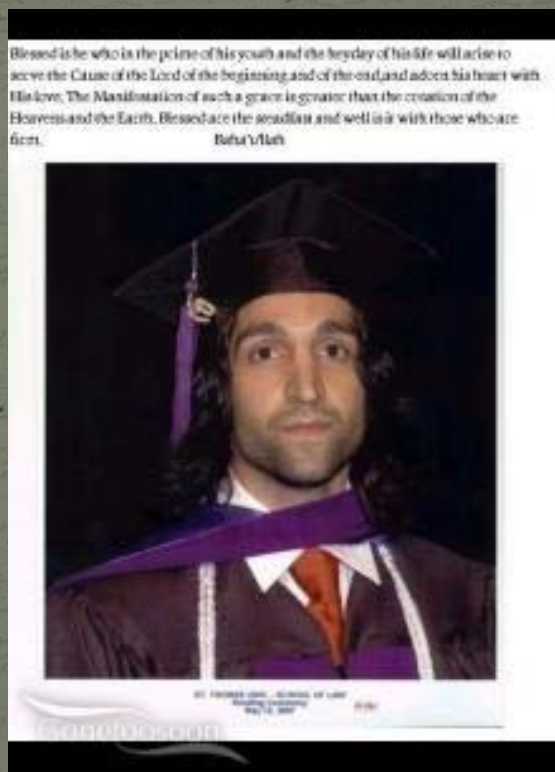


The Arya Laghaie Indigenous Peoples' Rights Scholarship



In memory of the work of
Arya Laghaie Indigenous Rights Activist and Alumni of St.
Thomas University School of Law
LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights Program
By Christina (Chris) Shawe

In Honor of Arya Laghaie 1982-2008



Arya's Life was a Treasure to:

- Roya Farzaneh-Laghaie and Robert Hossain Laghaie his parents.
- His grandparents, brother, sisters, in-laws, cousins, colleagues, classmates, instructors, the Navajo people, friends, indigenous people everywhere, as well as many other loved ones.





Arya's Laghaie's Calling to the Navajo Indigenous Peoples Tribe

The call to work in human rights, is not an easy one. It means self-sacrifice of time, family, and friends for a purpose greater than yourself. Arya's self-sacrifice to the Navajo people will always be remembered. In the short-span of his life, he left a legacy not just for human rights students, but for human rights ! Arya is remembered-immemorial.

Service to Indigenous Peoples'

- Much like our own Dr. Iur Wiessner, to whom Arya trained under for not only indigenous peoples, but human rights law; Arya himself had a passion that called him to service for indigenous peoples' groups.
- Through Arya's brief footprint of life, a legacy was created, and through this legacy I can see as a present human rights student, Arya's love for races of people that have been down-trotten, slaughtered, and even forgotten at times.



Indigenous Peoples Day

- August 9 is an International Day of the World's Indigenous People. It is a time to explore the history and culture of the millions all over the world who are Indigenous descent.
- As we recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, we also recognized the work of people who help to bring it about. In this presentation, the life of Arya Laghaie is recognized for devoting is life's purpose to serving indigenous people.



Indigenous Peoples Earth Charter (1992)

- “We the indigenous peoples walk to the future in the footprints of our ancestors. From the smallest to the largest living being, from the four directions, from the air, the land and the mountains, the creator has placed us, the indigenous peoples upon our mother the earth.”



How Far Have We Come?

- First, there are many types of indigenous people around the world, but as we speak in the context of Native Americans, the road has not gone far. The day's of bows & arrows have turned into child games, while a race of people dwindle away for lack of recognition and help.
- Only in recent times, September 13, 2007, did the United Nations adopt a non-binding text known as the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights.



What Does the Declaration For Indigenous Peoples Rights Cover

- “It prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development .”
- This declaration affect over 370 million indigenous people .

1. United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples' Rights. September 13, 2007.



What Do Indigenous People Still Need?

- Health Services
- Legal Services
- Education
- Work
- Running Water
- Food
- Housing Just to name a few, and most of all
- their land.....



Arya's Footprint with Indigenous Peoples

- Clearly, the statement of 'Gone to Soon,' as Arya is memorialized by his family and friends, represents the life of this young man who cared for indigenous people more than himself.
- Arya has a footprint in human rights for indigenous people, and one that is exemplified with hard work, compassion, and care for those who sometimes appear invisible within society.
- Arya served at places such as the Native American Baha'i Institute, PACT, and writing for Plead the Fifth- an STU Law School newsletter.
- Arya's legacy presents a model for all human rights students, activists, and lawyers. It's one that will be remembered in the history of St. Thomas University and indigenous people.



Eskimo (Arctic)

- “When I was young, every day was as a beginning of some new thing, and every evening ended with the glow of the next day's dawn ².”



2. Indigenous Peoples Earth Charter. 1992.

My Background

- Outside of being a student in the LL.M. Intercultural Human Rights Program at St. Thomas University School of Law, I am also a descendant of the indigenous North American Sioux Tribe.
- It is my hope after graduating from the LL.M. program to continue to develop resources and tools to support the efforts of protecting indigenous people not only in the Americas, but around the world.



My Roots as a Native American



- Though, I am only half Native American, my grandfather and great grandfather would always tell me of the Sioux Tribe as a child.
- Both my grandfather and great grandfather were always proud of their heritage. My grandparents are no longer alive, but I will always remember the Native American fire tricks, and the hand-made carvings of wooden toys, as well as the woven jump ropes my grandparents would make for my sister, brothers, and I.

The Sioux Nation

- “THE SIOUX NATION consisted of about 20,000 people in 7 different tribes throughout the Great Plains. Free nomads of the Plains, they took great advantage of available horses which were originally brought to the Americas by Cortez and the Spanish in 1519. The horse allowed them the mobility to pull their tepees as they traveled and were an invaluable aid in hunting buffalo, their main staple ³.”

3. The Great Sioux Nation. <http://www.snowwowl.com/peoplesioux.html>



What Arya and I Share in Common

- We both hold a Bachelor's degree in communications, and while Arya helped with the Navajo Native American Indian, My mother is of the Sioux Nation which reminds me of the *Sioux, Navajo, and Iroquois Declaration (1978)*. Though, I was only 5 at the time, and Arya not even born yet, there is a great quote from this declaration, and it is as follows:

“Our roots are deep in the lands where we live. We have a great love for our country, for our birthplace is here. The soil is rich from the bones of thousands of generations. Each of us was created in these lands and it is our duty to take great care of them, because from these lands will spring the future generations of our peoples. We walk about with great respect, for the Earth is a very Sacred Place.”



Past Work with Indigenous People

- Over the last 16 years, I have served as a trained journalist, humanitarian, and ordained Christian minister. My work has included supporting the efforts of missionaries in the 10/40 window. This is a service to the indigenous groups of the world termed by the theological community.
- My work has included, 'Tent Making,' in the form of grant writing to support missionaries in order to develop educational programs and resources, as well as network health care providers to offer services for indigenous people all over the globe.

Present Work

- My present work includes, serving as the Founder and CEO for the Global Protection Network, which has a goal to first reach the indigenous groups of the America's by assisting with the unraveling of discriminatory practices against indigenous people in order to level their rights, resources, and role in society.
- <http://gpn-stu.synthasite.com/>



2009 Indigenous People Rights Work

- Participation in 2009 Indigenous Peoples Delegation at the United Nations.
- Global Protection Network Program Plans serving the Americas.
- Journalism for Human Rights: Indigenous Peoples articles contribution.



Final thoughts

- As a descendant of the indigenous Sioux tribe of North America, and recognizing all indigenous life, it is my goal to inform, instruct, and support the rights of indigenous people. Through my efforts, as well as my colleagues at the Global Protection Network, we are dedicating our lives to human rights protection for all indigenous groups under the premise of both individual and collective human rights.



About the Global Protection Network

- As the Global Protection Network begins its work in the field of Indigenous Peoples' Rights, we make special dedication to our former alum Arya Laghaie, may he rest in peace knowing his life left a legacy for not only indigenous people everywhere, but for the young and old serving in the indigenous section of human rights.



c Shawe: Presentation on Arya Laghaie Indigenous Peoples Scholarship

Global Protection Network Mission

Our Mission

- The Global Protection Network, a collaborative communal initiative, assists indigenous people of the Americas to counter discriminatory practices, recover their rightful place as stewards of the earth, and achieve economic self sufficiency through sustainable development, education, empowerment, and legal representation.
- The Global Protection Network develops and conducts legal training seminars and provides advice and representation in order to ensure indigenous rights to a healthy, free, and harmonious life in their own, rightful, ancestral lands.



Indigenous Peoples Section of Journalism for Human Rights

- The Indigenous People's Section of Journalism for Human Rights focuses on the exploration of hot topics with selected indigenous peoples studies.

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<http://gpn-stu.synthasite.com/>



Human Rights Journey

- Human Rights Journey for the month of April will collect special work in the form of articles, essays and poems in memory of Arya's legacy of service to indigenous peoples'.
- <http://humanrightsjourney.synthasite.com/>



Arya's Legacy

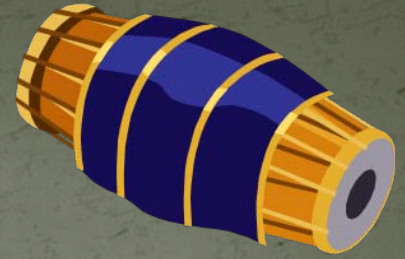
- Through Arya's legacy, a trail has been left which allows those who never knew him to become acquainted with his views. Below is the introductory quote from his article on PACT from "Plead the Fifth"

"Have you ever wanted to be part of a system that shapes policy or implements change? Given the nature of law, I hope that your answer is affirmative and if it is, then you are reading the right column. The most prevalent problem with implementing policy reflective of all valued goals is that a lot of citizens don't feel like they can make a difference. So hundreds or even thousands of people that share similar perspectives never make their voices heard. Well I'm telling you that this is a fallacy. The truth of the matter is that anyone can be part of the political process, it's how democracy works, it's what democracy is about. It's the people that rule, we make decisions, and when we come together and get organized we have a voice. Right? Right! So how do we make the political process work?"

c Shawe: Presentation on Arya Laghaie Indigenous Peoples Scholarship



Remembering Arya



- After researching the life, and purpose of Arya as a fellow alum of St. Thomas University's LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights, it is evident that his work be memorialized in not only our edition of Journalism for Human Rights, but the Human Rights Journey to whom I serve as both founder and managing editor.
- I am grateful for the work of Arya, who showed compassion, care, and support to nurturing the lives of indigenous people

<http://gpn-stu.synthasite.com/indigenous-peoples-department.php>

My Forever Love: By Arya's Mother

Dr. Roya Farzaneh-Laghaie

- “My forever love
I came to NABI to see you and I felt that you were not there. Yet when it was time to go home I could not leave you there by yourself. I am so saddened by your separation that my heart aches constantly. You were my 'mama's boy' and I am so lost without you that I wish my life would be shortened so I could join you again. But I know that is only in God's hand and I do not have any say in it. Whatever, God has predestined for me will happen. I know I should be patient but I just do not know how. With all the pain that your father and I are going through, we are so thankful to God that he gave you to us, even though it was for such a short time. We cherish every moment that we had with you and would have to live with your memories. I constantly pray for your happiness, peace and comfort. My forever love, I know Baha'u'llah is with you and He takes care of you better than I ever could.
Love you from eternity to eternity⁴!”

- 4. My Forever Love. By Dr. Roya Farzaneh-Laghaie. 2008.http://aryalaghaie.org/soul_to_soul.htm.

Sites Remembering Arya



- <http://arya---laghaie.gonetoosoon.org/photos/list/>
- <http://aryalaghaie.org/>
- <http://aryalaghaie.org/>
- <http://www.gallupindependent.com/2008/April/040708laghaie.html>
- http://aryalaghaie.org/pact_article_for_stu_law_school.htm
- <http://www.nativeamericanbi.org/contents/documents/June-July2006Newsletter.pdf>
- <http://www.iupui.edu/~scouncil/documents/newsletters/volume1/issue05.pdf>

- In adherence to the application policy, I humbly submit my biographical resume next:

