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July 2011

Kristen Stitt Memorial Scholarship



In Loving Memory of Kristen Stitt

(1989-2011)

It is with a heavy heart that we report our dear friend and colleague Krister Stitt passed away on June 28th, 2011 at the age of 22. Kristen, was diagnosed with lymphoma in February, and consistently served as a source of inspiration for the OTI community. Kristen will be remembered for her kindhearted spirit, infectious smile, and determination to make this world a better place.

Kristen was an incredibly bright, driven and talented leader whose life was unfortunately cut short. She reminds us that you cannot simply measure the fullness of one's life by years but rather the wonderful moments and experiences throughout the years. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to know Kristen through her experience with OTI and hope to keep her memory alive with the establishment of the Kristen Stitt Memorial Scholarship Fund. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide support for students who embody the kind understanding and compassionate leadership that Kristen demonstrated during her lifetime.

There are several ways that you can contribute to the Kristen Stitt Memorial Scholarship.

To use your credit card please provide us with the information below and send this information to Rosemarie Swatez (UCI School of Social Sciences) via email or by phone (949-824-2511).

Name
Address
Email
Telephone
Credit Card
Name as it appears on Credit Card
Credit Card number
Expiration date
Amount of donation

Please make checks payable to the UCI Foundation and mention "Kristen Memorial Scholarship" in the memo section of the check and mail to:

Rosemarie Swatez
Associate Director of Development
School of Social Sciences
3151 Social Sciences
Irvine, CA 92697-5100

There is an option for matching gift donations, for more information please contact Rosemarie Swatez. Gifts may be tax deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt and letter.

Thank you for your support!

Olive Tree Initiative on Campus



Preparing for the Next Trip: Olive Tree Initiative Four

OTI4 is composed of unique group of students who are passionately dedic to the situation in the Middle East. They understand that in order to get the most out of the September trip to Israel/Palestine and Jordan, our group w need to be well prepared before they depart. Part of this preparation proce includes an enormous focus on education. In addition to weekly organizati meetings, OTI 4 dedicates at least 2-3 hours per week discussing various lectures, readings, and current events from different sources and perspecti

Beyond discussing history and significant events, OTI4 is putting much emphasis on the different stages of the peace processes under the guidan of OTI's graduate student advisors. In addition to these weekly discussion meetings OTI4 students will participate in a one-week boot camp in August where they will go through and review important details on the itinerary, including the people we are meeting with and the importance of the sites th we are visiting.

Olive Tree Initiative in the Community



OTI End of the Year Celebration - June 26th

At the end of the quarter OTI hosted our annual end the year party at the beautiful home of Hal Smith. The event was comprised of not only UCI students but also students from UCLA who will be joining UCI during the trip in September. Also present were members from the previous community trip who generously shared their experiences with the students. Afterwards, students were given the chance to talk about their expectations for the upcoming trip and the reasons they value OTI so highly. The event was a successful celebration of OTI and all it has achieved and keeps achieving not only at UCI but at other campuses and communities as well.

Meeting with Muslim Women's Group - July 5th

On July 5th, 2011 a group of OTI community supporters met for lunch with Muslim women to discuss OTI. The meeting was organized by board members Dulcie Kugelman, Anila Ali and Nina Berman. Our guests heard compelling stories from students and supporters about their experiences with OTI. Everyone had the opportunity to converse informally about their personal journeys, achievements and goals. All women expressed a desire to continue this collaboration.

Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles - July 31st

At the invitation of Fatima Sultan, the OTI community group and students visited the Museum of Tolerance on Sunday, July 31. Fatima introduced a photo exhibit relating the story of Muslim Albanians who successfully saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust.

Join Us for an Afternoon of Laughs as We Send Off Our OTI Four Students! OTI Bon Voyage Party 2011

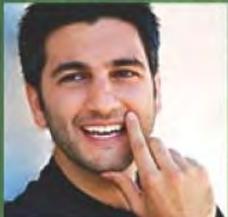
Olive Tree Initiative's

Annual Bon Voyage Celebration!

AUGUST 21st, 12-3 PM*
Pacific Ballroom, UCI Student Center



MIKE BATAYEH



AMIR K.

Come join us for a lunch reception, a comedy show (Sultans of Satire), and a raffle/silent auction as we sendoff the fourth OTI student group on a journey to Israel/Palestine and Jordan!

You will have the opportunity to meet new and old friends, to get to know the wonderful OTI students and to bid on fabulous the raffle and auction items. All funds raised will go towards the students' trip.

Come join us for this celebration!
www.olivetreeinitiative.org

**For those observing Ramadan, our program will begin at 1 pm after the lunch service*

Come join us for a lunch reception, a comedy show (Sultans of Satire), and a raffle/silent auction as we sendoff the fourth OTI student group on a journey to Israel/Palestine and Jordan!

Photos courtesy of Sultans of Satire: Middle East Comic Relief and Levantine Cultural

OTI Student Spotlight

Armaan Rowther

UCI Class of 2013

Armaan Ahmed Rowther is a third-year student of public health at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and is currently pursuing a career in medicine and global health. Armaan was born in Santa Ana, California into a family that includes Pakistani, Indian, Ladakhi and Tibetan backgrounds.



Armaan's campus involvement includes humanitarian activism through the Muslim Student Union, providing free health care to the rural residents of Tecate, Mexico through the Flying Samaritans conducting clinical research at the UCI Medical Center through the Emergency Medicine Research Associates Program, encouraging education on the Palestine-Israel conflict through the Olive Tree Initiative, promoting interfaith dialogue and engagement as the UCI Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship Fellow, and serving as the UCI-affiliated member of the UC President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion. Armaan works as an instructor for the Irvine Kumon Math and Reading Center and volunteers as a teacher of Islamic Studies at the Islamic Weekend School of the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove, California.

Why OTI is important to Armaan:

"Three weeks in Palestine-Israel does not make an expert, but traveling to region and meeting the people whom so many claim to represent was the most important educational experience of my life. The diversity of narratives that I heard from people on every "side" of the conflict taught me to appreciate its areas of complexity, while the human suffering that I witnessed taught me to recognize its areas of moral clarity. There is immeasurable value in giving students the opportunity to study together for months before traveling halfway across the world--crossing every possible border, physical and ideological--the sake of sincerely listening and challenging themselves and one another in the search of truth. God-willing, the humility and humanity that OTI has given me will remain with me for the rest of life."

Want to Support OTI Student Programs?

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