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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

October 10, 2023, 4:51 p.m.



Agriculture, Life &
Veterinary Sciences &
Cooperative Extension

Dear Colleagues,

Like many of you, I have Israeli and Palestinian friends and colleagues, including people who grew up in refugee camps, who were once stateless and are now, like me, naturalized citizens of the United States of America.

I spent six weeks in Israel during the first intifada and first Gulf War. I entered Israel via the Allenby Bridge from Jordan.

During my time in Israel, I stayed on the roof of a house in the Muslim Quarter of the old Jerusalem. I stayed in a Tel Aviv hostel with Palestinian laborers who spoke no English. I traveled the country on Israeli and Palestinian buses. A Druze man took me to the Golan Heights. I experienced Masada. I visited Bethlehem, and Jericho and other Palestinian cities. My visit to the Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem was the single most moving day in my life. I had \$3 a day to spend on meals and ate literally nothing but falafel for 6 weeks—it took me 4 years to be able even to look at falafel. During this time, I met many *people* who just wanted to live their lives, who wanted the best future for their children, and who were very kind to me. I was 24 years old.

Many of you have stories like mine. Some of you have Israeli family or Palestinian family. One of my best friends' sons is 18 months into his IDF compulsory military service. On Friday he visited his parents for the weekend, and he was called back to his base that afternoon. He is 20 years old, right in between my 18-year-old daughter and 22-year-old son.

There are too many stories of horrific acts of violence and death. In Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, in Ukraine, in Sudan and too many other areas of the world. The news from these places is awful for me to hear.

Please take care of yourselves. Reach out for help if you are struggling.

We can exemplify the best to and for each other. I have seen you do this over and over again in the past years.

If you haven't already done so, please read President Robbins' [October 9 message](#) to campus.

Shane

Shane C. Burgess

Vice President, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension

Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences
The University of Arizona

This email was sent to: CALES students, and ALVSCE faculty, staff, and DCCs.

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.