By Annie Greenhoe

The new Multilingual FRINQ Support Lab is a collaboration between the University Studies Department and the IELP. It assists English as a 2nd language students enrolled in Freshman Inquiry, also known as FRINQ, at Portland State University. These students include international, 1.5 generation, and matriculated IELP students. The curriculum of the required FRINQ course is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The year-long course is an interdisciplinary approach to general education, with such themes exploring Ways of Knowing, Race and Injustice, and Portland, plus many others. The themes are explored through the PSU goals of Communication; Inquiry and Critical Thinking; Diversity of Human Experience; and, Ethics and Social Responsibility. The FRINQ course is embedded in a classical liberal arts approach to education: while students examine and exercise ideas, they learn to ask and seek answers, and in so doing, become active in their own learning journey. This concept of education can be quite foreign for students who come from an educational background where liberal arts are not practiced.

The Multilingual FRINQ Support Lab has been running now for four terms, and students practice strategies to grapple with the amount of reading, writing, presentations and discussion they must do in college with their native speaker counterparts. This 2-credit lab offers international and English as a 2nd language students support as they learn both new material and a new path to learning. This course helps them be successful in their college career at Portland State University.

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**WELCOME HOSEI UNIVERSITY**

This month we welcomed our first cohort of Hosei University, our newest partner from Japan, students for a 4 week long Language and Culture program for Spring 2016.

This program is a short-term program that runs from February to March.
The IELP often hires international students to work at the front desk. Their experience provides cultural diversity and a welcoming face to our students. Currently the front desk position is shared by four students.

Chuting (Angel) Gao is from Guangzhou, China. She recalls the caring atmosphere in classes and the front office from her student days. This job has helped her develop general office skills and customer service skills while majoring in marketing.

Fatemah Al-Herz, from Kuwait City, Kuwait, is currently majoring in environmental engineering. Working in the IELP has taught her flexibility and Excel skills that she was able to apply in her engineering classes. According to Fatemah, a student in the IELP is bound to be successful with all the resources offered and the care that the front office team provides.

“It surprises me how my coworkers know the names of so many students. That just shows the strong relationship between the staff and our students.”

Bassam Alduhaim, from Dammam, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia started as an IELP student before he transitioned to PSU, majoring in electrical engineering. The IELP faculty, the Learning Center and Conversation Partner Program helped him prepare for academic studies and he loved participating in our social activities. Working in the IELP helped improve his communication and customer service skills.

Abdullah Altaweel, from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has completed all six levels of the IELP before he transitioned to PSU, currently majoring in Business Finance. According to Abdulallah, the IELP prepared him for academic success and working in the front office further helps him develop great communication skills and teach him what it’s like to hold a job.

GO TEAM!!!
ALUMNI STORIES

Josephine Mavambu

Eight years ago, Josephine Mavambu, a student from the Democratic Republic of Congo, enrolled in the IELP’s first level. Today she is in the Sustainable International Development Law Master’s Program at the University of Washington. We asked her about her experience in the IELP and at PSU. Her comments have been edited for length and clarity.

*What influenced you to come to the United States to study?*

As a professional woman in the field of law, I wanted to go outside my home country to pursue advanced studies and to open up myself to the outside world, so I could have more opportunities in my career.

*Tell us about your experience in the IELP and at PSU. What did you like or dislike?*

At first, I noticed the speed in the teaching style and the friendliness of the teachers. I was surprised by the amount of homework. Later, I also worked on campus. It was very stressful striving to

"My favorite memory is my IELP teachers and the staff – the tough, the funny and the charismatic ones."

be an outstanding student and working to pay my tuition, so I could continue taking classes.

My favorite memory is my IELP teachers and the staff – the tough, the funny and the charismatic ones. Also, my on-campus job helped me to put my feet at every corner of PSU and got me into the campus network.

*Do you have any advice or thoughts to share with us?*

The benefit of the IELP is always experienced after achieving the program. Every day, I notice a huge, positive difference between my first writing in the placement test and my present writing. After completing all levels of the IELP, I became a new person. An experienced runner begins at the start, falls, stands up and pursues the marathon to the end. The IELP certificate is a lifetime achievement.

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MAKE A GIFT TO THE INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

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 Portland State University and as a pathway to other U.S. universities. We hope that our IELP alumni will give us the ability to support generations of students to come. We need your support now more than ever. Every gift you make benefits our students and faculty and deepens your connection with our IELP program, Portland State University, Portland, and The United States. Please consider donating.

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Portland State University
PO Box 751
Portland OR, 97207-0751

Thank you for supporting Portland State University's IELP

Currently living in the US?
Do you have a spouse, friend or relative interested in improving their English? We are still accepting applications for the Spring 2016 term from those who reside in the US! See here to apply

Contact us at:
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