

# News

## Forward with Faith, Remembering Our Three Winners

Seung Pang, Staff Writer



Zineb and Razan. Photo Credit: Zineb Baali

Feb 10, 2016 marks the one year anniversary of the tragic loss of "Our Three Winners" Deah, Yusor, and Razan. Three innocent, young Muslim Americans were killed at Chapel Hill shooting, right when anti-Muslim sentiment was growing in the country. Zineb Baali and Miriam Zouhri of Muslim Student Association, who had a special friendship with Razan, shared their memories of her.

Al-Iman, a private elementary school in Raleigh, is where they all met. After they drifted apart to attend different college, Zineb and Miriam reunited with Razan through United Muslim Relief organization, which they participated in Project Downtown to feed homeless people at Moore Square in downtown Raleigh. "Razan always thought of better ways to help these people. She had an idea of taking videos of them to get to know their names and stories," said Zineb. That Saturday of the week of the tragedy, UMR members were going to implement Razan's idea.

Razan didn't settle for helping people just around her. Two years ago when domestic issues were heating up in Palestine, Razan and UMR members collected money for donation. "Not only people in this community, but also those in overseas were all touched by her," said Zineb.

On the day of Razan's funeral, so many people showed up that they moved to across the street to see the funeral. Family, friends, reporters, and the whole community were there. Her father gave a speech. "He described her as a breeze. I couldn't have described her any better," said Miriam. "She was soft-spoken, yet passionate. And she was by far one of the most caring and considerable people I've ever known."

After the funeral, Zineb recognized changes in the community. She saw the growing support of the community; so many people helped UMR by donating and volunteering. "Deah, Yusor, and Razan were all very involved in the community. And after the funeral, our community became more connected and grew stronger," said Zineb.

In early February, local schools in the Triangle held the memorials to

remember the legacy of Our Three Winners. "The vigil at NC State reminded me of the vigil at UNC the day after the shooting last year; it was cold, we were heartbroken, and the community united to support each other," said Miriam. The Light House Project was created by Deah's brother Farris to keep Our Three Winner's legacy alive, and contribute in leaving legacies of our own by increasing beneficial acts. #ForwardWithFaith is the Light House Project's movement calling on all to embody values of dignity, unity, and resilience.

"At the memorial, I turned around and saw the community behind me. They were not only Muslims, but everyone who knew Deah, Yusor, and Razan. It had so much diversity," Zineb said. "We lost three lives but the whole community became closer."

## #WatchMe... Whip?

Kat Bonner, Staff Writer

Meredith College's Black Student Union presented a talent show called "Watch Me." This event took place on February 19th at 7:00 pm in Kresge Auditorium. Since February is Black History Month, the BSU has put on this talent show as a part of Black Empowerment week at Meredith College. There were a lot of people who came to support their friends show off their talents.

At this event, there was a variety of talent presented by these Meredith Students: singing, dancing, even writing poems. Jessica Boyd, a Meredith Angel, recited her own poems

that were written about her feelings. In turn, there were also participants that did not go to Meredith; for example, Ronin Riz. He is a musician and a songwriter, and he sang his own songs.

Throughout the talent show there were quite a few breaks. The first break consisted of two members from the audience participating in a round of trivia. These questions were about famous African - American people in the United States. The final break consisted of a lip - sync battle between two other audience members. One person performed the song "Single

Ladies" by Beyonce and "Hotline Bling" by Drake.

The talent show was the farthest thing from competitive. For example, for the lip sync battle there was no designated winner. This was more of just an event to show off the many talented individuals rather than a competition. Everyone who participated was honored and his or her talents were noticed. After the talent show was over, the audience members had a chance to sing and dance together. Everyone here seemed to really enjoy each other's company.

To my surprise, there was not an overall winner for the talent show either. This shows that this event, and this organization are not fond of designated winners or losers. The talent show was merely a fun event for everyone to go to. Bernadette Gonzales, a student at Meredith says "I really enjoyed the talent show. It was a nice break to de-stress for an hour or so." Given the show's title, I was shocked to see that there was nobody to whip or nae - nae as his or her performance for the talent show.

## Peaceful Politics

Laura Licata, News Editor

For over a decade, we have seen the Middle East torn by war. While the United States has been mostly viewing the region with a counter-terrorism lens, the Israelis and Palestinians have been at war. BBC News reported that in 1947, Israel was created out of land that belonged to Palestine. The political science department brought two activists from the Coalition of Peace and Justice to Meredith College. The political science department brought these two activists in to tell their stories and was very excited to expose students to this topic, saying "We have been engaged in the middle east since most of [our students] have

been born, so this topic has [relates] to that experience and relative policy. I think it's something they need to be aware of, keep themselves abreast of and engage in."

The audience heard two stories. The first was from Eran Efrati. He was a soldier for the Israeli Army. He told the story of his background with one grandmother who was the only survivor from the holocaust, and his father who had lived in Jerusalem for many years. He was one of the original Arab Jews in the city. He joined the Army and quickly realized that the Israelis were destroying the lives of the Palestine civilians. He compared the conflict to

ethnic cleansing and apartheid. He has made it his life mission to get the word out to Americans. When asked about the goal he said, "The two-state plan is dead." He believes the two countries should be united again as one.

The second speaker was Maya Wind. She organized a movement not to go into the draft after high school. On her draft date she went to the military base and explained she wasn't going to participate and went to jail. She currently is getting her degree at New York University. She inquired of the audience why peace wasn't considered an option more often.

Dr. Dan Fountain, department head of History and Political Science, discussed why these types of events are so important for students, saying that "One of the goals of a Meredith College education is to be globally aware, this event clearly talks about a global issue that impacts both international and national policy. Having them exposed to thinkers and doers from across the globe is very vital to their education." He hopes that students attend these events when they see them in the future.

For more information on this topic visit [www.cpwj.org](http://www.cpwj.org)

## Women of MC



Katie Murphy and Baileigh Jones, Staff Writers

"Meredith College has given me so many opportunities to shine and show the world just how STRONG I am. I express my love of Communication and Dance everyday through on campus jobs and volunteering. There is nothing that I can't do here. I have embraced my love of planning events through Fire and Water and now CORN! I love Wonderland and all that it has to offer!" -Sierra Smith

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