

Ramzi M. Kaiss

Granada Bldg. Apt. 38,
Ras Beirut, Beirut LB 2039-6001
rmkaiss@gmail.com
[+961-81241618](tel:+961-81241618)

Education

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, New London, CT

Bachelor of Arts awarded *magna cum laude* May 2017

Double Major: International Relations, Philosophy

Overall GPA 3.81

Honors/ Awards:

- **Senior Commencement Speaker at Connecticut College's 99th Commencement Ceremony** (May, 2017)
- **Department Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Relations**, awarded by the Government and International Relations Department at Connecticut College (May, 2017)
- **Dean's Leadership Award**, awarded by the Dean of Students at Connecticut College (May, 2017)
- **Vanguard Award for Equity and Inclusion**, awarded by the Department of Institutional Equity & Inclusion at Connecticut College (May, 2017)
- **Professor Lester Reiss Prize for Excellence in Metaphysics, Epistemology and Philosophy of Religion**, awarded by the Philosophy Department at Connecticut College (May, 2017)
- **Member of Pi Sigma Alpha**, The National Political Science Honor Society (Spring, 2017)
- **Department Award for Most Promising Junior in International Relations** (Spring, 2016)
- **Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Research Grant Recipient** (\$5,000, Spring 2016)
- **Dean's High Honors** (Spring 2017, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013)
- **Mellon Foundation Fellowship Recipient** (\$3000, Spring 2015)
- **Scholar Activist Award**, in recognition of a "dedication to the concerns of social justice through research and scholarship" (May 2015)

Independent Research Projects

- "Building Bridges as They Burn: Transitional Justice in the Midst of the Syrian Civil War." Independent Study with Professor Tristan Borer. International Relations department at Connecticut College. May 2017
- "If, and If Only: An examination of the Role of Counterfactual Thinking on Our Understanding of Individual Responsibility and Regret" - Independent Study. Philosophy Department at Connecticut College. May 2016
- Mellon Foundation Annual Symposium. "Immigration and Identity". Connecticut College. October 2015
- TEDx Talk: "Conflicted About Conflict: The Ethical Obligations of Humanitarian Inquiry." Connecticut College. April 2015 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_nzFIJuzM0)

Work Experience

Beit Toyour Ayloul (September Birds) Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon

October 2018-Present

Archivist & Grant writer

- Collect, store and archive over three thousand written documents that will form the foundation's library
- Seek out requests for grant proposals and write grant applications
- Collaborate with staff to craft the foundation's mission statement and strategic plan.

Ted Steinberg for State Representative, Needham, MA

March 2018-September 2018

Deputy Campaign Manager

- Organized volunteer and canvassing initiatives seeking to elect a young progressive candidate to the Massachusetts state house
- Provided strategic, research and speechwriting support

Facing History and Ourselves, Brookline, MA

September 2017-July 2018

Program Assistant

- Coordinated country-wide professional development workshops and seminars that seek to provide teachers with the resources and training to teach about difficult topics, such as slavery, genocide and racism
- Primary coordinator of Facing History's Partner Schools Network Conference, with over 250 participants;
- Researched and developed the structure, agenda and goals for the Equity and Inclusion Program Team

President

- Oversaw and ran all student government assembly meetings and executive board meetings
- Devised solutions to students' concerns through collaborative work with students, faculty, and staff
- Successfully led an initiative to divest Connecticut College investments from the fossil fuel industry
- Consistently communicated to the student body (1800 students), the college administration, and the Board of Trustees on SGA's work, accomplishments, and concerns
- Worked with faculty and staff to set-up partnerships with local refugee resettlement agencies in New London

Independent Project, Lebanon / San Francisco

Summer 2016

- Granted \$5000 to conduct a research project on the Syrian civil war and refugee crisis
- Researched the consequences of the Syrian refugee situation in the Mount Lebanon and Bekaa Valley region
- Developed and implemented identity-based workshops by working with the Arab Film and Media Institute, a local Lebanese Municipality and NGO (Ana Aqra' Association), and Syrian refugees in the Mount Lebanon and Bekaa valley region in Lebanon

Facing History and Ourselves, Brookline, Massachusetts

Summer 2015

Intern

- Collaborated with staff and interns to recommend improvements to Facing History's "Immigration and Identity" curriculum, to be taught in middle-schools across the US
- Produced and then presented the final report at the Mellon Foundation Annual Symposium

Leadership Experience

Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, New York, New Haven, Colombia

Fall 2016

- Nominated by faculty advisor to attend human rights conference at the UN and Yale University
- Represented the Consortium at the *World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates* held in Colombia
- Articulated the Consortium's mission throughout panel discussions and workshops with the Nobel Laureates

Class Council, Connecticut College

Fall 2014-May 2016

President of the Class of 2017

- Elected to represent the Class of 2017 during weekly student government meetings
- Served as a liaison between students and the College administration, staff, and faculty
- Communicated students' concerns to the administration and helped devise satisfactory solutions
- Wrote and defended student government resolutions aimed at improving student life on campus

Volunteer work

Ahadees Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

October 2018-Present

Volunteer - Community Organizer

- Organize bi-weekly discussions for a local grassroots organization seeking to create public panel discussions in public spaces in the city
- Brainstorm topic discussions and examine the various political topics that affect people's daily lives in Beirut
- Draft the language for the event, coordinate on-site logistics and invite appropriate experts to our panels

Connecticut College Refugee Task Force, Connecticut College

August 2016-May 2017

Student Representative

- Assisted faculty and staff in writing a report on Connecticut College resources that could be utilized in aiding resettled refugees in the New London area
- Researched like-minded organizations in an effort to set-up partnerships with the college
- Collaborated with local organizations to implement various fundraising and volunteer-based initiatives

"Ana-Aqra" Association, Beirut, Lebanon

July 2013

Volunteer

- Collaborated with a UNICEF-funded NGO through works in refugee camps in Beirut
- Executed academic day plans and activities for Syrian and Palestinian refugee children
- Provided administrative and management support to Ana Aqra's staff and volunteers

SKILLS SUMMARY

Languages: Bilingually proficient in Arabic and English, with intermediate proficiency in French and an elementary proficiency in Spanish

Skills: Writing · Editing · Researching · Public Speaking · Community Outreach · Curriculum Development · Public Relations · Understanding of nonprofits · Politics · Leadership