

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2014

C hennai . a lumni . n etwork .

Together we CAN!



Dear Alumni,

Greetings!

I am pleased to present to you our first alumni newsletter! Starting with this issue, you will hear from us every month about alumni activities that may be of interest to you, including upcoming programs, projects, grants, internships, job opportunities, and other news. The newsletter will also feature alumni newsmakers who been recognized for their work or achievements.

Most importantly, we want this newsletter to be for YOU and about YOU — our alumni.

We encourage you to regularly contribute to this newsletter with interesting anecdotes, press clippings, photographs and anything that would help us highlight you or your work. We also seek your ideas and suggestions on how to improve the contents of this newsletter.

We look forward to this endeavor and wish you happy reading!

David Gainer
Public Affairs Officer



Inspiring Change

March is celebrated as Women's History Month in the United States. We marked this month with a photo collage of women (including our alumni) who are changing society for the better.

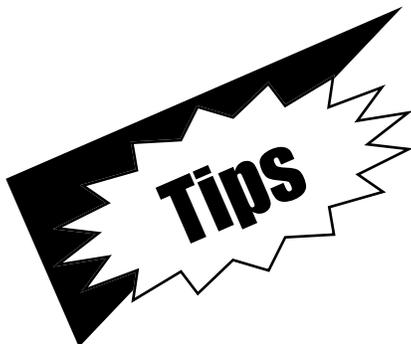


A cross-border chat

Indo-Pak Alumni DVC

Last month, Indian and Pakistani alumni met virtually to discuss common professional and personal challenges that South Asian women face, and possible avenues to overcome them.

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Empowerment Seminar (KL-YES) turned 10 this year. What a great excuse for the enthusiastic alumni to meet, reconnect, share and learn!



ELEVATOR PITCH: a clear, exciting, persuasive description of an idea, a product, a company, or even yourself that can be said in the time it takes to ride in an elevator. And not an elevator in a skyscraper, either!

In U. S. business, you have to have your “elevator pitch” ready. Your goal is to get someone interested enough that they ask you for details. If the person who hears your pitch says something like “Wow, cool, tell me more,” you have succeeded. Click on the image to watch the video!

Source: Open Educational Resource [Introduction to Business English](#). Interested in more courses such as these? Watch a [video](#) we did on Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) to motivate you.



AEIF 2014 is here! Are you READY with your bright ideas?

Timeline:

April 1: AEIF is launched

April 23: Proposals are due by 11:59 (Washington Time)

May 6: Shortlist finalists are announced. Alumni can logon to the [International Exchange Alumni](#) website to vote for their favorite projects

May 27: Final proposals are due by 11:59 (Washington Time)

Previous AEIF Winner!

Dr. Carmalin Sophie Ayyappan,

Scientist, Assistant Professor, CSIR-SERC, Chennai

A Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Ayyappan's innovative project titled "SMARTER" won a USD \$23,000 grant to prepare the public for natural and man-made disasters using social media communication templates.



SPOTLIGHT—MEET RECENT GRANTEES!

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program builds technical skills, enhances leadership capabilities, strengthens English language proficiency by placing students at community colleges in the United States. Here are some of our recent CCI grantees:



⇒ **Vijaya Shanthi (Riyaa) Chandrasekhar** a Health Assistant from Chennai is currently pursuing a community college program on **Infant and Toddler Care** at **College of Dupage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois** graduating in May 2014

Gauthaman Oduvil Prasad aka **Tito** an automobile mechanic from Kochi is currently pursuing an **academic course in Automotive Technology** at the **College of Dupage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois** graduating in May 2014



⇒ **Ameer Salman Ottamalyekkal**, 2nd year Mass Communication Student, MES Mampad College, Malapurram District, Kerala is currently pursuing an **academic course in Communication and Media** at **College of Pierce College, Lakewood, Washington** graduating in June 2014

Ashvi Johnson, 2nd year Food Technology Student, MES Mampad College, Malapurram District, Kerala ... is currently pursuing an **academic course in Hospitality and Tourism** at **Whatcom Community College, Bellingham, Washington**, graduating in June 2014



⇒ **Faris Mahmood**, 2nd year Computer Applications Student, JDT Islam IGNOU Community College, Kozhikode ... is currently pursuing an **academic course in Information Technology** at **Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton,**

Events, Workshops, Opportunities.....

Coming up:

April 17 Learn the Art of Grant writing! Join a Webchat with Dr. Shubhalaxmi V., winner of the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) 2012, who attended a course on Grant writing from Boston University as part of her Humphrey Fellowship. She will provide tips and answers on preparing outstanding proposals. Tune in at 3:30 pm (IST): <https://conx.adobeconnect.com/india>

April 22 EARTH DAY - Lend a hand to IVLP Alum Arun Krishnamoorthy and his large group of student volunteers who will be organizing a massive lake cleanup and health and environment awareness drive at neighboring Puttur. For details, please contact Arun Krishnamoorthy, Founder, Environmental Foundation of India on his Cell: 9940203871 OR Email: arunoogleg@gmail.com

About C.A.N.:

The Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Consulate in Chennai publishes this monthly newsletter to connect with Indian alumni of U.S. exchange programs in Chennai's consular district. The newsletter features alumni news by highlighting recent events and activities as well as U.S. Consulate Chennai's outreach programs. It is also a platform for alumni to share their success stories and spread the word about interesting opportunities. The newsletter provides alumni with updated information, resources, job and training opportunities and upcoming events and programs deadlines.

Keep in touch and send us your suggestions for alumni events, inquiries, success stories, and proposals. We welcome your comments!

Contact Alumni Coordinator, Brindha Jayakanth at: jayakanthb@state.gov.

Closed Facebook groups:

Chennai Alumni 

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) India 

KL-YES Returnees from Bangalore, Chennai and Trivandrum 

CCIP India 

Global Leadership Institute Alumni 



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