

congress2000legacy



August 20, 2015

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that we have our three winners for the **2015 congress 2000 legacy awards**.

We at ZAH recognize and honor our youth going off to college in order to recognize their excellence in the Academic Arena and their contribution to the ZAH center through community service, both, within the ZAH community & mainstream America. This Legacy Scholarship was established in 2006 as a result of the funds generated from the success of World Zoroastrian Congress 2000 & the additional grants received thereafter.

This year, again, the applicants were just spectacular, and it took careful deliberation for the selection committee to come up with our winners. All applicants went through the full award selection process set by an executive judgment of the Legacy Planning Committee Team and acknowledged by the ZAH-EC.

IT IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR TO BE THE RECIPIENT OF THESE GRANTS

THE 2015 OUTSTANDING WINNERS ARE:

Rohan Chakraborty - the congress 2000 legacy award

Rohan is a quiet boy with impressive academic achievements. He graduated in the top 1% of his class from Seven Lakes High School an excellent, large high school in Katy. Two of several of Rohan's academic awards include: National Merit Finalist, National Chemistry Olympiad Champion. Rohan has been a regular at ZAH Sunday School, has tutored other students and is an Eagle Scout. His essay on how the Amesha Spentas helped him in his tutoring, research and life showed his Zoroastrian values will be the firm base for his future achievements. Rohan has started at University of California- Berkeley studying Chemical Engineering.

Friyana K Sidhwa - the congress 2000 legacy award

Friyana is the all-around girl with outgoing personality. She was on the all A Honor roll for Grades 10, 11 and 12 at Harmony School of Science in Sugarland. Two of her several awards include: 1st Place in News Writing and 1stPlace in Social Studies at the district level. Besides keeping up her academic achievements, she participated in many activities at ZAH and in her community. She was the Chairperson for the first ever Annual Blood Drive conducted at ZAH in 2014. From entertaining us with her dancing to organizing blood drives to working with Youth in Philanthropy Program, Friyana always gives her all. She participated in many ZAH activities and worked tirelessly on such fund raisers as The Ballad of Rudy and Zal, The Blast from the Past and Bollywood vs Hollywood. In her essay Friyana commits to living by the adage "Zarathushti thy name is charity." Besides these she has also contributed to main stream American causes such as Youth in Philanthropy Leadership Program sponsored by George Foundation - Selected as one of the 175 team members from 23 high schools across Fort Bend County. Friyana won a scholarship for Community Service at the YIP luncheon attended by Council Member Harish Jajoo representing the City of Sugar Land at the completion of the 6 month program. Was selected by Camp L.E.A.D. - A Leadership camp at Texas Tech University out of 840 Charter High school students. Friyana will be a freshman at Texas A&M studying Business.

Ervad Vispi P Katrak - the Cyrus Rohinton Desai award

Vispi is an ordained priest with the mega-watt smile. Vispi graduated from Langham Creek High School in Houston, and has earned many accomplishments on his High School Swim Team as being the captain for the team his senior year and an All-Region Swimmer. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership and enthusiasm for the community participating in many ZAH activities and worked tirelessly on fundraisers such as Dandiya Night, The Ballad of Rudy and Zal, and The Blast from the Past. During Vispi's junior year as the Treasurer of the Youth Group at ZAH, he prepared a full year Shenshahi and National Calendar to sell to his community. The following year he led his youth group to reach their goals as he was President. Among his community services he participated in the iLead program (a mutli-year commitment) which included collecting kitchen items for refugees. Vispi was also chosen to be a part of the Peer Assistance in Leadership program (PALS) during his senior year at High School, mentoring two kids who were going through rough times with their personal life and worked with special need students. Even outside the ZAH family, people who know Vispi hold him in the highest esteem for his work and community service. In his essay, he indicates how the Yatha Ahu Vairyo prayer is influencing his life and that he brought alive the concept of Asha by participating in the Peer Assistance Leadership program at his high school. Vispi will be a freshman at UT at San Antonio studying Information Systems.

The ZAH Legacy Awards recognize young ZAH students who are studying at the University level and who have achieved excellence in their scholastic studies, in extra- curricular activities and who have made substantial contribution to community affairs

The "**Cyrus Rohinton Desai Award**" was set up by the Desai family in memory of their son, a courageous young Houstonian who lost his battle with cancer. It was Cyrus's ardent desire to go, even for a day, to college but sadly this was not meant to be. **That is why this award is given exclusively to the person who is going off to college for the first time!**

Let us not forget our distinguished panel of judges who are selected by Dr. Farrokh Mistree from major learning institutions across the USA. **This year the judges were; Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna; Dr. Poras T. Balsara; Dr. Tinaz Pavri; Dr. Farah Shroff; and our ZAH Youth representative on the committee Mrs. Pearline E Collector.** We at ZAH are fortunate to have such a dynamic panel of judges from across North America and who care for our kids!

The ZAH Executive Committee and the **congress 2000 legacy** Committee congratulate our winners. We believe these students deserve to be recognized as innovators and leaders for tomorrow's global community. By supporting the next generation of great minds we pay tribute to the success of the World Zoroastrian Congress we had in 2000 from which the initial funds were generated!

In ending we would like to seriously identify and locate new funds by requesting families and corporations who would like to bequeath funds and have an award set up in the memory of a family member and/or an institution.

With our best wishes,

The legacy committee

**Homi Davier - Chair
Dr. Farrokh Mistree
Pearline Collector
Vispi Sagar
Percy Behramsha**

**The congress 2000 legacy is an award program of the Zoroastrian Association of
Houston**