

Sterling OPTICAL

A LEGACY OF GIVING

25 YEARS OF THE
ADAMS-MAHEPATH SCHOLARSHIP

With gratitude to the Virgin Islands community



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYALTY

The Story

Dr. Lisa Adams

Dr. Lisa Adams prides herself on being the first in several professional areas. She is the first local optometrist to practice in the U.S. Virgin Islands; the first woman and first local person to serve on the Virgin Islands Board of Optometrical Examiners, beginning in October 2004; and the first local owner of a national optical franchise, Sterling Optical.

Born on St. Croix, Dr. Adams is a product of the Catholic school system, having attended St. Patrick School and St. Joseph High School. For more than twenty years, she volunteered her time and expertise at the Frederiksted Health Care Center and the Charles Harwood Eye Clinic. She also served for two decades as a clinical examiner for the National Boards of Optometry.

Joel Mahepath

Joel Mahepath spent more than a decade in the pharmaceutical industry. His experience included quality control and work as a process chemist in the production of the bulk active ingredient quinidine gluconate. He later transitioned to finished-dose pharmaceuticals, including capsules, tablets, and oral suspensions.

His final industry position was Managing Director of Pharmacia, where he was responsible for the production of approximately 250 million Azulfidine tablets and Entabs for the U.S. and Canadian markets. Mahepath also taught Operations Management at the University of the Virgin Islands as an adjunct professor at both the undergraduate and graduate MBA levels.

A Shared Mission

In 1997, Joel Mahepath partnered with Dr. Lisa Adams to purchase a national optical franchise—Sterling Optical—to provide eye care in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Their mission was to “enhance the critical sense of sight” for everyone in their community.

1998–1999	Provided eye care to children at the Queen Louise Home at no cost.
2000	Provided eye care to the elderly community at the Flamboyant at no cost.
2001	Returned 2% of all revenues collected in August and September to Virgin Islands schools, allowing principals to purchase needed school supplies.

Since education was essential to the growth and development of both Dr. Adams and Mr. Mahepath, the idea of creating a lasting legacy was born in 2002. This was the beginning of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship.

The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship

At its inception in 2002, four students—two on St. Croix and two on St. Thomas—were each awarded \$1,250 to help finance their education.

Over the following 25 years, the world and the Virgin Islands experienced major economic disruptions:

- The dot-com bust in 2002
- The global recession in 2008
- The closing of HOVENSA in 2012, a major pillar of the Virgin Islands economy
- The impact of two Category 5 hurricanes—Irma and Maria—in 2017
- The global COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 through 2023

Through every challenge, the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship survived and grew, increasing both the number of recipients and the value of each award.

By 2026—the scholarship’s 25th year—the program had supported approximately 274 students, with a net present value of just under \$600,000.00.

Thank You & Special Appreciation

Thanks to the Virgin Islands community, our employees throughout the years, and the press organizations that helped share these positive stories.

St. Croix Avis — Rena Brodhurst and her team—for covering the story from 2002 through 2023 and for unwavering support of positive community stories.

VI Daily News — Eunice Bedminster and Archie Nahigian—for strong support of young people in the Virgin Islands.

VI Consortium — Ernest Gilbert—for spectacular live coverage.

St. Croix Times — Marc Dawkins—for poetic coverage and love for the youth of the Virgin Islands.

VI Source — Ananta Pancham—for continued support.

TV2 — For years of valued coverage.

TV8 — For exceptional coverage and the commitment of an extended news segment that helped make the event real.

Thank you to every Sterling Optical employee who supported the mission of providing outstanding eye care to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands over the years.

Dixie Ann Tang Yuk

A special thanks to Dixie Ann Tang Yuk, who began this journey with us more than 30 years ago. Dixie Ann is our daughter and celebrates her birthday on August 4. Thank you, Dixie!

Pastor Jeffrey Canton

Our sincere gratitude to Pastor Jeffrey Canton, who has been especially loyal and dedicated to this fund for many years because of his care and love for the children of the U.S. Virgin Islands. At a moment’s notice, he responds to our call to capture these important occasions so they can be shared with the people of the Virgin Islands. Thank you, Pastor Jeffrey!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2002

Local business dishes out scholarships



From left to right, Nichelle Mahepath, Dr. Lisa Adams, Monique Toussaint, Kamji Francois and Joel Mahepath pose for a photo Thursday at the Sterling Optical Store in the Golden Rock Shopping Plaza. Toussaint and Francois were two of four college students awarded \$1,250 each in scholarships given by Sterling Optical. The two recipients not shown in the photo are Jannaca Wickham and Nivesha Smalls.

Local business dishes out scholarships

Four Virgin Islands students received \$1,250 each in the inaugural scholarship year.

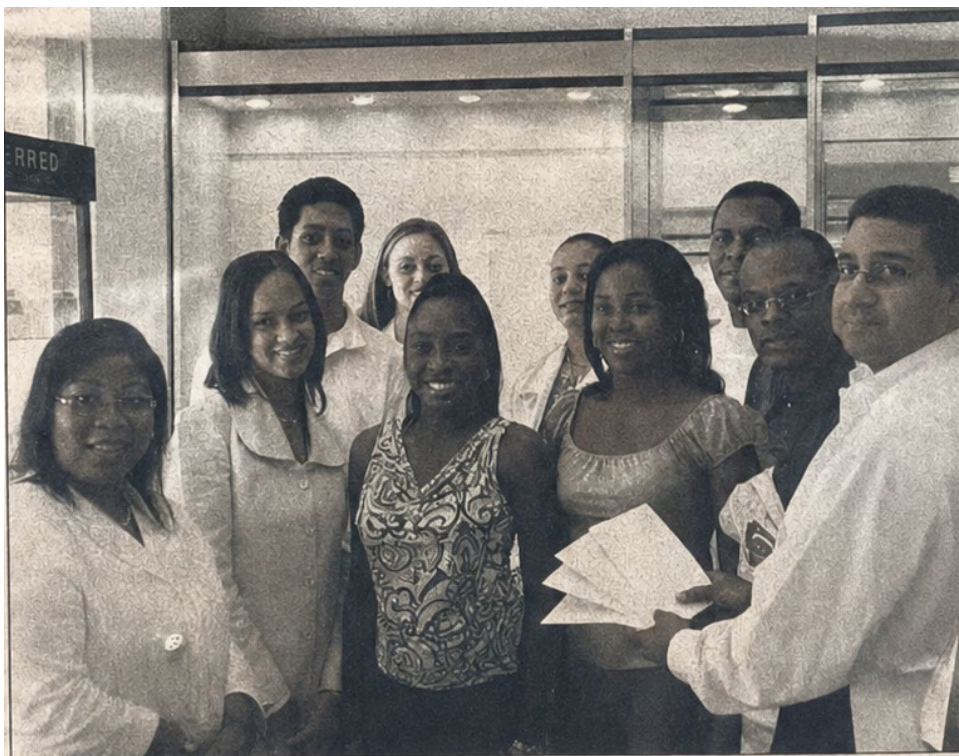
The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

Historical photograph cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article title and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2003

Our future



Michael Nissman

Our future

Five students were awarded scholarships from Sterling Optical totaling \$6,250. The recipients were chosen from over 50 applicants. Each student was required to write an autobiography and to send a resume. (Bottom right to left) Takara Scott from the University of the Virgin Islands, Atra Watlington of Spelman College and Karen Augustin of the University of Tampa. (Top right to left) Anoop Agarwal from the University of Michigan and Kernather Auguste of Morehouse College. Flanking the students is Dr. Lisa Adams (left) and Joel Mahepath (right).

Five students were awarded scholarships totaling \$6,250.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2004

Five VI graduates awarded Sterling Optical scholarships



Five recent high school graduates received scholarships worth \$1,250 each.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2005

Sterling Optical awards scholarships to six VI graduates



Michael Nisenson
Scholarship recipients (from left to right) Roderick Moorehead, Pooja Kanusing, Michelle Swanston and Cadwell Turnbull and representing Sylvia Connor Navarro, Sonia Navarro pose with the Sterling Optical staff Wednesday.

Sterling Optical awards scholarships to six VI graduates

Six graduating students were selected from a strong territory-wide applicant pool.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2006

Awards help students keep eye on the future



The annual program expanded to eight student recipients from St. Croix and St. Thomas.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2007

Sterling Optical awards scholarships

Sterling Optical awards scholarships

STEPHANIE HANLON

ST. CROIX — Supporting higher education in the territory for the sixth year, Sterling Optical, located in the Golden Rock Shopping Center, has awarded eight recently graduated high school students from St. Croix and St. Thomas with \$1,250 scholarships.

The graduates were awarded their scholarships on Wednesday at Sterling Optical. Five students were from St. Croix and three from St. Thomas. Altogether, owners Joel Mahepath and Lisa Adams gave \$10,000 in scholarships on Wednesday.

There were 80 applicants but only eight scholarships available. The criteria was based on the student's school involvement, community involvement, SAT scores, grade point average and biographical essay.

Jose Figueroa graduated from the Manor School and is going to major in graphic design at the Art Institute of Tampa.

Jai Hewlett graduated from the



Kristin Duncan

Several college-bound VI students received scholarships from Sterling Optical Wednesday. Pictured here are Nneka Richards, Gianelli Latorre, Joel Mahepath, president and CEO of Sterling Optical, Vijeta Bhambhani, Khenry Calender, Jaheem Joseph, Jai Hewlett and Dr. Lisa Adams, optometrist at Sterling Optical. Not pictured are Christina Smith and Jose Figueroa who received scholarships as well.

still achieved more than the average high school graduate.

"We know that she will continue to succeed as she already has," said Grant, who is a close family friend of Smith's family.

Adams said that it was Smith's biographical essay that pushed her into the final eight scholarship recipients. She said it was moving and well written.

Nneka Richards made it into the final eight because of her extensive community involvement. She was a Teen Line volunteer, she tutored students with the Weed and Seed Program, was a member of Future Business Leaders of America, is a member of the National Honors Society, and was the public relations person for the student government association.

This scholarship program grew from four scholarships to the current eight. Mahepath said that education has always been a focus of Sterling Optical's community involvement.

They have recently celebrated 10 years of being in business in the territory. Mahepath said that

Eight recent graduates received \$1,250 scholarships, totaling \$10,000.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2008

Eyes on the future

Eyes on the future

Sterling Optical awards scholarships to nine high school grads

JOHN NOIR

Nine high school graduates will be a step closer to their dreams of higher education thanks to the Sterling Optical Scholarship Program.

Sterling Optical Service Inc. awarded \$1,225 scholarship certificates to each the students Wednesday during the annual Sterling Scholarship Ceremony held at Golden Rock.

And in an effort to help these students further their education, the Sterling Optical executive team made the unprecedented decision to award each recipient an additional \$250 in gift certificates to a Sterling Optical store.

"These young people have so much ahead of them," said Dr. Lisa



Several college-bound VI students received the Adanna Mathépath Scholarship during a presentation at Sterling Optical in Golden Rock Wednesday. Pictured here are Tramaine Creighton, Laila Cintron, Jacques Gumbs Jr., Meghan Cintron, Dr. Lisa Maduro, optometrist at Sterling Optical, Issacel O'Neals, T'shiyrad Samuel Mathépath, front; (from left) Nelson W. Joel Mathépain, president and CEO of Sterling Optical; and Antoinette Boynes. Not pictured is Ma'co Scholl who received the scholarship as well.

Yaster Duncan

commitment of being a good steward of the community. Scholarship is just one way in which we invest in the community. We invest in the community the kind of way that benefits the entire St. Croix community."

This year's recipients are Tramaine Creighton of St. Croix Central High School, who will attend University of the Virgin Islands; Laila Cintron of St. Croix Educational Complex High School, will be attending the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez; Jacques Gumbs Jr. of St. Croix Center for Excellence, will be attending Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, N.Y.; and Meghan Cintron of St. Croix Central High School, will be attending UVI.

Recipients from non-public schools are Issacel O'Neals of St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School.

Nine high school graduates were recognized through the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2009

Visionaries

Visionaries

Sterling Optical gives back with scholarship awards

TOM EADER

ST. CROIX — Recognizing the value of education, Sterling Optical awarded a total of \$12,500 in college scholarships to 10 high school graduates from St. Thomas and St. Croix for the seventh year in a row during a presentation Tuesday at its store in Estate Golden Rock.

"I would like to thank Sterling Optical for giving me this opportunity to receive this scholarship," said Ashley Lawrence, a St. Croix Country Day School graduate who will be attending Rutgers University.

Sterling Optical owners — Joel Mahepath, president and chief executive officer, and Lisa Adams, optometrist — have been presenting the annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Award to deserving high school graduates from throughout the territory since 2002. They awarded scholarships worth \$1,250 to all 10 students on Tuesday.



Sterling Optical awarded a total of \$12,500 in college scholarships to 10 high school graduates from St. Thomas and St. Croix during a presentation Tuesday at its store in Estate Golden Rock.

Tom Eader

The following is a list of all 10 recipients of the 2009 Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Award:

- Ponan Addasani, a graduate of Antilles Episcopal School, will study psychology at Northeastern University.
- Lidetton Davis, a graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School, will study civil engineering at Pennsylvania State University.
- Kevin Dixon, a graduate of St. Croix Educational Complex, will study business and computer science at the University of the Virgin Islands.
- Julia-Julien, a graduate of Good Hope School, will attend the University of Rochester.
- Ashley Lawrence, a graduate of St. Croix Country Day School, will attend Rutgers University.
- Lauren Lewis, a graduate of Good Hope School, will attend Rice University.
- Alexandra Morgan, a graduate

Ten graduating students received a combined \$12,500 in scholarship awards.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2010

Sterling Optical presents scholarships to 11 students



Lasba Knight

Recipients of the 2010 Adams-Mahapath Scholarship posa for a picture in Sterling Optical's Golden Rock location on Tuesday.

Sterling Optical presents scholarships to 11 students

Eleven college-bound seniors received awards totaling \$13,750.

The annual Adams-Mahapath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2011

Sterling Optical awards \$13,750 in scholarships

Sterling Optical awards \$13,750 in scholarships

LASIRA KNIGHT

ST. CROIX—Lisa Adams and Joel Mahepath, owners of Sterling Optical, awarded 11 local students scholarships from their Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund Thursday.

This is the 11th year that the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund has helped finance the higher education of youth in the Virgin Islands.

Each scholarship recipient received \$1,250 for their education, totaling \$13,750 in scholarships.

"Education is a capital investment in a human being," Mahepath said.

Even in these tough economic times, Mahepath and Adams feel it is their duty to help others pursue their dreams. "You have to weigh, do I do this, or not do



Lisa Adams (left) and nine of the 11 awardees of 11th annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship award display the checks that are helping to set some of the bright stars of the territory along the path of higher education.

Submitted photo

and minor in Japanese at Roanoke College.

Ennmett Hansen III, a graduate of the Cnod Hope School, hopes to earn a degree in Marine Science from the University of Tampa.

"Ever since I can remember, I have had a deep fascination with the ocean," Hansen said.

Shamari Skelton, a graduate of Chartotte Avaratte High School, said, "All my life I have been serving others. Please give me the opportunity to continue on a larger scale."

Skelton plans to attend UVI in the fall and earn a master's in business administration.

Mahepath said, "education is the gateway to success. That has been our gateway to success and we are trying to help others along that path."

The seven scholarship recipients from St. Croix are: Latoya Benjamin, Vincenzo Facchette

Eleven scholarship recipients were honored in the program's eleventh year.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2012

Sterling Optical awards another 11 scholarships

Sterling Optical awards another 11 scholarships

LASIBA KNIGHT

ST. CROIX — “Even a cherry can be divided,” is the saying that resonates when witnessing the generosity of Joel Mahepath and Lisa Adams, who even in hard times continue to give.

Adams and Mahepath, owners of Sterling Optical, awarded 11 students from the territory scholarships in the hope that through their help they will make a significant investment in these young students' futures.

At a time where most people are tightening their belts and cutting back on all expenditures, Adams and Mahepath are digging deeper than ever to meet a need that they see as an essential part of becoming a successful member of society.

“In these difficult economic conditions in the Virgin Islands, it is more important to give than to not



Lasiba Knight

For over a decade the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship has served to provide college-bound students in the territory with much needed financial assistance.

Eleven students received \$13,750 as the fund continued through difficult economic conditions.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2013

100 years, 100 scholarships; Marking milestone anniversary



100 years, 100 scholarships

Victor Cepeda and Lisa Adams, co-owner of Sterling Optical, display a picture created by Cepeda. Adams said that Sterling Optical has several pieces of art created by local artists and that Cepeda's piece will have a place of pride in her own office. *Page 4*

Sterling Optical marks milestone anniversary; awards scholarships

LASIA KNIGHT

ST. CROIX — The Adams-Manguan Scholarship Fund was founded with a desire to bring resources within the reach of college-bound Virgin Islands youth who had done everything right, but needed a helping hand to ensure that hard work led to higher education — university tuition.

Since 2003, the fund has given 100 students from the territory approximately \$250,000 in total awards. The scholarship decided to even higher education on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Jodi Mangum, co-owner of Sterling Optical, said that the 100th anniversary was an opportunity to honor the 100th anniversary of Sterling Optical by presenting their fund 100 students.

Each of the scholarship recipients keep focused themselves to be driven and dedicated, aspiring to be academic education, and maintain to add so much more and the lives of the others; it's part of the backbone in St. Croix.

Daniel Francisco, a graduate of the P.W.B. Daniel Christian School, will be attending Edward Waters University this fall in pursuit of a



Young scholars, family and the owners of Sterling Optical gathered on Tuesday to celebrate academic excellence and the awarding of the annual Sterling Optical/Adams-Manguan Scholarship Fund. *Lasia Knight*

100 students received funds continued through difficult economic conditions.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2014

Sterling awards scholarships to 8 high school graduates

Sterling awards scholarships to 12 high school graduates

LASIBA KNIGHT

ST. CROIX — Sitting behind his desk in the back office at Sterling Optical in Golden Rock, co-owner Joel Mahepath, was visibly overjoyed as he discussed one of the great loves in his life, a scholarship fund started by him and his wife.

"I always like to say that the essence of living is in the giving," Mahepath said with a chuckle as he tried to explain why he and his wife, Lisa Adams, have dug so deeply to give so freely in order to see to the educational needs of children in the Virgin Islands over the last 13 years.

Perhaps, it is because education has played such a large role in their lives with Adams having earned a doctorate in optometry and Mahepath a dissertation away from a doctorate in inter-



The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund presented eight students from St. Croix and four students from St. Thomas with a total of \$15,000 in awards this Tuesday at an event held in the showroom of Sterling Optical in the Golden Rock Shopping Center.

Lasiba Knight

proud of that," she said.

Scholarship recipients were selected not only on the strength of their academic performance and scores on standardized tests, but also on the quality of their character and their dedication to the community.

Verne McSween, a student of the University of the Virgin Islands, said that he regularly volunteers at his church and particularly likes to help sick and shut-in parishioners who are not able to upkeep their homes.

"For me it was about showing people who are struggling that I care," McSween said.

The average cost of tuition at a private college this year was \$30,094, and \$22,203 at a public university for out of state students according to the College Board. The median annual income for families in the Virgin

Eight students received a total of \$15,000 in education awards.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2015

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund aids students

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund aids students

BRITNEY KNIGHT

ST. CROIX — The store front of Sterling Optical in Golden Rock was filled with parents, family and recent high school graduates Tuesday, thanks to a decision by Joel Mahepath and Lisa Adams to “invest in the future.”

Through their Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund, the couple distributed \$1,500 to 13 students, allowing them to embark on the future with some financial support.

The scholarship program has provided over 100 students with over \$250,00 in financial aid, according to Adams.



Britney Knight

Young scholars, family and the owners of Sterling Optical gathered on Tuesday to celebrate academic excellence at the awards presentation of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund.

Almestica said.

After working with patients at the hospital, Almestica said she was able to realize that she can do something she enjoys — helping people — as a career.

“I like helping people because I was always exposed to helping people,” she said.

Like most college freshmen, Karl Currence has an idea of what she wants to major in, but is still undecided. She graduated from Good Hope Country Day School with a 3.9 GPA and is preparing to attend Columbia University.

“Right now my major is undecided but I’m leaning towards international relations,” Currence

She encouraged all scholarship recipients to study hard and to make a difference.

Adams also emphasized the need for the students to give back to the community, saying it will make all the difference.

“Because if all of us give back this will make this place a better place to live,” Adams said.

Sterling Optical also donated scholarships to five St. Thomas students: Kerel Calwood of the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School will attend Morehouse College where she will major in biology. Shenique Lewis of the Seventh Day Adventist School will attend UVI where she will major in crim-

Thirteen graduating students received funding each toward their college education.

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2016

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund aids students



Britney Knight

Scholarships and benefactors

A group of Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund recipients pose with Sterling Optical co-owners Lisa Adams and Joel Mahepath during the annual scholarship awards ceremony on Tuesday. Page 3.

Adams-Mahepath fund awards 15 scholarships

BRITNEY KNIGHT

ST. CROIX — Lisa Adams and Joel Mahepath, co-owners of Sterling Optical called on graduates once again to usher in a new era of success while giving back to the community at their annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund award ceremony on Tuesday.

The Sterling Optical store in Golden Rock was filled with smiling graduates and proud family members on Tuesday at the annual event.

"All of our recipients are quite ambitious and they are quite remarkable," Adams said prior to presenting the awards to graduates from both the St. Croix and St. Thomas-St. John districts.

"The most well-kept secret on St. Croix" was revealed when Rodney Griffin was presented with a scholarship award.

"Everyone knows Rodney as a comedian, we know him as an athlete — he's a track star, but Rodney does extremely well in



Britney Knight

Lisa Adams and Joel Mahepath, co-owners of Sterling Optical speak to a group of students and parents on Tuesday at the annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund award ceremony.

absent as she already left Island to attend New Mexico Institute to study chemistry, a special mention. Last year, Acosta's sister, Regine, was also a recipient of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund. Adams noted the Acosta family is doing something right.

"That family definitely has some formula for academic excellence," she said.

The number of scholarships distributed was set to increase by one to 14, but on Tuesday morning it was increased to 15 instead. Thus Naiah Otto from the St. Croix Educational Complex became lucky number 15 and awarded a scholarship. Otto will study international business this fall at Tide-water Community College.

Mahepath said his hope is that the students and those before them will one day give back to the community. He said the reclamation has allowed him to do just that and it is in that hope the Adams-Mahepath scholarships are awarded annually.

that she hopes to one day fulfill Mahepath's vision.

She said that businesses on St. Croix being in a position to give back to the community says a lot — that one can succeed in business here on the island.

"It's my dream one day to do the same," Battiste said.

Tlone Grant summed up the feelings of Tuesday's scholarship recipients. Grant, who loves math, said receiving the scholarship is "truly a blessing."

He plans to study electrical engineering at the University of St. Thomas campus.

Since 2002, the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund has given 100 students from the territory about \$250,000 in scholarships. Those selected to receive the scholarships have displayed academic diligence, commitment to community service and high Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, according to the scholarship application.

This year, in addition to Griffin, Acosta, Otto, Battiste and

Fifteen graduating students received funding each towards their college education.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

2017

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund aids students

'The essence of living is in the giving'

— Sterling Optical owners award scholarships to 15 students —

MARKIDA SCOTLAND

ST. CROIX — The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship committee is a mutual tradition of providing scholarships for college-bound youth territory-wide on Tuesday.

Now in its 15th year, a total of 15 students each received a \$1,500 scholarship.

Joel Mahepath, co-owner of Sterling Optical with partner, Dr. Lisa Adams, said they created the fund because they viewed education as a necessity.

"Adams and I have similar backgrounds. We grew up in an environment where education was really stressed in the home and was viewed as the key to success," Mahepath said. "When we became professionals, we realized that at the end of the day, the essence of living is in the giving."

Since 2002, the fund has given over 100 students from the territory more than \$350,000 in scholarships. The students selected to receive the scholarships displayed academic diligence, commitment to community service and high



A total of 15 students territory-wide received \$1,500 scholarships Tuesday from Sterling Optical's Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund to pursue their college education.

Markida Scotland

Thirteen graduating students received funding each towards their college education.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

2018

Sterling Optical awards 13 students with annual scholarships



Markida Scotland

Sterling Optical awards 13 students with annual scholarships

MARKIDA SCOTLAND

ST. CROIX — The husband and wife team of Jodel Mahepath and Dr. Lisa Adams, dedicated to improving eyesight and the lives of college-bound youth territory-wide, awarded 13 students with a \$1,500 check from their Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund during a ceremony Tuesday.

Adams, co-owner of Sterling Optical, said the scholarship was especially important this year following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017.

"Due to the hurricanes, we did not receive as many applicants as we're accustomed to, however, these applicants are all exceptional," she said, noting many high school seniors felt the island. "So, these 13 young people definitely persevered. Many of them described how they had to study



Markida Scotland

Miguel Martyr, a graduate from Central High School will use his scholarship from Sterling Optical's Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Fund to pursue a degree in electrical engineering at La Roche College in Pennsylvania

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ajani Gordon, Jacinta Mark, Miguel Martyr, Carissa Milette, Jada Romer, Kadysha Schoonmaker, Whitney Warner, Daniel Delva, C'Aylah Charleswell, Anyjah James, Loron Robles, Javan Sterling, and Dianysa Varley.

Two of the students will be attend the University of the Virgin Islands, while the others will study abroad for careers in computer engineering, biology, electrical engineering, biomedical science, molecular science, nursing, accounting, business, communications, finance, and medicine.

Ajani Gordon, a graduate from the St. Croix Educational Complex, will pursue a degree in

Thirteen students territory-wide were recognized following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

Historical photograph cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article title and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

2019

Sterling Optical awards 14 students with annual scholarships

Sterling Optical grants scholarships to 14 local students

By ELLIOTT DAVIS
Daily News Staff

Fourteen V.I. graduating students received \$1,500 one-year scholarships from Sterling Optical on Tuesday, financial aid that would help on the next step of their educational journey.

Sterling Optical, a locally owned eye care business, started the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship in 2002, when it gave \$1,250 each to four students, according to a statement from the company. The scholarship has grown since — peaking in 2017 when there were 15 recipients. The scholarship amount increased to \$1,500 in 2014.

After 13 students were awarded funds last year even in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, Sterling Optical got that number back up to 14 this year. In the program's 18 years, 182 students have received between



Daily News photo by LORI ABBOTTS
Sterling Optical's St. Thomas manager Dixie Ann Tang Yuk, front left, and owner Joel Mahepath, front right, present \$1,500 scholarships Tuesday to, left to right, Velvon Samuel-Warren representing Dantah Matthews, Vernisha Hodge, D'Shae Xavier, Kamal Tyson, Radiance Poetes and Jahquan Richards at Sterling Optical on St. Thomas. Scholarships were also awarded to St. Croix students in a ceremony on that island.

good about it."

The 2019 Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recipients are:

St. Croix:

- Alayna Caraballo, St. Croix Central High School, attending The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Essencia Charles, St. Croix Educational Complex, attending the University of the Virgin Islands
- Nia Coates, Good Hope Country Day School, attending François College
- Michael Dow Jr., St. Croix Educational Complex, attending the University of the Virgin Islands
- Mahlam Graham, St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School, attending Oakwood University
- N'Kaysia Hughes, St. Joseph High School, attending LaRoche University
- Lamuniqua Barnes, St. Croix Central High School, attending Sam Houston State University

Fourteen students territory-wide, were recognized following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

Historical photograph cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article title and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2020

Sterling Optical awards 13 recent high school graduates

Sterling Optical awards 13 recent high school grads with college scholarships

The Adams-Mahepath scholarship has grown considerably since it began in 2002

KAY WICKER

ST. CROIX — Tuesday morning, the scenes in both of the local Sterling Optical branches on St. Croix and St. Thomas were equally celebratory.

Gathered in both — in person and virtually — were this year's recipients of the local franchisees' college scholarship, the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship. The lucky 13 new territory high school graduates chosen this year each took home \$1,500 checks made out to the school they plan to attend in the fall.

The award, in its 19th year, was started in 2002 by chief executive officer of Sterling Optical's local branches Joel Mahepath and his wife Lisa Adams. Back then, there were just four lucky recipients and the award was \$1,250 apiece. The size of the award may have grown considerably over the years, but the mission has remained. That much is evident in looking at this year's winners.

During the brief awards presentation, Adams highlighted three of this year's winners. Kelsey Bhola, who graduated from Good Hope Country Day School, Mahkael Parris, who graduated from St. Croix Central High School, and Angelica Sterling on St. Thomas who graduated from the St. Thomas-St. John Seventh Day Adventist School.

Bhola, who graduated with nearly perfect SAT scores, is headed to Harvard University in the fall and has plans to study engineering. Parris won the U17 World 9 - Ball Billiard Championship in Moscow, Russia, becoming the first American and Virgin Islander ever to do so.

"This is simply fantastic that Mahkael can actually say that.

The award, in its 19th year, was started in 2002 by chief executive officer of Sterling Optical's local branches Joel Mahepath and his wife Lisa Adams. Back then, there were just four lucky recipients and the award was \$1,250 apiece. The size of the award may have grown considerably over the years, but the mission has remained. That much is evident in looking at this year's winners.

he is the first American to accomplish something in the world. He can also say that he has his own day," said Adams during the presentation.

After his victory in 2018, then Gov. Kenneth Mapp declared December 17th "Mahkael Parris Day" in his honor. Parris plans to attend the University of the Virgin Islands, where he will major in process technology.

Sterling, an accomplished young poet, won the 2017 and 2020 U.S. Virgin Islands Poetry Out Loud Competition. She also represented the Virgin Islands in Washington, D.C. and received Honorable Mention on the national stage. She plans to major in biology at Washington Adventist University.

The other recipients on St. Croix, who each introduced themselves during the presentation, were N'Kosi Benjamin who graduated from Free Will Baptist School; DaReone Christopher who graduated from St. Croix Educational Complex;



Submitted photo

Tuesday husband and wife Joel Mahepath and Lisa Adams awarded 13 lucky recent high school graduates throughout the territory with \$1,500 each as part of their annual scholarship fund the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship. Pictured is the St. Croix recipients.

Dominique Elizee who graduated from Good Hope Country Day School; Cha'rick Todman who graduated from St. Croix Seventh Day Adventist School; and Kevin Williams Jr. who graduated from St. Croix Educational Complex.

The rest of the recipients on St. Thomas include Elijah Claibwood who graduated from Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School; Tiffany Connor who graduated from VI Montessori School & Peter Gruber International Academy; Lennycia Finley who graduated from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School; Viren Punjabi who graduated from Antilles School; and Jumahri Shageem who graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School.



Submitted photo

On St. Thomas, those gathered in person for the annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship award ceremony practice social distancing and wore masks.

The program continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, awarding \$1,500 to each of 13 graduates.

The annual Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recognized talented graduating seniors from St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating academic achievement, character, community involvement, and the determination to pursue higher education.

Historical photograph cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article title and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2021

Fourteen high school graduates awarded Adams-Mahepath scholarships

Fourteen high school graduates awarded Adams-Mahepath scholarships

By LORI ABBOTTS
Daily News Staff

Fourteen Virgin Islands students were awarded Adams-Mahepath Scholarships on Tuesday in a joint ceremony at Sterling Optical's St. Thomas and St. Croix locations, connected via Zoom. Each student received a \$1,500 scholarship, marking the 20th year of the scholarship fund.

The program recognizes students who have excelled both academically and in their community. Established in 2002, it has awarded \$300,000 in scholarships to 209 students. Recipients have included students that went on to be authors, professors, physicians and engineers.

Dr. Lisa Adams-Mahepath and Joel Mahepath, who opened Sterling Op-



Sterling Optical owners Dr. Lisa Adams-Mahepath (sixth from left) and Joel Mahepath are surrounded by Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recipients Monique Turnbull (from left), Ki'onique Thompson, Emmanuel Roy, Serena Concepcion, Ashley Raviere and Anajah Peters (at right) and family members representing recipients Abigail Valery, Taj Bates and Ria Lang at Sterling Optical on St. Croix on Tuesday. It is the 20th year that the scholarship has been awarded.



Daily News photo by LORI ABBOTTS

Sterling Optical office manager Dixie Tang-Yuk, left, joins Josh Challenger, representing his daughter J'Niya Challenger, Shania Nieves, Mitchell Turnbull Jr., Darren Hodge Jr. and V.I. Montessori School and Peter Gruber International Academy cotepe counselor Kara Ebe Cook representing Devonte Duncan at a presentation on St. Thomas recognizing recipients of Adams-Mahepath Scholarships.

Fourteen Virgin Islands students received \$1,500 scholarships as the program marked its twentieth year.

2022

21st year anniversary of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Awards

21st year anniversary of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Awards

M.A. DWORKIN

ST. CROIX — There is only one real way to repay the people and the places you have grown to love for the success you have garnered in their midst.

Dr. Lisa Adams and her husband Joel Mahepath, owners of Sterling Optical, have been proving that method is true for twenty-one years. This year there are 14 recipients of their homegrown Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Awards. Eight recipients on St. Croix and six on St. Thomas.

Sterling Optical has been providing superlative service with a warm heart for the past twenty-five years in the Virgin Islands. When you walk into their establishment, you feel as if you have walked into a home where people care about you and want to take care of you in a manner you deserve.

The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship was established by this ultra-talented couple in 2002. Over the past 21 years, they have awarded 243 scholarships at a present value of approximately \$500,000. Smart and goal-oriented



Submitted photo
On Tuesday, young scholars received a helping hand during the 21st Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Awards held at Sterling Optical.

tion is to stay in Mexico and become a doctor. She was born in Antigua and grew up on the Dutch side of Saint Maarten. She is looking to take her doctoral medical talents back to Saint Maarten and work in the medical system.

Alexandria Bhola, Good Hope Country Day High School will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and majoring in International Relations. Although she is a firm believer in keeping her options open, she looks to attend law school after college, possibly going into international law. But her break-through dream is to work at the United Nations.

Maykayla Ramos, STX Educational Complex will be going off to Johnson C Smith University in Charlotte, NC. Her major is sports management. She is a tennis player who struggled with the lack of opportunity in sports on St. Croix. She wants to help make that situation better. She tennis players and then branch out to represent athletes in other sports. She wants to eventually take all that knowledge and bring it back

Fourteen recipients—eight on St. Croix and six on St. Thomas—were recognized with \$1,500 awards.

Historical photographs cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article titles and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2023

Sterling Optical scholarships honor students

Sterling Optical scholarships honor students

M.A. DWORKIN

ST. CROIX — There is something very special about Dr. Lisa Adams and her husband Joel Mahepath, owners of Sterling Optical, who for the past twenty-two years, have not only opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to help Virgin Islands students ease their way into college but have done so with a great sense of style and a deeply felt regard for the people of the Islands they love.

This year, the Adams-Mahepath Scholarships awarded by Sterling Optical have honored 14 graduating students from St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John districts with \$1,500 scholarships for each student to help further their college education pursuits.

"We view education as a means for greater upward mobility and the acquisition of knowledge as a key element of human advance-



Awards ceremony at Sterling Optical for Adams-Mahepath Scholarship.

Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Carton

STX Educational Complex and will be attending UVI, majoring in Nursing.

"I love kids, so I want to have something to do with kids. I actually want to be a midwife. Ideally, I would like to work for myself, but as long as I can work with kids, that would be wonderful." Arno told the Avis, who in turn asked her what had motivated such a desire. "I don't think kids should ever be mistreated. I am trying to prevent that."

The other recipients of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship on St. Croix were:

- Bry'Nice Berley, STX Central High School, attending Nova Southeastern University, majoring in Computer Science.

- Jared Brown, STX Educational Complex, attending Benedict College, majoring in Business Entrepreneurship.

- Yontisha Lawrence, St. Joseph

Fourteen graduating students from St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John received \$1,500 scholarships.

2024

Sterling Optical marks 23 years of corporate citizenship with scholarship fund



Sterling Optical had customers, staff, territorywide school representatives, elected officials and well-wishers on hand as the company, which was founded by Thomas Dr. Louis E. Hollingsworth, presented awards recently on St. Croix to the BC (Butler Campus) of the University of the Virgin Islands, under its preparation for the 23rd year of awards to UVI students. From left, Sterling Optical territory employee, from left to right, six-year Bermingdale, serving students, from left to right, as of 2003, territory, by hand and visiting.



Sterling Optical's Jose Mehesrein (third from right, with white and salmon printed bag), Dr. Jeneile Hollingsworth (in back with the document) and the donors, with received financial assistance, in the first row, left to right, and Automotrice Clendinning, Freddie (back centered), Marena Hodge, Sail Deyo Jones and Leila Rollins. More recipients (standing from left to right) are, Gadeah Howell, Raimon Keolus, Robert Siny, The Edward and Wenda Carrabell. In the back row, from left to right are: Nema Francious, Jermiel Charlesworth, Earl Hunt, Jeneile Williams, Ruth Rocco Johnson, Wayne Sterling, Shawn Vernon, and M. Sharon Herring.

Sterling Optical marks 23 years of corporate citizenship with scholarship fund

Thirteen students were selected for \$1,500 awards as the fund's cumulative value exceeded a half-million dollars.

Historical photographs cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article titles and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2025

Sterling Optical marks milestone with philanthropic investment in V.I. youth

Sterling Optical marks milestone with philanthropic investment in V.I. youth

By VERNICE BURGHER
Special to The Daily News

ST. CROIX — The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship is continuing its tradition of opening doors for Virgin Islands students, fueling their pursuit of higher education as well as personal growth.

Since its establishment in 2002, a total of 261 scholarships have been awarded, representing a net present value of more than a half million dollars. The scholarship is a philanthropy initiative of Sterling Optical, which has served the Virgin Islands since July 1997.

At its core, the scholarship reflects Sterling Optical's commitment to education as a tool for empowerment and mobility. For nearly a quarter-century, founders Joel Mahepath and his wife, Dr. Lisa Adams, have emphasized the transforming power of learning — not as an obligation, but as a way to rise, back up the community, and support long dignity.

"Education is the key motto of th of Sterling Optical, and the Adams said that is very much the lived the annual J. Van Hall writes in her DNA of love. So, let's keep on giving the love you touch of learning."

Adams, the keynote speaker at the St. Croix awards ceremony held Tuesday, echoed the importance of investing in young Virgin Islanders.

"Education is the key motto



Sterling Optical owners Dr. Lisa Adams, center, and husband, Joel Mahepath, help present scholarship awards to the 2025-26 Adams-Mahepath Scholarship winners, from left to right: Geia Williams, Anandiline Barnes, representing "Hoisting Green"; Elaine Lopez Adam, representing "Jarelle Walker, Shavonne Mona Webster, Adeana Griffin, and Anari Williams, during Tuesday's ceremony on St. Croix.

of our company," she said. "It predicts information, helps shape critical thinking, and foster expand-

social mobility. This year, 11 students — seven from the St. Croix District and

four from the St. Thomas-St. John District — were awarded \$1,500 scholarships based on GPA, SAT

scores, community involvement, and See **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 21

SCHOLARSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and a personal biographical sketch. The awards are disbursed directly to the recipients' colleges or universities.

The recipients are as follow:

St. Croix District:

- Norline Green, St. Croix Educational Complex — Social Work, Winston-Salem State University.
- Viva Webster, St. Croix Educational Complex — Biochemistry, Tulane University.
- Elaine Lopez, Central High School — Biomedical Sciences, Georgia State University.
- Angelica Griffin, Seventh-day Adventist School — Physics, Walla Walla University.
- Amari Williams, Seventh-day Adventist School — Psychology, University of the Virgin Islands.
- Mikella Walker, Educational Complex — Nursing and School — Health Services, Twin Cities.
- Geia Williams, Free Will Baptist School — Nursing, UVL.



the accomplishments of several honorees. She praised St. Croix's Amari Williams for her service as a transcriber with the Smithsonian Transcription Center for localizing transcribed content for the Centennial Pathfinder Club and her recognition as Freshman of the Year for academic excellence.

On St. Thomas, Adams spotlighted Jarelle Beckley Jr., for his achievements in aviation. High School student, Elaine Lopez Adam, representing "Hoisting Green," was the champion with a membership in the V.I. Chapter of the Three-time member and the the organization Black Aerospace Education Initiative of Career Education Institute, Inc.

For Mahepath and Adams, the stories underscore the purpose of the scholarship: to nurture talent, inspire ambition, and create opportunities that ripple across generations.

Sterling Optical and the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship continue to

Eleven students—seven from St. Croix and four from St. Thomas/St. John—received \$1,500 scholarships.

These annual awards continued Sterling Optical's commitment to recognizing graduating seniors for academic achievement, character, community involvement, and determination to pursue higher education.

Historical photograph cropped from contemporary press coverage. Article title and award details have been retypeset for clarity.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Recipients

St. Croix District

Name	High School	College / University	Major
Karina Diaz	St. Joseph High School	UVI (St. Croix) #900130208	Nursing
Talyzandra Garcia	St. Croix Educational Complex	UVI (St. Thomas) #900130472	Hospitality & Tourism
Jahnivyah Greenidge	St. Croix Central High School	Full Sail University	Music Production
Makayla Maillard	St. Croix Educational Complex	UVI (St. Croix) #900130675	Computer Engineering
Mycal Marshall	Good Hope Country Day School	Lynn University #3019950	Aviation Operations
Ace Poyah	St. Croix Educational School	University of South Carolina #E97554102	International Business
Mya Prasad	Good Hope Country Day School	University of San Francisco #20900363	Undecided
Nathaniel Williams	St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School	UVI (St. Croix) #900130458	Biology

Congratulations to the 2026 Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recipients.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Adams-Mahepath Scholarship Recipients

St. Thomas / St. John District

Name	High School	College / University	Major
Mirza Baig	Charlotte Amalie High School	UVI (St. Thomas) #900129487	Biology
Eli Blondeau	Antilles School	University of Georgia #811756343	Electrical Engineering
Tristan Farrington	V.I. Montessori School and Peter Gruber International Academy	Florida A&M University #300560462	Accounting / Finance
Keiori Francois	All Saints Cathedral School	Binghamton University #B01242007	Psychology
Ajeune Willett-Tyson	Charlotte Amalie High School	Florida A&M University #300556790	Criminal Justice

Congratulations to the 2026 Adams-Mahepath Scholarship recipients.

TWO DECADES OF GIVING

A Legacy Reflected in Every Recipient

2002 RECIPIENT
Monique Toussaint
Charlotte Annale High School



BSBA, MA, and EdD. Currently a Senior Advisor at the U. S. Department of Education.

2003 RECIPIENT
Dr. Takara Scott
Charlotte Annale High School



BS and Doctor of Philosophy. Currently a Senior Medical Science Liaison at Foundation Medicine.

2004 RECIPIENT
Dr. Rennisha Wickham
St. Croix Central High School



BS, PhD. Thesis: *Novel Precision Polyolefins from Living Coordinative Chain-Transfer Polymerization.*

2005 RECIPIENT
Cadwell Turnbull
Charlotte Annale High School



BS, MA and Author of *The Lesson and No Gods, No Monsters.* Currently Professor of Creative Writing at North Carolina State University.

2006 RECIPIENT
Camille Paul
St. Joseph High School



PA-C, MPH, MCMS. Currently a Physician Assistant at the Heart Center.

2007 RECIPIENT
Nneka Richards
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BA, MS and currently a Health Physicist.

2008 RECIPIENT
Dr. Tramaine Creighton
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BS, DVM, Author of *Dearly Beloved* devotional book and Founder of *Live & Ministries.*

2009 RECIPIENT
Dr. Kevin Dixon
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BA, MA, DBA. Currently a Territorial Project Coordinator for Youth Services VI Department of Labor.

2010 RECIPIENT
Sheila Marcel
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



B.S., PHD. Candidate in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

2011 RECIPIENT
Suresh Sookraj
Free Will Baptist Christian School



AS, BA, BA. Currently an Electrical Engineer in the Design & Construction Department of VIWAPA.

2012 RECIPIENT
Ashanta Bruney
St. Joseph Catholic High School



BA in Psychology. Currently working at the Department of Education.

2013 RECIPIENT
Klara Francis
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BA, Kent State University College of Pediatric Medicine. Student Doctor Candidate 2023.

2014 RECIPIENT
Idrees Donale
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BBA-IT. Currently pursuing MSIT, and working as a Platform Support Specialist at Exigo.

2015 RECIPIENT
Kamilie Willis
Charlotte Annale High School



BS, pursuing MA in Public Health. Currently working in Clinical research at Emory School of Medicine.

2016 RECIPIENT
Marcus Norkaitis
Virgin Islands Montessori Upper School



Studied Chemical and Biological Engineering at Princeton University.

2017 RECIPIENT
Habeeba O'Neill
St. Croix Educational Complex High School



BA. Currently a Data Analyst for the City of New York, Department of Homeless Services.

2018 RECIPIENT
Anjali James
All Saints Cathedral School



Currently attending University of the Virgin Islands for Marketing.

2019 RECIPIENT
Radiance Peets
Virgin Islands Montessori School & Peter Gruber International Academy



Currently attending University of the Virgin Islands - School of Nursing, BSN.

2020 RECIPIENT
Kelsey Bohla
Good Hope Country Day School



Currently attending the Harvard College for Biomedical Engineering.

From 2002 through 2020, scholarship recipients pursued careers and advanced study across education, medicine, science, engineering, business, public service, and the arts.

Their accomplishments represent the central purpose of the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship: to invest in young Virgin Islanders and help turn educational promise into lifelong community impact.

Investing in the Future

The Adams-Mahepath Scholarship has traditionally been open to graduating high school seniors with a grade point average above 2.5. Applicants submit transcripts, standardized test scores when applicable, and a biographical sketch describing accomplishments, future goals, and community involvement.

Selection has consistently looked beyond grades alone. The scholarship celebrates students who demonstrate service, perseverance, character, ambition, and a commitment to making a positive difference.

Across twenty-five years, the program grew from four awards of \$1,250 to a broad territory-wide legacy supporting hundreds of students. The impact is measured not only in dollars awarded, but in doors opened, careers launched, and lives strengthened.

Sterling **OPTICAL**

25 YEARS OF GIVING

A lasting investment in education, opportunity, and the future of the Virgin Islands.

With Gratitude

This commemorative booklet celebrates the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship and the many Virgin Islanders whose achievements continue to inspire the community.

To every student, family, educator, employee, community partner, and member of the press who shared in this journey—thank you. Your loyalty and support made this legacy possible.

25 YEARS • HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS • ONE ENDURING LEGACY



Dr. Lisa Adams-Mahepath & Joel Mahepath • Sterling Optical • U.S. Virgin Islands