

GABRIELA LIMA

Quito

How many siblings do you have?

I have 2 siblings (a sister and a brother).

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have 3 dogs.

What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Watching movies and reading novels

Are you working? What type of work are you doing?

I am not working.

Studies

Academic program: Health

School name: Salesian University (First degree: graduate in Environmental Engineering), Central University (second degree: Nursing)

Graduation: 2014 – Environmental Engineering 2022 – Nursing

What work will you pursue with your program?

I would like to work in the health area as a floor nurse, with the experience to reach the environmental management area of a hospital.

The Foundation

My story to form bonds of affection and friendship with Mike and Margarita begins when I studied in the CMT in high school. Mike was my math teacher; he will always be an excellent teacher of this subject. Thanks to his teaching I was falling in love with numbers. When I left the CMT I went to study in the public high school Great Britain following the specialty of Mathematics and Physics. One day I went to CMT to visit and suddenly I saw Mike who was returning to Ecuador. I approached him and asked him to help me explain some math exercises and that's when we started a close relationship of trust. Mike explained math topics to me and thanks to that I had excellent grades in school.

When I finished high school, Mike together with Margarita offered support to continue my university studies. They accompanied me to visit the Salesian University and we received a notification of a new career which was Environmental Engineering related to solutions to environmental problems, and I studied that career.

Mike and Margarita supported me throughout my career, financially and emotionally. They visited me when they came to Ecuador; they were and are aware of me at all times; they always gave me the best conditions for me to study. For example: if I did not understand a subject, they bought books; if my classes were at night, we decided I should move to the south of Quito to rent an apartment; if I felt lonely and stressed, they called me and comforted me.

Mike and Margarita were with me in every step I have taken in my college life and up to the present. I graduated in 2014. I started working and started my family in 2016; I have a 5-year-old daughter and I live with my husband. The job offers in the environmental area declined a lot in 2016 because of the economic crisis in



our country. When I was pregnant, my boss dismissed me from my job and I stopped working; I dedicated myself to take care of my daughter for the first 2 years and I returned to work. However, there were no job opportunities. I searched for a long time without answers and that is when I made my second career choice as an alternative to support my family in the future.

I started my second career in 2019. Currently, I am in my 6th semester studying nursing at the Central University of Ecuador; as I study human beings with their pain and the care they require from a professional person, I am excited to go out to practice my profession. This career is one of the most needed in our country because of the great demand of patients.

Mike and Margarita support me in all the decisions I have made. Even though my second career isn't financed by the DEOF foundation, Mike and Margarita support me in other issues in my private life. Mike and Margarita's friendship goes beyond the economic issue; it is the sincere love we have for each other despite the distance. I can safely say that we are more than friends, we are family!

When Mike and Margarita accompanied me to enroll in the Salesian University, they were my parents who were enrolling their daughter. When I helped students who had difficulty in Mathematics in their universities, I was the one who contributed a little of my knowledge to solve their problems in that area. DEOF is a family that supports each other and never always abandons us despite problems. Also, we have people watching and worrying about us.

COVID Disruption

Thank God, coronavirus has not infected my family. We do our best to prevent this disease. My sister Nelly is a nurse and works at the Pablo Arturo Suarez Hospital and she tells us how the situation is with patients who suffer from this disease. Her advice has helped us to stay safe and avoid the spread of COVID. Currently, my daughter and I stay at home; my husband goes out to work every day, but so far, we are all healthy.