, update, and innovate effectively in my work environment. I am interested in learning how to direct a company with a focus on improving ethics and morals in the workplace. I have great enthusiasm for what the future holds for me. I know that with effort I will successfully achieve my purpose. To complement my studies, I also enjoy playing baseball at ITESG. I participate and train on Tuesdays after my classes. My friends call me Edgar or Güero.



Jazmin Guadalupe Garcia Villa

Bachelor of Public Accounting

University of Guanajuato

Mentor: Kimberli Isaacs

I am in my first semester in the Bachelor of Public Accounting program at the University of Guanajuato. I value all the people who have supported me to get me where I am today. I especially appreciate my parents who have always encouraged me. I am also proud of myself. Many people told me how difficult the road would be and that I might not be able to achieve my goals. But despite all these comments, I decided to fight for my dreams and work hard. I know there is still a long way to go, but I feel very happy and proud to have entered university. My biggest goal and dream is to finish this degree, help my family, and one day have my own accounting office.

Brayan Zamarripa:

Industrial Engineering

Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Guanajuato

Mentor: Silvia Salas Correón

I attend the Higher Technological Institute of Guanajuato. I am currently in the first semester of my Industrial Engineering career. I selected this career because I am very attracted to the process of creating and improving systems, processes, and materials. My goals are to grow as a person both morally and professionally. In the future, I want to make a positive contribution to the world, no matter how small or large. I hope to contribute an improvement within my work environment that will improve my industry. I have a lot of enthusiasm for what the future holds. I know that I can face things if I believe in myself. Another fact to highlight is that I am very passionate about playing soccer- I play every week. I am also learning to play guitar and want to gradually include music in my life.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Edwin Dario Rodriguez Hernandez

The summer research program of the University of Guanajuato allows students to approach scientific research through the guidance of professors and researchers. On this occasion, I had the opportunity to participate in the 2022 edition of the research entitled: DEPOSIT OF MELANIN FILMS ON ITO TO DEVELOP PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS. This research was carried out in the materials laboratory of the engineering division of the Irapuato-Salamanca campus belonging to the University. The research topic was proposed by Dr. Barbara González Rolón, who oversaw this research experience. The doctor is a recognized researcher in the field of materials science, has several publications on these topics, and continues to work on related research. In total, 3 students worked with her. Two students were from the department of Mechanical Engineering and one from the

department of Mechatronics. As the title mentions, the main research topic was to create films of melanin, which is a pigment found in the skin naturally, to be able to study its behavior and its photovoltaic properties. The objective was to determine if melanin can be used to manufacture solar cells, which are vital in the fight against climate change and pollution. The research concluded that melanin is a material that has good characteristics for solar cells. However, it is necessary to study more parameters of the pigment, such as its degradation and how to make films more uniformly.

From this research experience, I learned how to work together as a team. I was also able to understand the research process at a more professional level. The best part of my summer research was working with a skilled researcher and having her share her knowledge. The research world is very big. This experience has left me with great admiration for those dedicated to science and the curiosity to question what surrounds us.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Cathy Lehman



Brillantes Caminantes would not be possible without our many volunteers/members. Cathy Lehman is one of those we could not do without. Cathy first became involved shortly after she moved to GTO. That was almost 10 years ago! Cathy recalls attending her first student meeting and understanding “almost nothing.” Her Spanish skills have improved dramatically since then.

The BC structure was a bit different then. The mentor role had not been developed. There were only tutors who helped the students with their English. Cathy began volunteering as a substitute tutor. Later she was assigned specifically to a new student- Margarita.

Margarita was studying Geology and Mining Engineering and she didn't have much free time to work on her English. But they stuck it out together. Margarita graduated and found a good job in her field. Cathy and Margarita keep in touch. Cathy found her work with the students rewarding and has continued to serve in a variety of roles. Cathy was the BC vice president for two years. It was during that time that BC switched to mentoring rather than tutoring. As the vice president, she was responsible for identifying and coordinating mentors and troubleshooting issues with students and/or mentors. When her time as the vice president was completed, Cathy became the Mentor Coordinator. She continues in this role critical role.

Cathy reports- “The most rewarding part of volunteering with BC and being the Mentor Coordinator is the chance to interact with the students, follow their progress through reports submitted by the mentors, and see them develop into mature, competent, and caring adults. A university education can make all the difference in the lives of students and their families. I don't feel like I can change the world. But I do feel like I can help change Mexico, one university student at a time. To anyone who might be thinking of getting involved but feels that their Spanish isn't good enough. I'd say, jump in and give it a try. It can be an enjoyable learning experience!”

Thank you, Cathy, for all you do. We appreciate you!

WHEN YOU SHOP, AMAZON GIVES!

Sign up for Amazon Smile and BC will receive 0.5% of your eligible Amazon (U.S. only) purchases. To sign up, log onto [AMAZONSMILE](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile), search charities for “Brillantes Caminantes AC” and select it. Donations will begin with your first order. For complete details about the Amazon Smile program, [CLICK HERE](#)



MONTHLY STUDENT MEETINGS

During the academic year, our students are required to attend monthly meetings. Over the years, these gatherings have proven to be valuable for the students. Some of the value is apparent- they are provided practical information and life skills while they are forming supportive relationships with their peers and mentors. Other benefits are more subtle and unique to each student.

Each of the student meetings consists of an interactive topic. The first three meetings of this academic year were workshops: *Your Sexuality, Personal Safety and Self-Defense*, and *Time/Stress Management*. Trained professionals often lead the meetings. The subject matter has been consistently well-received by the students, and they request some of the same topics each year.



As we approach the Christmas season, the students switch their focus to preparing for the annual performance of a Pastorela (see related article). Student meetings are replaced with weekly rehearsals. All the students participate in the production of this humorous Christmas tradition. Preparing for the production requires quite a time commitment given their already full school/study schedule. But they look forward to it each year!

At the annual January student meeting, we will celebrate Three Kings Day- the traditional gift-giving day in Mexico. Every student will be gifted with a book selected specifically for them. In later meetings, students volunteer to give a book report to the group. We hope to encourage their reading for enjoyment, which often is not a tradition in their families.

Student meetings always end with pizza- their favorite treat! The students can relax and enjoy talking with their peers and the Brillantes Caminantes members.

The content of the student meetings provides useful information and a safe peer social environment. These monthly gatherings are held with the hope that students will not only complete their college degree but also emerge as well-rounded young adults better prepared and ready to take on the world!

Donate directly to BC from a traditional IRA and save on your U.S. taxes

If you are 70 ½ years or older, you can make a direct donation from your IRA to Brillantes Caminantes, A.C. (a qualified charity) and not pay income taxes on the amount donated. This amount also counts toward the federal government's requirement to withdraw from your IRA once you reach age 72.

Consult your financial advisor or IRA administrator for details.



Our students and members at Ex-hacienda Gene Byron

Board of Directors

Ingrid Barradas Bribiesca, President, Christina Rockrise, Vice-President, Nina Johnson, Secretary
Jeff Tashman, Treasurer

Thanks!

- To the students, graduates and mentors who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.
- To Ex-hacienda Gene Byron for their generous hospitality in hosting our student meetings at no charge.
- To writers: Ingrid Barradas Bribiesca, Christina Rockrise, Nina Johnson, Cathy Lehman, and Kathleen Davoli.

Editor: Kimberli Isaacs

Design: Agota Page

Click [here](#) to read the full 2021 Annual Report.

We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of our newsletter, but if you don't want to receive it in the future, e-mail brillantescaminantes@gmail.com to *unsubscribe*.

“Education is the difference between wishing you could help other people and being able to help them.”
Elder Russell M. Nelson