

*People Safe In Rollovers Foundation*  
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For release: Immediately

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**Complete Quadriplegic Roof Crush Victim to Address  
Emergency World Summit in Washington, D.C.**

David Garcia, a complete quadriplegic as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile rollover in 1996, will address expert engineers, policy makers, consumer advocates and public health experts from around the world who are convening to debate the cause of injury in automobile rollovers (Diving vs. Roof Intrusion) at the **Emergency World Summit on Roof Crush in Washington, D.C., July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.**

David was 29 years old and on the verge of graduating from Vanderbilt University when the accident occurred on Memorial Day in 1996. He had just accepted a teaching job at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and was driving a Ford Escort from Dallas to Jackson with his fiancée at the time, who was a right front passenger. The weather was clear, the roads were dry and the future looked right; however, Garcia's life would soon change.

In an effort to avert a vehicle he perceived as coming into his lane, David took evasive action and veered into a median grass strip between the interstate roadways--rolling over at a speed of only 35 miles per hour. During the rollover, there was massive roof crush of more than a foot into David Garcia's occupant space and the roof eventually came to rest pushing on the driver's headrest. Despite being fully belted, the roof crush caused paralyzing injury to David's lower neck vertebrae.

Because the occupant space over his fiancée, Kristen Brown, was well preserved, she was able to exit the vehicle under her own power with no serious residual injury.

Just eight years after his accident and despite his devastating injuries, David Garcia graduated in 2004 from Vanderbilt University with a doctorate in Spanish American Literature and Latino studies. He worked from his home in Apalachin, New York using a voice-operated computer program. He defended his brilliant dissertation on the writer Jesus Colon with video conferencing between Vanderbilt and Binghamton University in New York.

Garcia decided to make the journey to Washington to share his own personal experience and to advocate for a major upgrade in the proposed Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 216-*Roof Crush Resistance* before it is finalized. He wants the public to know the devastating consequences of automobile rollovers and to know that people killed and maimed yearly are more than just statistics. This is why he is coming to Washington with his new fiancé and his family.

\*\*\* 7/12/07