

Aranda discovers life at Brown

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following story is the fourth in a series about past recipients of Maddox scholarships.*

BETH HAHN
NEWS-SUN

For Marcos Aranda, there is no downtime at Brown University.

"You're either studying hard or having a lot of fun," he said.

Aranda is the 2008 Maddox Foundation Distinguished scholarship winner.

The Maddox Foundation Distinguished Scholarship provides one full-ride scholarship for a Lea County student to attend the university of their choice.

The Maddox Distinguished Scholarship is awarded in July prior to the students' senior year and recipients have attended Notre Dame, Baylor, Stanford and Brown, among others.

Aranda, who is a pre-med major, said he was recruited by Brown to be on the school's wrestling team. Because Brown is an Ivy League school, it does not offer wrestling scholarships, he said.

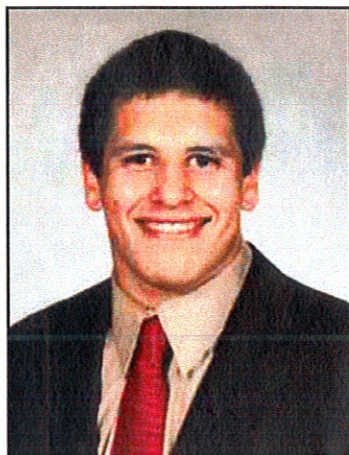


The Maddox scholarship enabled him to enroll in Brown, which is located in Providence, R.I.

"I've been really fortunate, even at Brown, people think it's really great because of the scholarship," he said. "I definitely would not have been able to go to Brown without this scholarship."

Aranda said he chose the Ivy League school because "they have an open curriculum that fits my learning style."

Although the curriculum fits his learning style, there



Marcos Aranda, 2009 Maddox Distinguished Scholar

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were adjustments to life on campus — and college wrestling.

"It was pretty rough. I got beat up a lot," he said. "And the classes are pretty rough too."

The first semester was particularly difficult, he said, because he was far from home and unable to return to Hobbs until Christmas.

"I'm glad to be home this summer," he said.

Aranda said he learned valuable lessons during his first year, including study habits and "how to roll with the punches."

"Things happen that you don't expect to happen," he explained.

Thanks to wrestling and freshman orientation, Aranda said he made friends quickly and is looking forward to his sophomore year.

But during the summer, he has a list of required reading to prepare for courses such as

introduction to neuroscience, physiology and the history of medicine.

"I'm not even to organic chemistry yet, but it's a really rough course at Brown," he said.

When he's not studying, Aranda said he is involved in a variety of activities through the wrestling team and the pre-med program.

The wrestling team helps children at a local elementary school and the pre-med program students are involved in

Relay for Life, bone marrow drives and blood donation drives, he said.

Another benefit of attending an Ivy League university is it attracts "really interesting guest lectures that anyone can attend," he said.

One guest lecture he attended was from the staff of Google.

Guest lectures, though, are not the only benefit of an Ivy League school.

"We had a concert from Snoop Dogg," he said. "That was pretty cool."

Aranda said he is more prepared for his sophomore year — academically and for wrestling.

"I've learned a lot during my first year," he said. "I'm looking forward to going back."

Hobbs High School math teacher Jon Gilcrease said he is not surprised with Aranda's success and choice to attend an Ivy League school.

"He always strove for perfection in his work," Gilcrease said. "It didn't matter if it was in wrestling or academics and if he was really focusing on academics, his wrestling didn't suffer. It was the same with wrestling, if he was really focusing on that, his academics never suffered."

Gilcrease taught Aranda in Advanced Placement pre-calculus and Advanced Placement calculus AB, which is equivalent to Calculus I at a college level.

Gilcrease also said he is not surprised Aranda chose a challenging field of study at a challenging school.

"It's just kind of what I expected," he said. "I figured he would put forward that same sort of effort that he did in high school."

TODAY

Quilt festival

The Western Heritage Museum Complex and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame will have the Festival of Quilts grand opening at 5:30 p.m. The theme is Home on the Range. Tickets can be purchased for the Community Quilt. For more information call 392-6780.

Storytelling

Hobbs Public Library's FIN Tastic Events hosts Stories from the Sea, Music, Dance and Mime, performed by Johanna Hogell Dersee and Scott Darsee, from 1-2 p.m. in the library's public meeting room.

Mark the date

Chamber breakfast

The Hobbs Chamber of Commerce On the Horizon Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. at Sleep Inn, 4630 N. Lovington Highway.

Lovington School Board

The Lovington School Board will meet at 7 a.m. at the administration office's conference room for a special board meeting.

FRIDAY

Free movie night

A free movie and popcorn night

begins at 8 p.m. in Booker T. Washington Park.

Ribbon cutting

The Hobbs Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. for Bamboo Acupuncture, 3410 N. Fowler, Suite A.

Business After Hours

The Hobbs Hispano Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a ribbon cutting/ Business After Hours for Got Safety?, 529 Spears, from 5:30-7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Juneteenth Parade

Parade begins at 10 a.m. in the old Thriftway parking lot on Dal Paso. The parade will travel down Dal Paso to Marland, ending at Booker T. Washington Park.

Juneteenth Celebration

A park celebration will follow the parade at Booker T. Washington with games, a talent show, crafts, basketball, DJs and food. A Blast From the Past Softball 1 Pitch will start at 8 a.m. at the Booker T. Washington Baseball field. Entry fee is \$80 per team.