

*With wishes for a generous Ramadan from the American people:
A story of Muslim life in the United States.*

“The values I was taught
as a child in Bandung are the values
they teach here in America.”

—Devianti Faridz, graduate student, University of Missouri



“I’m a master’s student majoring in broadcast journalism. While I’m learning, I also work at a real television station, KMOU-TV. Students gain hands-on experience there to learn what it’s really like to become a reporter, an anchor and a producer in a real live environment.

“To become a journalist, of course, you have to uphold truth. You have to be honest, you have to be objective and all those values I’ve already learned while growing up.

“I was born in Bandung, Indonesia. The values of Islam I was taught ever since I was a child are the values they teach at school here: honesty, truth, knowledge.

“I’m fortunate that I live in Columbia, Missouri, where there is a mosque

that enables me to gather with my Muslim friends and pray together, celebrate religious holidays together.

“The American students that I have met have respected my beliefs. It’s nice to know that people are willing to open up their hearts and understand what they don’t know.

“I hope to go back home to Indonesia and become a reporter, anchor and producer, all at once—that’s my dream job. I hope I will be an objective journalist who can contribute to the betterment of society.

“We should embrace diversity and differences, and not be afraid of them. Americans are willing to understand more about Islam and there is an opportunity for mutual understanding.”

Endorsed by the Council of American Muslims for Understanding, a private, nonprofit organization that seeks to educate Americans and the world about the achievements of Muslims in America and throughout history. Its membership reflects the diversity of Muslims living in the United States. The Council does not conduct political or advocacy activities. For more information or for a copy of the publication “Muslim Life in America,” contact us at www.opendialogue.com