



## ORKAN OLGAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Orkan Olgac (a.k.a. Chris Rogers) graduated from the University of Connecticut in December 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management and a minor in Analytics in the Honors Program. Graduating with a 4.0 GPA and as the President of the university's Health Care Management Society (HCMS) as well as the International Business Association (IBA), while being one of the two student members on the Board of Connecticut Healthcare Executives, Orkan was a true leader in campus life radiating an intense enthusiasm and discipline. He always found a way to connect with people, helping them to find their passions the way he found his (his story follows). His untimely passing early in 2021 prompted an effort by his family and friends to initiate a scholarship fund. Hoping the dynamism, work ethics and selfless contributions Orkan exhibited throughout his student years will be remembered to eternity, we wish to congratulate the select recipients of the awards.

The activities surrounding this initiative are and will be mass-mailed periodically to all who attended his memorial service (March 13, 2021), and participated in the 5-K race (May 31, 2021). You may also contact the trustees of the fund by e-mailing [okuolgac@gmail.com](mailto:okuolgac@gmail.com).

### ❖ ELIGIBILITY:

1. The recipient must be a junior or senior majoring in the Healthcare Management Program of UCONN School of Business.
2. Evidence of leadership skills is required.
3. Awardee is expected to have a GPA of 3.7 or higher at the time of selection.
4. E.O. Smith high school education is preferred. If no one from E.O. Smith is eligible, then someone who went to high school in Connecticut would receive secondary preference.
5. The award is not renewable

### ❖ ORKAN'S STORY

Orkan Olgac (a.k.a. Chris Rogers), 21, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 in Seaside Park, NJ. He was a son, a brother, and a one-of-a-kind friend. His many academic achievements in school were always complemented by his adventures outside of school. At the age 19, he set out on a trip to Iceland, unaccompanied, destined to see the world through his own eyes. Though he travelled alone, he always managed to find allies along the way which blossomed into exceptional friendships. Soon

after, he participated in an internship working with the health care insurance company Aetna in Jacksonville, Florida where he was assigned to a corporation-wide cost saving project with recognized success. Taking in the raw excitement of the health care management field, Orkan was determined to learn more. He spent the summer of 2020 working at an internship for the University of Colorado's Hospital System's Health Care Management Program, while also making sure he thoroughly explored Denver's terrain in his free time.

During the pandemic, he conducted his duties as the president of HCMS and IBA in his house. His family witnessed the spark this subject lit within his eyes and the passion he had for it in his heart. Driven by his work, Orkan had a natural ease in connecting with people. The first few attributes his peers noticed in him were charisma, intelligence, and a genuine interest in the subject at hand. Moreover, he cared for others and whole-heartedly listened to them when they needed someone to rely on. He knew exactly how to boost their confidence and make them feel capable. And when it came to making big career decisions, a second opinion from Orkan was particularly meaningful. He had a true gift for uplifting people around him and making them feel important.

He was also a naturalist, a seeker of beautiful sunrises and an avid sportsman. His natural athleticism was always matched with an incredible work ethic. In his high school years at E.O. Smith High School, Mansfield, CT he played soccer, becoming the only freshmen member on the varsity team. His friends recall how he would be on the track nearly every single day practicing the 2-mile run for tryouts. He also ran for the school's cross-country team and track team, competing at the state level from his very first season, later becoming the team captain. Through college he continued to maintain his fitness with an admirable discipline. He was always ready for a competition with his friends, but in handstands, arm wrestling, and underwater breath-holding the winner was clear from the start.

Despite his astonishing achievements at such a young age, he remained humble and respectful, and constantly in awe of others' success, using them as motivation and guidance. In addition, he knew how to transition the attention from himself to others, only hoping to help them reach their goals and find their paths as well. He is missed dearly by those who knew him and those he touched. His memory will remain through sharing stories about his accomplishments, adventures and charismatic moments.