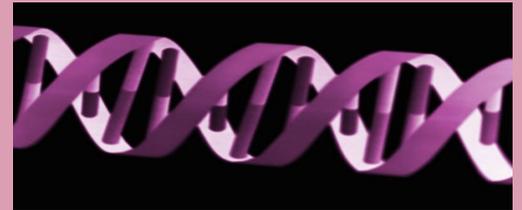


# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IMAAAN BENMERZOUGA



## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE GRADUATION?

I pursued my Ph.D. degree in the department of Biological, Geological, Environmental Sciences (BGES) and was offered full financial support to do so. I was supported through the GAANN fellowship (graduate assistantship in the areas of national needs), in addition to a teaching assistantship, both of which I am grateful to the BGES department at CSU. I graduated from the department of BGES with my Ph.D. in Summer 2013 and prior my graduation I was offered a full-time assistant professor position in the college of applied medical sciences in the University of Hail in Saudi Arabia . I am currently working on a short-term research project in primary congenital glaucoma (PCG) .

## HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING THE FIRST BENMERZOUGA IN THE HONORS PROGRAM?

To see all my siblings join the honors program and succeed because of it makes me a happy, honored and a proud big sister. I am sure each one reached his goal with opportunities presented by the honors program, and perhaps they will be in the “Alumni” spotlight in the near future.

## ANY ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS?

You will face twists and hurdles along your path to success, don't lose faith or hope and do your best to reach your goal and if you don't, do not hesitate to take alternative paths that will lead you to your ultimate goal. So don't lost faith or hope, if things don't go as planned, because you don't know what life throws at you.

To the left is me (honors Alum 2008), then Zakaria Benmerzouga (Honors class 2014), Dr. Meiksins, then Haadger Benmerzouga (Honors Alum 2013) and finally to the right is Khadija Benmerzouga (Honors Alum 2009).



## WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

Unless there is a greater opportunity for me to pursue, I see myself growing in the ladder of academia and making a difference in my student's lives.