

Incoming UCI law student receives first DARMER EQUALITY SCHOLARSHIP

BY ANNA ILIFF
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

An incoming UC Irvine law student, Jordan Aiken, was recognized as the first recipient of the M. Katherine Baird Darmer Equality Scholarship at the third annual anniversary party of the Orange County Lavender Bar Association on July 10.

Aiken, who received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, hopes to focus on issues of gay inclusion and gender identity in the legal spectrum while studying law.

"I think people are making amazing strides in that field, but there is a lot more to do," said Aiken. "That's what most excites me right now."

The Darmer Equality Scholarship recognizes a current or incoming law student affiliated with Orange County who shares the same vision of the late professor Darmer, a well-known advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equal rights and former Chapman University professor. Darmer committed suicide in 2012.

Darmer, who lived in Newport Beach with her husband, was a regular commentator on U.S. torture policies and marriage equality, specifically regarding Proposition 8. She was a founding board member and chair of the legal committee of the Orange County Equality Coalition and a founding board member of the Orange County Lavender Bar Association.

Aiken was chosen to receive the \$5,000 scholarship sponsored by the Orange County Lavender Bar Association, the Orange County Equality Coalition and private donors based on her demonstrated commitment to advocate for LGBT equality.

"I'm just really grateful to have a community that is supporting me and that I have to go to as I start my career and move to Orange County," said Aiken.

Francine Lipman, a former colleague and friend of Darmer and member of the Orange County Equality Coalition, said that Aiken is a "mover and shaker" in the



Incoming UC Irvine law student Jordan Aiken is the recipient of the M. Katherine Baird Darmer Equality Scholarship, an award of \$5,000.



Aiken was recognized at the Orange County Lavender Bar Association's third anniversary party.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL LOPEZ, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER



Leslie Aiken, Mitch Aiken, Jordan Aiken, Harland Sipes and Judson Aiken were on hand. Jordan Aiken is the first to receive the award.



Janice Austin and Aiken attend the July 10 party at the Sky Garden in Irvine.

LGBT community.

"She just rolls up her sleeves and gets things done," Lipman said. "That's what we need in Orange County. She's a doer and a problem solver. ... She does very much what Katherine was doing."

Aiken previously worked in New Orleans for several years as an advocate for nonconforming gender equality. While working at a New Orleans women's homeless shelter, Aiken came across trans-

women who were not allowed access to men's or women's shelters in the area.

"The shelter didn't have a policy to allow trans-women," said Aiken. "That was something that really frustrated me because it was sort of blatantly highlighting the inequality that I was seeing and what could happen if you didn't have resources. ... A lot of (trans-women) were ostracized in their communities or families."

Aiken took a job at the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, where she continued to see legal issues involving the transgender community, which sparked her interest in studying law.

"I feel really lucky to be a queer activist who is emerging more professionally in the last few years and gets to reap the benefits of so many people's hard work and extreme dedication. ... We've come a long way and I think that

it's exciting. ."

As a law student at UC Irvine, Aiken hopes to work with the School of Medicine to develop a program to help underserved transgender people obtain medical resources.

Aiken is also the recipient of a Public Service Fellowship from UC Irvine, which will cover tuition and fees at the law school.

For more, go to: ociba.org.

ASK THE TEACHER

A little planning can squash sibling summer squabbles

Q. We have two boys, ages 7 and 9. They fight so much. Neither wants to go to camps like that other boy's mom said last week. How do you get kids to behave in class? We tried marbles like one of their teachers, but that is not working. Both are sort of sounding like mad boys, really mad and angry, even when talking to me. This is not normal for them.

A. Children take a little planning at times, and as a teacher, this is what I find kids crave. I

discipline my students in the classroom much differently than I would discipline my children at

home. At school, kids have a job to work, learn and behave. At home, kids have the same jobs but you draw it out of them a little differently.

At home and when you are out together, give your children lots of jobs and respon-

sibility. I do not mean to turn them into the cleaning crew exactly, but kids

this age need to be asked to do something. You are likely noticing your boys growing up and changing. Daily jobs help give them a sense of responsibility which is what they will start to crave as they get older. Without jobs or responsibility, a sense of entitlement grows and perhaps that anger is stemming from this.

It is also important to realize that this is normal for siblings to go through, but you are correct in finding ways to bring more joy to your kids and family. There are some simple

things that might help for the summer.

Have a family meeting and have your boys think of things they want to do this summer. Frame things in the positive. Make a realistic list that your family can do. Then, add some things you would like to do with them. Include classes, camps, or activities you find or just list things like evening picnics. Breakfast picnics can be fun, too. It is summer after all.

Simply getting your boys out of the house and into nature will also go a long way. The earlier you

all get up and get moving, the happier you will be.

Orange County has countless hiking trails; put your bikes in the car and find trails.

Have picnics for lunch or dinner. It is summer, so don't forget to give your children things to remember. When you plan something, even the smallest thing, have a way to describe it for your children that sounds really fun.

We just had our boys do a promotion that the OC Fair had where children can read two books and write a summary of each

then they get three free rides at the fair. Both of my boys did this. You can find the link here:

ocfair.com/2013/docs/readandride.pdf.

Sibling squabbles are normal, but so is family fun. Jobs should be done first, and fun should be on your agenda each day. No need to make lesson plans, but you might want to put a calendar together with some events to look forward to and then have a list of go-to places for when anyone is driving anyone else a little crazy.



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