

Ahmed Abdulsalam Shaker Al-Dulaimi

will begin studies at Fontbonne University in St. Louis in August, under the sponsorship of The Iraqi Student Project.

About My Family

My name is Ahmed. I was born in Baghdad in 1992. I have two brothers, Muhammad and Harith; both have special needs. My parents and I work very hard to take care of them. My father used to work in a laundry in Iraq, but my mother couldn't work because of my brothers' conditions.



Ahmed, his father, his brother Muhammad, and his mother

After the war on Iraq, my brothers' situation became worse because it was very hard for us to get the medicine they need. Bombs and killing were everywhere.

In 2006 my family decided to leave Iraq and go to Syria. We started a new life here and my father was struggling to find work that we

could live on. A few months later I joined middle school and I had to study extra time during my first year in Syria. With all that hard work I was able to pass with high grades.

I'll keep doing the hard work until I reach my goal which is to go to college and study biology. I'd love to work in the laboratory and I want to be an important person who serves all the people around the world especially my country Iraq.

About Me

If you were looking for a person with a smile that never vanishes from his face, it would be me. When I was a little kid in Baghdad, my childhood was mainly happy. Even with the bad circumstances, I learned how to deal with them wisely. I did not spend much time playing with my friends; not because I am different, but because I was doing other things to make the most of my time. For instance, I used to sit in the kitchen and mix cooking ingredients up. And sometimes I used to go to my backyard digging and playing with the clay.

When I first came to Syria as a refugee in 2006, my family and I had a hard time integrating into the Syrian community. We have faced financial difficulties that drive us to rent our house in Iraq for a little amount of money. My father was trying to find work to ensure medicine for my brothers. For me, I did not think that I could do well in their schools. I was very frustrated and depressed because leaving my homeland was something that I did not expect. But day after day, I started to piece together my strength by the guidance that I received from my family and my colleagues. However, I learned from that event that I should not give up no matter what the challenges are. Since then, I am not even thinking a bit about surrendering to the discouraging conditions.



Muhammad and Harith

Simplicity is one of my significant characteristics that I am very proud of. Showing my humble and modest smile has gained me many friends. Family and friends take priority in my life



because their support provides me with courage to do the things that I never thought I can do. My two brothers are my biggest inspiration because when I see them, I forget all of my fears and worries. They taught me how to take the past as a positive lesson for my mistakes, and the present as a continuous step for the bright future.

When I think about my future in college, I remember the funny things that I used to do with the kitchen materials, and I remember my mother yelling at me, "Stop messing around!" But later I discovered that it was an early sign of a skill I have always admired: working in a laboratory.

Ahmed Al-Dulaimi

If you would like to be part of Ahmed's support group, please contact:

Robert L. Rosser, PhD
Executive Director, ISP
5459 Rosa Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109
314-448-1824