



April 23, 2010

Dear Student:

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Study of the US Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders on New Media. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), administered by Relief International-Schools Online (RI-SOL), and hosted by the University of Virginia (UVA). A very rich and comprehensive four week academic program has been developed for you at UVA's Center for Politics --*Global Perspectives on Democracy/New Media*-- followed by a one week study tour to places of great interest in New York and Washington DC.

UVA's program as well as its location is ideal for the study of the fundamentals of United States politics, history and the changing faces of the media. It is there that Thomas Jefferson, America's third president and the University's founder, realized his vision of a community of learning committed to the essential democratic principles of social deliberation and citizen participation in government.

During your visit we will explore these and many other issues. We are confident that the scheduled speakers, readings, case studies and other activities will spark thoughtful and interesting debate, and enable all those participating to realize similar comparisons with practices in your home country. We expect that the internships and community service activities that have been planned will provide you valuable insight into American culture and U.S. policies that you may take with you in your future pursuits. You may read about your schedule and syllabus during this academic residency at the institute's website, <http://centerforpolitics.org/gpdnewmedia.html>

As this program is a two way exchange of culture and information, we also look forward to learning from you. As globalization increasingly impacts every inch of our small planet, this mutual exchange of knowledge and varying perspectives are important for building and sustaining a healthy and productive future. We hope that the relationships you build during your time here, both individually, and institutionally, will continue into the future.

On behalf of Relief International-Schools Online and the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, we hope you will find your time with us to be memorable, impactful and enriching.

We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tali Klein".

Tali Klein
International Education Program Coordinator
Relief International – Schools Online

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