EVE CARSON SCHOLARSHIP SELECTS 2012 EVE SCHOLARS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – The Eve Carson Scholarship selection committee is thrilled to announce the selection of the 2012 Eve Scholars, Irene “Rena” Avramidis and Sarah Kaminer. The Eve Scholars will receive a stipend to pursue their passions during the summer before their senior year and a scholarship covering half the cost of attending UNC-Chapel Hill during their senior year.

"Rena and Sarah are both exceptional in their achievements and goals for pursuing their passions, as were many of our applicants,” said Matt Fox, executive director of the student-run scholarship.

“What really set them apart was their recognition of the value of each and every individual. Both Rena and Sarah are passionate about communities of people who are often marginalized or ignored and not only seek to help these individuals, but spread their love of these groups to everyone they meet."

Avramidis is a junior from Apex, N.C., majoring in Spanish and political science and minoring in business administration. She said her mantra is “fight for a world without slavery” as her involvements

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at UNC-CH have centered on combating human trafficking. She has held leadership positions in the Scholars Latino Initiative, Carolina Against Slavery and Trafficking and Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

During her summer experience as an Eve Scholar, Avramidis said she hopes “to research the relationship between education and both domestic labor and sex trafficking and then focus on developing an advocacy-mentorship program to raise awareness.”

"In this moment, I am overwhelmed by the unconditional support of my peers that inspires me to pursue this opportunity to its fullest,” she said. “I feel forever indebted and blessed.

Kaminer is a junior from Asheville, N.C., majoring in nursing. She said she hopes to use the opportunities the scholarship offers to volunteer abroad in an HIV pediatric clinic in order to develop Spanish fluency and learn “more of the biases and dialogues involving HIV/AIDS.” One of her leadership positions is with the Reformed University Fellowship Campus Ministry.

She said during her summer experience she hopes to return to Santa Lucia Milpas Altas, Guatemala, where she traveled in the summer of 2011 to work with HIV positive children.

“I am stunned to receive the scholarship after reading so much about the [Eve Carson murder] trial,” Kaminer said. “I’ve felt so close the whole situation and I feel really, really, really blessed to be attached to anything with Eve’s name on it. I hope I can help honor her legacy.”

The Eve Carson Scholarship was established in 2008 to commemorate and celebrate the life of former student body president Eve Marie Carson. She had envisioned a junior-year scholarship and included it on her platform for student body president in 2007. For more information, contact Matt Fox at fox.unc@gmail.com or (919) 801-2899, or visit the scholarship’s website at http://evecarsonscholarship.unc.edu .

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