

The First Rehabilim Scholarship Recipient from Eastern Indonesia

by Enrino Pasullean

I had the privilege of meeting Bakri at his office at the South Sulawesi Governor's Office earlier this year. He works as an administrative officer in the Human Resources department. He began working there on 1 October 2022 as a contracted employee, and three years later, on 1 October 2025, he became a permanent staff member.

Bakri was born and raised in Selayar, South Sulawesi, where he spent his formative years attending local schools. After finishing school, he moved to Makassar to pursue higher education at Universitas Muslim Indonesia (UMI Makassar).

About two years after leaving Selayar, he received news that his parents had suffered severe strokes. This situation affected him deeply, not only emotionally but also financially, as his parents had been supporting his studies. He began to consider giving up his education in order to return home and care for them.

During this difficult time Bakri, who is blind, met Agus, who told him about a scholarship from the Rehabilim Trust. Agus helped facilitate contact with the Chairman Bill Russell, and through this connection, Bakri was eventually awarded the scholarship—becoming the first recipient from Eastern Indonesia. With this support, he was able to continue his studies and went on to complete a Bachelor of Education in Islamic Studies.

Bakri is deeply grateful to God for the blessings he has received, and to Rehabilim for the opportunity to pursue his education. Looking ahead, he is eager to continue studying Disability Studies and Inclusive Education. He hopes this will support his career aspirations of becoming a lecturer, consultant, or disability policy maker in Indonesia.

I had a wonderful time meeting Bakri and was truly inspired by his positive outlook on life.



Enrino with Bakri outside the South Sulawesi Governor's Office

Chairman's comments

These past three months have been a busy one for the Trustees of the Rehabilim Foundation Inc.

We have successfully updated our constitution, and had it accepted by the Charities Commission and by the Incorporated Societies. We have one more hurdle to jump and that is it.

Some time ago, I suggested to the Trust as it was then that we should future proof our charity by having a handbook which records everyone's role on the executive (job description), the

dates things have to be done by, like calling for nominations and when decisions have to be made by and it was agreed. The reason for this was when a key person left the executive there would be a record of responsibilities and timings for the successor to follow.

The Task of doing this fell to executive member Hannah Brackley and several versions later we now have a handbook to guide members of the executive about who does what and when. It is a great resource, and we are thankful to Hannah for producing this.

The nominations are in for this year's scholarship awards and these were approved at the last board meeting of the Foundation. We will have 14 students in total under scholarship, and each one carries a remuneration of NZ \$1000 per year each for 4 years. A significant amount for us to fund. These scholarships will be sponsored by 3 yayasans (charities). One in Bali and two in Yogyakarta.

All this is possible with your support for which the board and I are very grateful. Thank you.



Bill Russell

Bill Russell
Chairman

Foundation Scholarship Update

Ratna Dewi

Studying: *Master of Law*

University: *Univ Janabadra*

The biggest challenge experienced by Ratna was the payment of tuition fees that were less than 4 million and also for TOEFL fees, but this problem could be overcome by borrowing money from other families.

Regarding the course, Ratna had no obstacles because it was still understandable and she was not involved in student management on campus. She established cooperation

with LKBH at the Janabadra Master of Law in the context of handling cases and providing free legal aid for the underprivileged. Especially the disabled who are in the village where she lives.

So far, the majority of cases handled are in the form of inheritance distribution issues. Ratna provides legal assistance ranging from consultation to assistance to trial. She always makes a commitment to open opportunities for Law students who receive the Rehabilim Foundation Scholarship if they want to do an internship at the LBH she manages.



Dicky Ruchyat Shidik

Studying: *Master of Law*

University: *UIN Sunan Kalijaga*

During these three months, lectures have focused more on thesis writing and have obtained a thesis Assistant Lecturer so that they are focused on guidance, reading and writing activities.

The obstacle experienced by Dicky is related to the existence of reference articles that are difficult to find for the preparation of a thesis. This has been overcome by asking experts to identify the articles. Making it easier to locate. Dicky is no longer active in organizational activities this semester to focus more on the preparation of the final thesis project, which is targeted to be completed in May 2026.



Defis Putri Septiyanie

Studying: *Islamic Counseling Guidance*

University: *UIN Sunan Kalijaga*

During this period, Defis has taken a thesis, so he does not go to campus too often. He participated in the session with his friends to find out more about what was required for the thesis.

Defis had difficulty submitting a thesis title with his disability condition resulting in difficulty speaking. He was also often worried about being ignored by others. The solution, Defis decided, was to talk about the obstacles he experienced, for his thesis.

He read a lot and made a lot of observations in order to get a more specific title about the obstacles he faced with his speaking difficulty. The person in charge of the program advised Defis to practice speaking in front of the mirror more often with a slower and clearer intonation in preparation for the thesis hearing.

In every lecture and during the session, Defis will always be accompanied by a disability companion provided by the campus. He is currently taking outpatient treatment at the hospital to monitor his health development.



Dian Ayu Pramesty

Studying: *Fine Arts Education*

University: *Univ Sarjana Wiyata Tamansiswa*

This semester Dian submitted her resignation from the Rehabilim Foundation scholarship because she received scholarship funds for the Smart Indonesia Card program from the government of the Republic of Indonesia. The rest of Dian's Rehabilim Foundation scholarship funds worth IDR 2,594,000 have been given to increase the purchase of tablets used to facilitate college.

In addition to studying, which is quite a long vacation in this period, Dian is also still working as a barista. She will reduce the duration of work when college starts to be active again. Even though she is currently no longer a student recipient of the Rehabilim Foundation scholarship, she still hopes to be involved in activities carried out by the YAKKUM Rehabilitation Center and she is also committed to always establishing good communication.



Jovanka Adrin Palaguna

Studying: *Cosmetology*

University: *Family Welfare Academy*

The main activity is a lecture with a lot of makeup materials and there is also a session for makeup practice. However Jovanka has had difficulty with communicating with her lecturer with regard to the difference in the programme she was used to at high school.

Jovanka understands and promises to be more careful in reading announcements from the campus and information from the campus. Because Jovanka often does not respond to information from lecturers regarding assignments, exam schedules, and so on.



Agustina Kurniawati Enembe

Studying: *Digital Business*

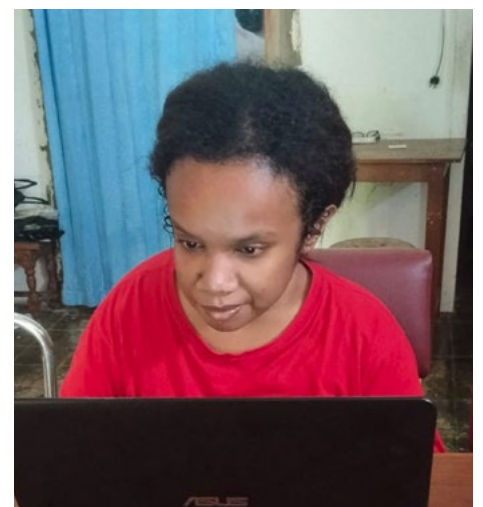
University: *PGRI University Yogyakarta*

Agustina has had to change from regular campus classes to employee classes. This was due to her physical disability which leaves her unable to negotiate access to upper floors without some aid.

However, this has proved to be a bonus as her classmates help explain more and provide enthusiastic support. In return, Agustina is able to provide information about people with disability like her.

When Agustina went to college she was always escorted by her mother while carrying her folding walker on her lap, looking for stairs to get down and up from the motorbike so as not to fall.

Agustina is involved in HMP (Digital Business Study Program Student Association) as a communication and information team. As a member of HMP, there are Basic Leadership Training activities that she participated in in this period.



Aldo Christyanto

Studying: *Communication*

University: *Univ. Mercubuana*

Aldo has been working on his thesis which is about the right to work with disabilities. He uses the experience he gets while working at the cafe at YAKKUM Yogyakarta.

Aldo has also been involved in the origin.fest concert project where he is

a member of the documentation team setting up the music concert stage and editing the video recordings. He also served as on a two-day tour trip with the documentation team and worked on a 100% highway improvement video.

After graduating from college he will work at EO which is owned by his family.



Edi Priyanto

Studying: *Craft Arts*

University: *Indonesian Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta*

Edi's activities involved working on the final project, processing ideas on the themes raised and exploring the search for existing reading references in the form of books or journals on the internet.

In addition, Edi also had time to participate in the waste sovereignty #3 activity at the mouth of the Progo River. The obstacles he encountered were still a lack of references and

also in processing ideas that were too repetitive and also minimally updated.

He still tried to research references from the suggestions he got through his seniors to find the most suitable ones.

Edi said that this year he would try to graduate considering that he had taken 12 semesters until now. After graduating from college, Edi is still committed to becoming an art worker at the national and international levels, this starts with participating in various national-scale competitions in DIY, Jakarta, Surabaya.



Eka Sava Mailani

Studying: *Sharia Banking*

University: *UIN Sunan Kalijaga*

During this semester, I was looking for a thesis title but was still confused about finding an easier title. Because it is difficult to find thesis titles and journals that are easier to understand. So I am yet to find a thesis title. The person in charge of the program suggested

discussing with the thesis supervisor, so that he could get appropriate input and the thesis could be prepared. In this period, I am still active in participating in PLD activities but only participate in seminars/talk shows related to people with disabilities. Other campus organization activities have not been followed by Eka in order to be more focused on thesis assignments.



Suryanto

Studying: *Social Welfare Science*

University: *UIN Sunan Kalijaga*

Suryanto has been busy working on his thesis preparing it for the discussion stage. Despite his Thesis Supervisor having a very busy schedule, Suryanto was able to get some very useful guidance on revisions to his thesis and added excerpts from scientific articles to improve his work. He is optimistic about graduating this year.

Suryanto's GPA is 3.49. Suryanto's scholarship funds are still used for the payment of a boarding house of IDR 500,000/month and also the payment of UKT worth IDR 400,000/semester. After graduating from college, Suryanto wants to return to his origin of selling while trying the CPNS test if there are vacancies that suit his educational background.



Khoirul Nuryadi

Studying: *Communication and Multimedia Science*

University: *Univ. Mercubuana Yogyakarta*

The activities that Khoirul has been involved in are taking care of filing for the requirements of the judiciary and making a diploma.

Khoirul has been just waiting for the graduation time. Khoirul's GPA until now is 3.57. Khoirul has started

preparations to make a CV and covering letter and will start sending applications after graduation, this is done in preparation for entering the world of work. After graduation he will return to Purworejo and the person in charge of the program will advise if there is a job vacancy and if there is a job fair in Kulon Progo which is held every year and the Regency government collaborates with the YAKKUM Rehabilitation Center.



Lutfi Ma'rifatun Khasanah

Studying: *Islamic Religious Education*

University: *UIN Sunan Kalijaga*

For three months of lectures, Lutfi worked on a thesis that had reached CHAPTER II, the observation of the school that became the object of the research place. Lutfi also still continues to participate in computer training held by PLD, in order to take the ICT exam, one of the requirements for college graduation.

She has had to overcome a lack of confidence in herself. This perhaps due to her getting behind through doubting

herself. Sometimes Lutfi also has to adjust the volunteer schedule to ask for help to edit writing and read books that become literature in her thesis. Lutfi tries to keep thinking positively so that her condition remains healthy, but she still believes that she can overcome all the challenges she is currently facing.

She still hopes that this semester she can complete her thesis assignment well and get satisfactory grades. The person in charge of the program will also inform Lutfi if there is a job fair in the DIY area after she graduates from college.



Sekar Febriani

Studying: *Law*

University: *Yogyakarta State University*

In late January, she was accepted and participated in the DPM campus organization at the faculty level. In March, she also participated in the committee, both as an event committee and as a member. Sekar's only obstacles were in how to manage her time or divide her time between lectures, organizations and part-time work. In the end, she realized that she could not do those three things at the same time, so she decided to resign from her part-time job so she could focus more on

lectures and the organization she was participating in.

She was involved in organizational management as a member of Commission II DPM FH UNY. Commission II is in charge of supervising the student organization of the Faculty of Law UNY, both administrative supervision and financial supervision. Sekar in the WA group has been invited to do an internship at LBH managed by Ratna. She has not decided yet to start an internship. However if the offer from Ratna is still open she will take it.



The Rehabilim Foundation Inc.

The Rehabilim Foundation was established originally by a New Zealander, the late Colin McLennan MBE, to support the YAKKUM Rehabilitation Centre, referred to as Pusat Rehabilitasi YAKKUM, or PRY, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In addition, The Foundation now supports other disabled children's charities providing assistance to disabled children and young adults, regardless of religion, to enable them to become independent and self reliant by learning and using income-generating skills.

The Rehabilim Foundation Inc currently supports 10 young disabled Indonesians who are recipients of a Colin McLennan Memorial Scholarship valued at NZ \$1000 each, per year for four years. The Foundation is looking to extend this type of charitable support.

The Foundation depends on service organisations and individual donors for financial support.

Rehabilim Donation Form

I wish to support young physically disabled Indonesians.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donations may be made directly to our Westpac Bank Account:
Rehabilim Foundation 03-0539-0238389-00

**The Treasurer
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