

GENERATION OM Newsletter: July 2017

Kripa Ahuja University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

... my first semester in college, filled with various new experiences and opportunities. From navigating new classes to joining new clubs, it was an exciting semester. I was accepted into a prestigious lab, Dr. Rihe Liu's lab, to do research. This was both challenging and rewarding at the same time. The lab is aimed at cancer research with protein expression and targeting. Even as a freshman, I received hands-on experience working in a lab in the medical school building and even going to UNC hospital to use some special microscopes. I look forward to continuing my work at Dr. Liu's lab this semester. Aside from research, I joined a dance company at UNC, The Blank Canvas Dance Company. Continuing the ballet, tap, and jazz I did in high school, this company allowed me to find new ways to express myself through dance. The highlight of the dance company this semester was definitely The Blank Canvas Dance Company Showcase that occurred towards the end of the semester. In this showcase I performed at Carolina Hall in front of many of my peers. Additionally, besides the dance company, I joined a community service organization called Nourish. Nourish is a stand out community service club in that it is a medical entrepreneurship club. Nourish has weekly lunches for Carolina Students in junction with a local restaurant or café, thus providing students with cheaper meals and promoting a nearby business. Nourish also sponsors travel abroad trips such as working to give females the proper medical care in places such as Uganda. I am grateful to Generation Om for giving me the opportunity to excel at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well giving me proper values and ideals to live by. (Dec 2016)



As my first year of freshman year comes to a close, I reflect upon all that I have accomplished and all that I have yet to do. Second semester of my freshman year I became heavily involved with the club that promotes Punjabi culture on campus: Carolina Khalsa. Every year Carolina Khalsa has an annual day in the Pitt (a central part of campus on UNC) called Tie a Turban Day. During this day, members of the Gurdawara and the larger Indian community from North Carolina all come to Chapel Hill to promote awareness about our culture. This day is an extremely large-scale event and takes great coordination. I contributed heavily into the planning and execution of this day. 2000 turbans were tied and 500 samosas were eaten. This day was a great

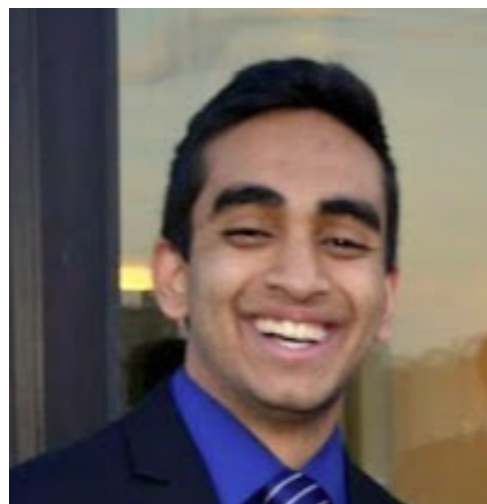
exploration and showcase of culture. Next year, I will be on the executive board of Carolina Khalsa, serving as treasurer.

This year I was also selected by the Undergraduate Research Committee to present my research at the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. I was one of four freshmen to be selected to present their data. Furthermore, I received a research fellowship from the lab that I have been working at all year. This fellowship is a summer fellowship from the Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry department of the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and the UNC School of Medicine. Overall, my freshman year was one of success as I continued to dance with Blank Canvas, learn more about my culture, and succeed in research. I hope that the ideals that Generation Om has taught me will continue to guide me in everyday life. (June 2017).



Krishnan Sethumadhavan University of Pennsylvania

This was my final semester at the University of Pennsylvania and I was highly excited to graduate Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of the Arts in Economics along with a Minor in Mathematics. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of my 4 years at Penn, and I could not have asked for a better college experience. From an extracurricular perspective, I spent this year as the Chief of Staff of Intercol – Penn's travelling Model United Nations Team – and this year, for the first time in 5 years, our team was ranked first in North America! I also helped to organize a Model United Nations conference in Peru for the first time in our school's history and it was a major success – with over 300 delegates from Peru attending. I continued my involvement with the Hindu Student Association at Penn and worked towards organizing the annual Holi event in conjunction with Penn's Class Board, bringing large numbers of students of both Hindu and non-Hindu faiths to celebrate and learn more about Hinduism. In terms of community service, I served on my fraternity's community service committee and helped to organize multiple philanthropy and community service events. My fraternity raised thousands of dollars for rape prevention causes and performed community service at Penn's Transplant House as well as Bartram's Garden, an urban garden located within Philadelphia. I am proud to have been a Generation OM scholar for these past four years and look forward to carrying on this legacy as I move to Washington DC to work for Bain & Company as a consultant.



Vivek Suri Yale University

I have had a fantastic first year at Yale University studying Biomedical Engineering. I have been involved with the South Asian society and have done a great deal of service with it. Last semester I helped organize a South Asian Solidarity Conference with involved many panels and workshops on cultural awareness, solidarity between different ethnic and racial groups, and experiences of the South Asian diaspora. I have also been volunteering in a Biomedical Engineering laboratory to study polymers for more effective drug delivery, especially cancer drugs.

Next year I look forward to being the political chair of the South Asian society where I hope to increase student involvement in community events. I also look forward to doing my own independent research within the laboratory studying the structures of new polymers through nuclear magnetic resonance imaging. Beyond community service I give tours for the engineering department and play on the ultimate frisbee team.

**Karunya Tota** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I have just completed my first semester as a *Junior* as a Computer Science major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am looking forward to completing at least another year here (Dec 2016). Two of my biggest areas of involvement this semester have been through Women in Computer Science (WCS) and Founders @ Illinois. I have represented WCS at the annual Grace Hopper Celebration for Women in Computing in Houston, Texas. This event was a four day conference where students and female engineers had the opportunity to network with each other, learn from a series of key individuals in the industry and government, and connect with game-changing companies in the tech field. Under WCS, we also host countless women in STEM outreach and motivational talks. In terms of other service projects, I am part of a sub-team in our Founders club under which we are organizing and hosting the Spring Semester Start-Up Fair to allow students to connect with new and innovative tech companies across the country. Our primary goal is to increase the start-up presence on our somewhat isolated midwest campus.

In order to promote Generation OM qualities, I have taken on leadership roles by representing my school at the Grace Hopper Conference in Texas and Start-Up Conference in NYC. I have also taken the time to help organize a major career fair under the Founders @ Illinois organization that will kick off in February. Furthermore, I have joined UIUC B.O.L.D., an initiative to encourage more females to excel in STEM careers. Academically, I have taken more challenging specialization courses this semester including Data Mining, Social and Information Networks, and the Art & Science of Web Programming. Next semester, I will be taking the most difficult advanced Computer Science course at UIUC - Algorithms & Theory II. I also hope to be more involved in academic research. Lastly, on a personal level, I have started practicing meditation and learning more about it....continued:

Pearly Pandya Georgia Tech

My favorite part about my junior year at Georgia Tech was that I was able to mold my passions to serve a greater cause to give back to our community. For example, I was part of the Board of Georgia's United Indian Student Alliance, which brings Indian student leaders from different colleges for collaborative community service and philanthropy. Through my passion for graphic design and social media marketing, I publicized our biggest event, ATL Tamasha, which is a competition that unites various dance forms and various teams from around the nation. This year we paired up with IDRF and donated all of our proceeds to IDRF's two specific projects: the Economic Rural Development Society and the Naguri School. We hope to not only spread the word about the cycle of poverty in India, but also encourage others to break the cycle. It is our turn to empower the people of India with resources they need in order to achieve success in their lives and make India a better place to live in. I also helped with organizing our school's Holi Show; it was exciting to see that the promotional items I designed were sold as donations to Relay for Life, the fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

Through Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society), I also was able to volunteer for MedShare, a foundation which takes surplus medical devices donated from hospitals, distributors, and manufacturers and delivers them to those in need in developing countries. I sorted devices, such as catheters, first aid products, and electrosurgical units, and packaged them to send to facilities in several countries around the world. This is important because U.S. hospitals generate more than two million tons of medical waste each year, much of which is unused medical supplies and equipment. It was wonderful to be able to use my time and knowledge of medical devices from class for the recovery and redistribution of supplies and equipment for those most in need.

**Generation OM Scholarships**

We award Generation OM scholarships solely on the basis of merit to the students we feel will inspire the understanding of Hinduism and family values amongst their fellow American citizens.

**Generation OM is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Donate today to help our students succeed**

Karunya Tota continued:

...next summer, I will be a Software Engineering Intern at Yelp in San Francisco, CA. After spending weeks of interviewing at various companies, I'm very excited and thankful for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to a great summer! –Dec 2016

I've been great! I'm currently in San Francisco interning at Yelp as a Software Engineering Intern. I have just finished up my Junior year at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Overall, I'm still continuing my course requirements towards a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science and next semester I will be studying abroad at Ecole Polytechnique Federale in Lausanne, Switzerland. This year has passed by so quickly that I'm starting to get some of the feels as a rising senior. This past semester I rushed a community service fraternity (Alpha Phi Omega - APO) so I've had a ton of more opportunities to give back to the local community here in Champaign. For instance, I volunteered at a game/conversation center for the homeless, ate lunch with ESL students, tutored middle school kids in Math and Science, and I've even cooked food for lunches at the local church. , I've attached my award letter for 60 community service hours from APO's newsletter (Gold Award Member).



Amulya Dhulipala University of Florida



For the first half of the year, I had an internship with the communications department of the Hillary for America campaign. During those 6 months I served as a liaison between the press and the campaign by writing press releases, monitoring media, and organizing campaign events across the state. The internship allowed me to understand the fields of politics and communications better and provided me with opportunities to get involved in the political process and meet several inspirational politicians along the way. Attached below is a picture of Joe Biden and I during his visit to Orlando – DEC 2016

I am currently midway through the last semester of my freshman year of college at the University of Florida. I could not have hoped for a better year to begin college. Some highlights include:

The Innovation Academy is a program within the University of Florida that pulls together students from over 30 different majors who have a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship. After undergoing several interviews during the spring semester, I have become an ambassador for the Innovation Academy. As an ambassador for the program, I conduct information sessions for prospective

students, I serve as a liaison between guest speakers and workshop leaders, and I respond to phone calls and assist guests at the Innovation Academy office. Within the ambassador program, I have joined the Department Events Chair Committee, where my duty will be to assist the President by meeting with department faculty and develop ideas for program initiatives.

I have joined several clubs on campus such as, Indian Students Association, College Democrats, and IA serve (Innovation Academy's community service organization).

In terms of academics, I have spent this year taking classes in Computer Science and Finance. I hope that after taking several computer science and finance classes, I can decide which major I want to pursue. In addition, I am also taking several Innovation classes because I believe in this fast-paced world, innovation and the ability to bring ideas to fruition is possibly the most important thing one can learn. The innovation minor would complement any major I choose to pursue.

VARUN BHATIA

This year was my first year at University of California, Berkeley. I am doing a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mathematics with a concentration in Computer Science. It has been a learning experience as well as opportunity to introduce Generation OM to the students here in UC, Berkeley. During summer, I was offered the opportunity to intern at the Lawrence Berkeley Labs working on a project to remote control video microscope with the purpose of detecting microscopic samples, data acquisition and image processing.

As part of university activity, we have here in our university the *Engineers for a Sustainable World* club, where I took the opportunity to co-lead a project to collect rainwater, prevent it from being polluted due to runoff with materials in the soil, and then filter the water even further to make it potable. We were given a project grant of \$23,000 by *The Green Initiative Fund* (TGIF) to continue working on this project.

Additionally, I have been an active member of Berkeley's Hindu-Students Council (HSC), members give lectures and host discussions on various topics pertaining to Hinduism. It seeks to create understanding and awareness about our festivals, Hindu spirituality, culture, and philosophy amongst students.

We also discuss contemporary issues relating to Hindu youth and Seva to community. I gave talk on what it means to practice a minority religion in the U.S. and what the future holds for Hindus in terms of religious development....Continued:

VARUN BHATIA University of California, Berkeley

Continued...

Next semester, I am due to talk on the different avatars of Lord Vishnu and how these avatars relate to different aspects of our life. I am also trying to initiate a “Generation OM” subgroup within this club that will serve as a platform to give talks to Hindus in high school locally and give them an opportunity to apply for scholarship.

As part of community service, I joined Berkeley Project club, in which we go around the campus and help the homeless population by building them shelters and providing them with makeshift beds. So far the club has 1500 volunteers and it continues to grow.



Nikhila Anand University of Central Florida



My first year at The University of Central Florida was amazing and I couldn't have asked it to be any better! I jumped right in come my very first semester and became really involved on campus, which only progressed through the spring semester. People often say that one's four years at university are some of the best in one's life and it's absolutely true. I can't wait to see what's in store for me for the next couple of years.

UCF is the second largest school in the nation and with that being said, it is really intimidating to come in knowing very few people and making new friends. Furthermore, the likelihood of making a new friend and seeing them every day is slim to none because of sheer caliber of the student body. I found it rough the first week or so but slowly understood that by getting involved in one of the 600 registered clubs, I can narrow down the population of 40,000 student to a select few with common interests as mine. So during my fall semester I joined a Fashion Society and became a stylist for the club as well as the head photographer. I managed and led my very own photo-shoots (3 to be precise) and was even given a photo-shoot contract with Buckle Inc. which my photos will be posted on their national Instagram page. Just by being so involved in this club my first semester, I realized that the fashion industry is where I excelled in and hope to work in one day.

My spring semester on campus was simply awesome! I decided on a whim to rush for a business professional Fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi. I became a recruit and then was honored to become a pledge and pledged for 9 weeks before becoming fully initiated as a brother for the Fraternity. The core values of our Fraternity are professionalism, service, and brotherhood. Though this process, I gained the best of friends I could ever ask for and now a family for a lifetime. I will be able to expound my knowledge as a business professional with my fraternity and create a huge networking base for myself. My Fraternity is partnered with the Big Four Companies as well as Meryl Lynch and Geico. I am excited to see what is to come from being a part of this amazing group. I was elected and given the position of Merchandise Chair for my fraternity for the upcoming fall 2017 semester. I also became an Admissions Ambassador for the Undergraduate admissions office at UCF.

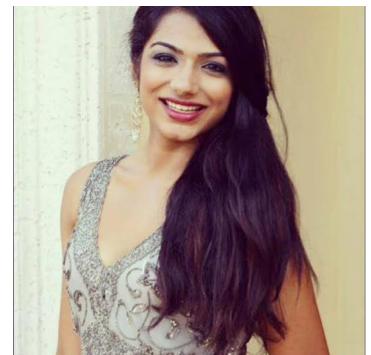
As for community service, I conducted a sanitary products drive with the LEAD Scholars Academy at UCF and The National Organization for Women. As a culture audit project, my group was given the topic of gender issues and we decided to focus on the lack of sanitary products for homeless women in the greater Orlando region. We collected over 200 products in a month and donated them to the Coalition for the Homeless in Orlando. Through my Fraternity, we did a sandwich drive in which we made a 120 sandwich bags that was also donated to the Coalition as well.

My first year at UCF has gone absolutely splendid and I couldn't have changed it in any other way; the decisions I made will impact me in the best ways for the rest of my life and I am glad that I made them.

Divya Dhulipala

This year, I am the Treasurer for the Duke University Class of 2018. I really enjoyed my summer as an intern at a venture capital fashion firm in New York City. I will be returning to the city next summer as an intern in the Sales & Trading Institutional Equities Division at Morgan Stanley, an offer I received this semester. I am looking forward to helping any interested younger Generation Om scholars with any questions they may have regarding the recruitment process for finance or entrepreneurship careers. I have been going to Hindu Student Association events at Duke and have been heavily involved in student life as a Resident Assistant.

My third year of college has been a very rewarding and exciting one. As the Treasurer of the Duke University Class of 2018, I helped organize mass-scale philanthropy projects to benefit the Durham community, along with other social, school-spirit, campus-culture, and pre-professional events for the entire class and the school at large. Community service projects included providing hundreds of toiletry bags to the local homeless shelter and writing holiday cards to our Veteran community. As an active member of Business Oriented Women and Duke Business Society, I am currently leading efforts to create established mentorship networks for Indian-American women. In light of the political climate that has materialized in the past year, I have also chosen to assume the position of Political Chair for our Indian Student Association, for which I will be bringing key political figures of Indian origin to Duke for a lecture series, as well as hosting student events to discuss our complex intersectional identity at the crossroads of sociopolitical movements in the United States and beyond. I will be spending the summer as a Sales & Trading intern in the Institutional Equities Division at Morgan Stanley in New York City.



Neha Bhaskar University of Miami

This year I completed my junior year at the University of Miami. As my senior year quickly approaches, I look back at this past year as very memorable and eventful. Academically I kept busy with my rigorous class schedule and focused on preparing for the MCAT. Additionally, as always, I maintained community involvement both on and off campus. I served as the Vice President of the Allies Undergraduate Volunteering



Program. Through this organization, I was able to organize and personally volunteer at Holtz Children's Hospital in downtown Miami. It is extremely rewarding to see how much of an impact something as little as my time can make on their lives. Being able to alleviate some of the stress experienced by such young children encourages me to continue working with them. I will serve as the President of the organization next year and look forward to making it even bigger and better. In addition to Allies, I also spent a lot of time working with Relay for Life. Relay for Life is an annual event held nationwide and at the University of Miami to raise funds to support the American Cancer Society's mission of freeing the world of the burdens of cancer. I served as the Fundraising Chair this year and helped us reach our goal of raising nearly \$40,000. I was lucky enough to be chosen to serve on the Executive Board next year as the Fund the Cure Lead- the equivalent of Treasurer. Finally, just



recently at the end of May, I went on a public health service trip to Nicaragua. While there, we served the community members of La Carneta in Jinotega, Nicaragua. To combat

sanitation, parasitic infections, quality of life, and general health, we build sanitation units, eco-stoves, and laid down cement flooring in the houses of community members. This was an extremely rewarding and humbling experience to see how such communities live happy lives without much of what we consider underappreciated necessities. I learned valuable lessons about gratitude and positivity from this memorable trip. Community involvement has made a big impact on my life. My past three years at the University of Miami have flown by, and I await what next year has in store for me.



Nina Kumar University of Florida

I am currently studying abroad in Spain and won't be returning until January 2017. I am attaching a few pictures from my travels from this past semester as much of this semester was spent traveling, studying, and continuing to work on a thesis I hope to publish my senior year of college. I am studying in the Universitat de Vic, which is in a town just an hour north of Barcelona. In the beginning of the semester, I also had the opportunity to sit on a few panels with my fellow exchange students to discuss world affairs including Brexit, Donald Trump's election, the former South Korean president, and Catalunya's desire for independence from Spain. I have had the privilege of traveling to and learning about nine countries including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Britain, France, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, and of course Spain. I continue to be in contact with both University of Florida Model UN and Phi Alpha Delta teams and will be more directly involved in each club next semester. – Dec 2016



My sophomore year came with new adventures and a new love of travelling. For the first half of the year I lived and studied in a small town near Barcelona, Spain where I finally put to use the Spanish I've been learning since sixth grade and had the chance to travel to 10 different countries. There I had the chance to partake in exchange discussions and debates with students from all across the world.

When I returned to the University of Florida for the Spring semester I continued my work within both the Model United Nations club and Phi Alpha Delta, the pre-law fraternity. This year the Model United Nations club hosted two conferences, in which I joined everyone in raising funds for a nonprofit in Africa for the "Lost Boys" and for the Women's center in Gainesville.

The work I did for Women's Center kicked off a desire to volunteer and work for the girls and women who were served there. Through my Psychology of Creativity Class I began a project where I volunteered at the Women's Center and later with their permission and support began writing short stories based on the lives and struggles of these women who have faced sexual or domestic violence. In this time I blogged regularly and later started and completed some early drafts of a play focusing on mental health and abuse. While initially I was less involved with the Indian Student Association, I later used these stories to help begin a conversation about these situations within the Indian and Hindu community at UF.

In the coming year I will continue to discuss these ideas around campus as I begin my thesis work in both psychology- Neuroscience and Political Science. – June 2017



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, July 22nd 2017

7.00pm to 10.30pm

Tabla Banquet Hall

5827 Caravan Ct. Orlando, FL 32819

Join us in celebrating Generation OM's Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. Enjoy a selection of Wines & Hors D'oeuvres followed by a delicious Indian cuisine. Dress code is Formal Attire or Traditional Indian. There will be prizes, awards, & silent auction. All funds raised are for the benefit of:

Generation OM Scholarship Awards

Suggested minimum Donation is \$50.00 per person

Sponsor a table for 9 people for \$450.00

Student tickets EW \$25 with valid Student ID

Seating is limited so please reserve your tickets today before the event is sold out!

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