



# GRADUATE PROFILE



## Jason Finkelstein School of Medicine • Class of 1999 United States

Jason Finkelstein grew up in Long Island, New York and elected to stay in state as he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Binghamton University. Studying hard, Jason graduated with a 3.68. Although he applied to dozens of medical schools in the United States, he made his decision to attend SGU after speaking to an SGU graduate, who only had good things to say about the university. Dr. Finkelstein was accepted for the August class of 1995. "I went on a whim... all I knew was what was said to me," Dr. Finkelstein recalls. "I knew

if I didn't like it I could always come back." Although Grenada was not his first time outside the United States, he was excited to experience and live in a new culture.

Although it was a change from NY, Finkelstein says that, "It worked out great." He was pleasantly surprised to discover that his classmates came from some of the top Ivy League schools in the US and that a lot of professors were from US schools as well. Finkelstein also commented on how available professors were to help students, "They had their own office hours for extra help and counseling, and the department of education services had additional tutors." Living outside the US and studying at SGU gave Dr. Finkelstein the motivation to pursue his personal and professional goals. Aside from the diverse student body and culture experiences at St. George's University, Jason commented on how "even during my clinical rotations in inner city hospitals, I was definitely exposed to an impressive variety of patients and had the ability to gain hands-on experience a lot more than if I was in a US medical school."

While in Grenada, Dr. Finkelstein volunteered his time by visiting orphanages with a group of SGU students, working with the kids that didn't have a family to put a smile on their face. He did not know anyone when he first arrived in Grenada, but quickly made life-long friends. He continues to remain in close contact with this network of fellow classmates.

Dr. Finkelstein graduated from St. George's University in 1999 and came to be the first doctor in his family. He completed an internal medicine residency at MCP Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is where he became more interested in cardiology and decided to take a Cardiology Fellowship at Tulane University's Health Sciences Center for the next three years. In 2006, he also finished an interventional cardiology fellowship at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Indianapolis. Currently, Dr. Finkelstein is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases and Nuclear Cardiology. He specializes in preventative cardiology and percutaneous coronary intervention, and is currently in private practice with Advanced Heart Care in Decatur, Texas. His practice follows a non-traditional model where the main headquarters are based in Plano, Texas. All the doctors focus on serving the rural and suburban areas. According to Dr. Finkelstein, this set-up addresses the issues of many rural communities, "Before patients would have to travel for miles, we've grown the cardiac services and people don't need to travel for their care."

Dr. Finkelstein hasn't forgotten his SGU community. "Grenada gave me an opportunity—not just the school, but the citizens. Living in the country and seeing how some of the people are disadvantaged in their healthcare, I just wanted to help." Dr. Finkelstein travels to Grenada every year to volunteer his services. During his regular one week visits, he manages to see about 50 patients. Even as an alumnus, Jason believes SGU continues to offer its support; he explains "Unlike many other medical schools, SGU, doesn't forget you after you graduate. They're still there for students with letters of recommendations or license applications."

Currently, Dr. Finkelstein spends his spare time traveling and spending time with his family. He and his wife of 10 years have two wonderful boys, ages three and five. He hopes to bring the entire family along his next visit to Grenada so they can experience the island for themselves!

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