

April 7, 2013

To Oakridge Teachers,

On Friday April 12 Khan and Beenish are coming back to Oakridge to talk to my first and second hour classes. They were here last year and shared their unique experiences - they are great people. Each is studying for a Phd in Political Science at WMU - they are Fulbright Fellows. Anybody is welcomed to come by and meet my friends. Consider this a pass - if you allow your student to come, please sign below...and you can come along.

Khan is 32 years old. He is a college professor of gender studies in Pakistan. Although he lives in Pakistan, Khan is Pashtoon and considers himself Afghan. He lives in an area that is dominated by the Taliban. It makes life dangerous for he and his family, since his political views are liberal and supportive of the United States and Kabul government in Afghanistan. Khan has three small children, one who was born last week, He is studying for a Phd in Political Science at Western Michigan University. Khan will be flying home for a month in August to see his family, after which he will return for two more years to complete his studies at WMU in Kalamazoo. Upon completion of his degree, Khan will return to Pakistan to teach or possibly to Kabul in Afghanistan to work with Pashtoons to obtain their independence. Khan hates the Pakistani military and the Taliban.



Beenish comes from the heart of Punjab in Pakistan which is located in the East bordering on India. Her father and her grandfather served in the Pakistani military. She has worked at a number NGO's - Nongovernmental Organizations - in Pakistan that help marginalized communities affected by natural disasters. She earned an MA in Development Studies from the school Oriental and African Studies in London.

Her efforts have been critical in helping Pakistanis to help themselves out of poverty. She comes from a big family and she **LOVES** movies - Indian, Pakistani, and American made. She also loved my mom - and so did Khan. Beenish is in her second year of a five year Phd Program at WMU with the goal of earning a Phd in Political Science. Ultimately she hopes to return to Pakistan and to teach Political Science.



These are two very good people. And I think you would really enjoying meeting each of them. So, if you can join us...we'll just talk for a few hours. Stop on by.

Thanks.

Bob Wood

PS...students had access to this letter on Monday. So don't let them tell you they just got it .

It's OK for _____ to come to Mr. Wood's class on Friday April 12 first or second hour. This is a pass.

Signed: _____