



IELP Newsletter

ALUMNI STORIES

Mohammed Osman

IELP ALUM
FROM AFGHANISTAN



In every issue, the IELP interviews one of our alumni to feature on the front page. In this issue, we had the opportunity to speak with Mohammed Osman.

When did you study with us in the IELP?

I studied in the IELP from early winter to mid-summer in the year 2014.

What was your experience as a student in the IELP like?

The IELP equipped me with every necessary tool that I

needed to do well in my graduate studies in the United States. In the IELP I learned how to write academic papers, communicate well in academic settings, and access academic materials which covers mostly all what one needs to function well at school.

What was your first impression of Portland and the IELP?

The IELP was the first place/people I encountered with upon my arrival in the U.S. The way everybody connected with me and heard my stories made me feel like I am at home away from home.

What do you think the best part of being in the IELP was?

Making long life friends, I think, was the best experience of my journey in the IELP which later on helped me be a part of the IELP family to help other students.

What, or who, was most helpful to you during your time here?

Everyone I met in the IELP was very helpful to me. I am extraordinarily grateful for the writing and communication skills that I gained from the IELP.

What have you been doing since you left the IELP in 2014?

Upon graduation from the IELP, I had a smooth transition to my academic program. It took me less than two years to earn my master's degree in a language other than my native one. Thanks to those who helped me learn the language!

Tell us about what it was like to work with the IELP.

In the summer of 2015 and also 2016 I

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE IELP



volunteered as GA to welcome Fulbright scholars in the IELP. I am very grateful for the opportunity that the Fulbright Summer Program Coordinator (Gwen Tuason) provided for me to meet so many great scholars from across the globe.

What advice would you give to new students?

I have two things for new IELP students! First, congratulations on getting the chance to study in the IELP, a decision you won't ever regret. Second, take the classes and the study materials in the IELP very seriously. They will save you a lot time and energy once you enroll in your academic program.

PSU IELP Prepares Fulbright Scholars for Graduate Life in the U.S.

by Tara Lynn Anderson,

Fulbright Pre-Academic Program Graduate Program Assistant

Since 2015, the Intensive English Language Program at Portland State University has had the pleasure of hosting a different group of Fulbright



2017 Summer Fulbright Scholars

scholars for six weeks each summer. Through the PSU IELP Fulbright Pre-Academic Program, we support the scholars as they transition into their lives as graduate students at U.S. universities.

This summer, the Fulbright scholars hail from Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Colombia, Ukraine, Indonesia, the Philippines, Iraq, Kurdistan, Palestine, Western Sahara, and Morocco. At the end of their stay in Portland, the scholars will travel to their host universities, located mostly in

the Midwest and along the East Coast, where they will pursue Fulbright-funded master's or doctoral degrees in fields such as linguistics, engineering, and international relations.

The PSU IELP Fulbright Pre-Academic Program is led by Gwen Heller Tuason with support from Pre-Arrival Coordinator Ella Barrett, IELP Student Development Manager Kristi Kang, Graduate Program Assistants Maoloud Dabab and Tara Anderson, and other key IELP team members

WE LOVE OUR ALUMNI



Fahad
IELP Alum, 2015

Fahad completed the IELP in 2015 and graduated from Portland State University with a degree in Marketing & Advertising in the Spring of 2017! He plans to return to Saudi Arabia to start his own business. He stopped by the IELP office to visit us one last time before he left. Thank you for thinking of us, Fahad!

We love hearing from our Alumni! Whether dropping by the IELP office on a visit to Portland, or sending us a friendly email message, **we want to hear from you** and about all your successes since leaving us! So please, let us know what you've been up to post-IELP and maybe, with your permission, you'll be featured in our next "We love our Alumni" mini feature!

and volunteers from the community. The program instructors this year are Phoebe Daurio, Brett Bolstad, Rebekah Disbrow, Cynthia Armstrong, Linnea Spitzer, Julia Youst MacRae, and Gwen Heller Tuason. Administered by the U.S. State Department, the Fulbright program itself was established over seventy years ago in order to promote international peace through person-to-person educational exchange and “actively seeks out individuals of achievement and potential who represent the full diversity of their respective societies and selects nominees through open, merit-based competitions.” (U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs)

Far from a vacation, the PSU IELP Fulbright Pre-academic Program prepares students to excel at their next universities by maintaining a heavy academic focus, with emphasis on scholars improving their graduate-level writing, research, and oral communication, as well as increasing their cultural awareness and general preparedness for life in the United

States. Activities outside of the classroom have included a field trip north to Camas, Washington involving interviews with local officials and business owners; dinners hosted at the homes of various Portland families; a volunteer event in which scholars discussed their home cultures with residents of a Portland retirement community; and field trips to Seattle and the Oregon Coast.

Through their engagement in and out of the class, Fulbright scholars are deepening their

own experience and enhancing their readiness for their graduate degree programs. Furthermore, as feedback from IELP staff and Portland-area locals has confirmed, the experience, insight, and warmth of the Fulbright scholars has enriched the lives of those who have had the good fortune of interacting with them.



2017 Summer Fulbright Scholars

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OISSS

ATTENTION ALL CURRENT STUDENTS

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) is looking for current students to be volunteers to review e-forms for WorldLink. WorldLink is the portal system international students and

scholars use to submit requests to OISSS. We are building new forms and need students to test the forms before they are released to the general public. If you like new technology and systems, then this is the opportunity for you! Time commitment is very low and

flexible (about one hour per month). Please contact Krista Kennedy at krista5@pdx.edu if you are interested.

PARTNER UNIVERSITY FEATURE

Shobi University, Japan

The IELP has established some valuable partnerships in the past few years with universities abroad, most notably in Japan. We have been welcoming cohorts from Shobi University in Kawagoe, Saitama, Japan, for the past two years, but they recently became our official partner this summer. Shobi University is a private liberal arts school with a focus on dancing and the performing arts. They sent us two students for our 2015 Summer Communication and Culture Program and since then, they have sent students to our Academic English Program each year. These students stay for a term or two, then transfer their language credits earned here to their home university in order to complete their degree. One Shobi University graduate, Natsuko Katagiri, even came

back to the IELP after graduating from Shobi University in order to complete our program through level 5!

To learn more about IELP partnerships, contact Samudra Kugel at skugel@pdx.edu

Learn more about Shobi University

[Shobi University Website](#)



Samudra Kugel with representatives from Shobi University



From the Left: Shobi University Student Asuka Hirano with fellow 2015 SCCP students!



Shobi University dance students practicing for their final performance!

OVERSEAS VISITS

Chutima and Samudra Kugel
IELP Alum, 2007



This summer, the IELP's Associate Director for Outreach and Admission, Samudra Kugel, traveled both to Japan and Thailand. While in Japan, she met with our partner universities and contracted agents. While in Thailand, she met with our contracted agents as well as made many new agent partnerships. She even met up with an IELP Alumna, Chutima Juntarajumnong during her trip to Bangkok. Chutima studied with us in 2007 and talked very highly about her teachers, Susan Lindsey and Lisa McKinney. This is

Summer in the IELP -Suite Remodel and SCCP

IELP Welcomes Two Diverse Cohorts of Students to the Summer Communication and Culture Program

by Jamie Radtke, IELP Admissions Coordinator

The IELP Summer Communication and Culture Program (SCCP) is a short term program that focuses on building communication skills and studying American culture through service learning. It began in 2014 as a three week summer program for a cohort of students from Brazil. It has since grown to include three different session dates (4 weeks, 4 weeks, and 3 weeks), and has welcomed students from over 15 countries.

This year, the SCCP started off welcoming students from 11 countries for session 2 (July 17 - August 10). The course subjects for this session included American Culture Through Film and American Culture Through Service Learning. The lead teacher, Davida Jordan, and other instructors, Diana Lease and Miranda Novash, provided a

robust curriculum and experience. Students combined class time language learning with real time practice in the community through volunteering opportunities at locations such as Portland Restore, Zenger Farms, and the American Red Cross. At the end of the program, students put together a presentation about what service learning means to them. Students also joined our Academic Program students on activities and trips around Portland and Oregon.

Session 3 (August 14 - August 31) welcomed our fifth cohort from our valued partner Hosei University, Japan, along with students from our new partner, Edogawa University. Our Edogawa student arrived to Portland with their Professor, Masahiko Arai, who stayed to observe the program for a few days before going back to Japan. The courses for this session included Sustainability and American Culture through Service Learning. This year, our Session 3 students got a special treat by being in Oregon during the Solar Eclipse!



IELP OFFICE REMODEL 2017

This summer has been an exciting one for the IELP! At the end of spring term, the IELP began a remodel project that involved moving our Learning Center space, currently outside of the main suite, into the main suite. This remodel was promoted by the need to make room for our new neighbors, PSU's Speech and Hearing department, in the University Center Building. Beginning in fall, They will move in across the hall from the IELP office where the PSU athletics team used to reside. The IELP remodel includes a new front office reception area, new faculty and staff offices, and the new Learning Center space. It has been a rough summer with all the construction going on while we continued to hold classes and run the office but the finished product and fresh, new, IELP look will have been worth the wait and hassle! The new office will be completed in mid-September so come by and check us out!

To see more pictures of our transformation and to follow it through to the end, please follow us on Facebook @PSUIELP

FAREWELL TO IELP FACULTY



Judy Camacho

This summer, we said farewell to one of our long time IELP faculty member and former program director, Judy Camacho. Before she left, we asked her to share about her time working in the IELP

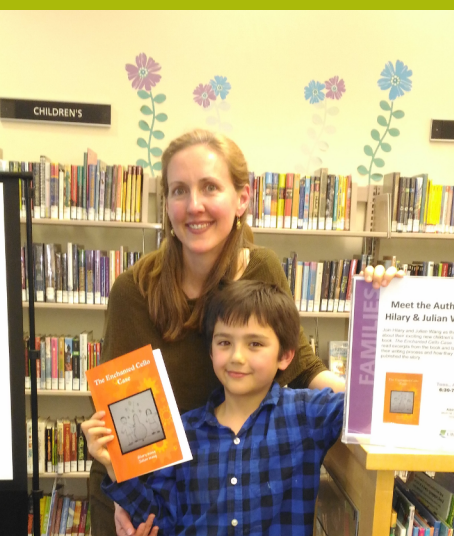
I've worked in the IELP for 20 years. During this time, I've taught all but one summer!!! I'm not sure what I will be doing after I retire, but I know I'll stay busy. I think there's an artistic person just waiting to be unleashed, so we'll see where that takes me. I'll also be looking for volunteering opportunities, but first, I will clean

and organize my house! The IELP has gone through so many changes since I started here. When I began, all faculty were housed in 3 offices in Shattuck Hall, and the office staff were in Neuberger Hall. We were so excited to move to East Hall and all be under the same roof. Then our program exploded with students, and we had to add many faculty, which meant we had to find more space for faculty and a bigger space for our Learning Center. At one point in time, you could find us spread all over campus. Then the day came when we got to move back under one roof in UCB. (This was only after I bribed our Dean when we were with a PSU delegation in Saudi Arabia. We'd been treated to a wonderful banquet and the opportunity to ride on a camel. He wanted to get off of his camel, and I told him the only way he could

get down was if he allowed us to move back under one roof. He said he would, I let him get off of his camel, and it was shortly there after that we moved into UCB.)

My fondest memories, though, are of the people that I've worked with. I've had the privilege of working with top-notch faculty and staff who are always willing to help other faculty out. Our colleagues are kind people who are always looking for ways to make our program better for our students and for us. I have also loved working with students from so many different countries. They have taught me so much about the rest of the world, and for that, I am grateful! It has been my honor to serve in many positions here in the IELP...faculty member, assistant academic coordinator, academic coordinator, director. I've loved each and every position I've been allowed to hold!

THE ENCHANTED CELLO CASE - BY HILARY



by Karin Tittelbach, IELP Fiscal and Operations Manager

Hilary Wang, former IELP Senior Instructor, made her dream come true. She wrote a children's book, "The Enchanted Cello Case". It is great for 6-10 year olds who love mystery, magic and suspense. Hilary's story was inspired by her son Julian's love for the famous "Harry Potter" series. Julian decided to make the illustrations for his mom's book which gives it a special personal touch. What's even more inspiring is that all proceeds of the book sale go to the International Rescue Committee, an organization that saves refugee families in crisis. Hilary and her family have been passionately involved in

MAKE A GIFT TO THE IELP



Help us continue as one of the nation's leaders in teaching English to international students and preparing students for undergraduate and graduate programs at PSU. The IELP also serves as a pathway to other U.S. universities. We hope that our IELP alumni will support our ability to help generations of students to come here. We need your financial support to help make that happen. **Every gift you make benefits our students through potential scholarship creation** and deepens your connection with the IELP, PSU, Portland, and the United States. Please consider donating.

DONATE

Give by mail:

Intensive English Language Program
Portland State University
PO Box 751
Portland OR, 97207-0751

Thank you for supporting Portland State University's IELP.

Apply now to the IELP

Are you interested in improving your English either for a degree program in the U.S. or otherwise? Then apply now for our Academic English Program!

Fall Term: September - December
Still accepting applications from transfer students within in the U.S.

Apply Now

Winter Term: January - March

Apply Now

Spring Term: April - June

Apply Now

Summer Term: June - August

Apply Now

Are you interested a short-term program? We are now accepting applications for the 2018 Winter and Summer Communication and Culture Programs.

Winter Program session dates:
February 12th - March 8th

Apply now!

Summer Session Dates

Session 1: June 25 - July 19

Session 2: July 23 - August 16

Session 3: August 20 - September 6

Apply now!

Students are welcome to participate in one, two or all three sessions.

Or contact:

Samudra Kugel: skugel@pdx.edu

TEL: 503-725-4088

