

# The Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program

## Scholarship Winner Nicole Rumley Junior, Canisius College Buffalo, NY

Nicole Rumley doesn't remember what her father was like before the accident. Thomas Rumley was disabled in a work zone when Nicole was only a toddler. He was pinned under heavy equipment, fracturing his spine and causing permanent disability and a perennial state of pain. Later, surgery with rods and pins increased his mobility but he was never able to return to normal activity levels.

"When I was really little, I spent most of my time with Mom," Nicole recalled. "Dad was always working. Then after his surgery in 1995, I had a whole summer with him while he recovered." However, the father/ daughter time was a mixed blessing. "It was great having all that time with him, but he couldn't play with me. It was frustrating for us both," In some ways roles were reversed as Nicole helped her dad out with doing things around the house. "I enjoyed doing things for him. I think its part of my nature to help others and part of what attracted me to teaching."

Prior to the accident, Thomas was always busy, enjoying his job as a mechanic and hobbies such as gardening and fishing. Nicole said the accident forced him to learn patience, which was a hard lesson for the always active man. "He had to give up fishing because he could no longer sit for long periods. That was a huge loss for him," Nicole said. However, he continues gardening and has picked up model cars as a hobby. "He always was good at working with his hands and the model cars give him part of that back."

As a result of his accident, Thomas retired on disability. Nicole thinks she is more cognizant than many people regarding work zone safety due to her father's situation. She applied for the Foundation scholarship to help her with tuition and expenses at Canisius College, where she is an education major planning to teach French and Spanish after graduation. This summer, she will do an internship in a suburb of Paris.

"I couldn't continue my education without financial aid. Every year there is a bigger gap between tuition and available assistance," she said. "I'm grateful for the Foundation scholarship opportunity."



To receive a scholarship application or to contribute to the Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program, please call (800) 272 – 8772 and ask to speak to someone in the Foundation department.