EMER Program Helps Student Answer Call to Help Syrian Refugees

In 2016, the United Nations identified 13.5 million Syrian refugees requiring humanitarian assistance, with Turkey receiving the largest share. This unprecedented crisis demands responses from experts who are answering the call to action with unique skills. CSULB student Sean Graham is one of those experts. Originally from California, Graham was living in the Middle East when he enrolled in the Master of Science in Emergency Services Administration (EMER) program in 2014. EMER’s online “distance learning” format allowed Graham to further his education while working as a Training Manager and Critical Care Paramedic for the government of Qatar’s national ambulance service.

This unprecedented crisis demands responses from experts who are answering the call to action with unique skills.

“Because of the interconnectedness of the
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CCPE WELCOMES JOHN P. LYONS AS ASSOCIATE DEAN

This past October, John P. Lyons began his tenure as Associate Dean for Operations and Administration at CCPE. In this position, Lyons is supervising departments including Human Resources and Personnel, Finance and Budget, Facilities Planning and Management, Information Technology, and Advanced Media Productions. He is also overseeing the construction of the new 35,000-square-foot classroom building on campus. Lyons brings extensive experience in university operations, financial management, and program development to CCPE. Most recently, he was Executive Director of International, Graduate and Extended Education at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. Previously, Lyons served in leadership roles as a Management
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

We are already well on our way into the New Year and new semester, and 2017 is bringing both opportunities and challenges. As always, we welcome the chance for growth, learning, and uplifting the community towards great achievements.

As you’ll read on page 1, student Sean Graham is an inspiring example of how our programs give people the tools to face challenging situations—in this case, the Syrian refugee crisis.

This year is a special one for the Center for International Trade and Transportation, which is demonstrating its effectiveness and longevity as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary (see page 6). I look forward to celebrating with them.

Speaking of celebrations, I was honored to travel to Vietnam’s National Economics University (NEU) last fall to celebrate ten years of our collaborative Advanced Educational Program; as well as NEU’s 60th Anniversary (page 4).

Back on campus, I’m happy to welcome two new faces to CCPE: our new Associate Dean, John P. Lyons (page 1); and our first official Peace Corps Recruiter, Alben Phung (this page).

Enjoy this issue,
Jeet Joshee
Associate Vice President and Dean

CSULB Appoints First Official Peace Corps Recruiter on Campus

Want to promote world peace and make new friends? Then Alben Phung is your man.

As the result of CSULB winning a competitive grant funded by the U.S. State Department, Phung is now the university’s first official on-campus Peace Corps Recruiter. In partnership with the Center of International Education (CIE), Global Studies Institute, and Career Development Center, Phung will work with the Los Angeles Peace Corps Regional Recruiting Office to recruit, advise, and educate potential volunteers. As a CSULB alumnus and a recent Peace Corps Volunteer, he is perfectly suited for the job.

“Alben in many ways is the ideal candidate for this position because he was very active in student life when he was a student here.”

Alben Phung with local Ethiopian students at Camp G.R.O.W. (Growing and Renewing Our World), which promotes sustainability and environmental protection

Alben Phung celebrating Ethiopian New Year with local farmers after their weekly Sunday church service

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CSULB CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE BRINGS CHINESE CULTURE TO CAMPUS

The CSULB Confucius Institute marked two anniversaries this past fall, with the third annual Confucius Institute Day on September 22–23, as well as the fifth Chinese Culture Festival on October 24–28, 2016. During both events, the campus community learned about Chinese language, culture, arts, and other traditions through a variety of programs.

2016 Confucius Day offered a colorful experience including cuisine samplings, a film, a costume show, and painting and calligraphy workshops. A series of seminars explored topics like American students living in China, and the affinities between Chinese and Western cultures. The Chinese Culture Festival broadened the scope, with highlights like the Tai Chi Tea Ceremony, which integrated martial arts and the stylized preparation of tea.

Attendees included Alan Lowenthal, U.S. Congressman; Mike Eng, former State Assemblyman; Dr. Dong Yuan, Educational Counselor of the Consulate General of China in Los Angeles; John Lyons, CCPE Associate Dean for Operations and Administration; and Dr. Teri Yamada, Chair of CSULB’s Department of Asian and Asian American Studies.

AROUND THE WORLD IN A WEEK

The U.S. Department of State and Department of Education sponsored the annual worldwide International Education Week (IEW) on November 14–18, 2016. The Center for International Education (CIE) collaborated with various campus entities to host activities that kicked off with an opening ceremony, which drew over 300 people to watch performances, share food, and engage with campus partners representing global cultures. The Confucius Institute sponsored an award-winning Tai Chi performer, the Arab Culture association hosted a performance of music and dance, and the Taiko Center of Los Angeles delivered a powerful display of Japanese percussion.

Lectures and presentations continued throughout the week, with partners including the International Students Association, Vietnamese Students Association, South Asian Student Association, the Peace Corps, Phi Beta Delta honor society, and the Linguistics Department.

Confucius Day participants in traditional costumes

Onlookers enjoy a performance by the Taiko Center of Los Angeles

A member of the Arab Culture association offers a language lesson
Education and Celebration Link CSULB with Vietnamese University

CCPE’s Dean, Dr. Jeet Joshee, is also the Associate Vice President of International Education and Global Engagement. In both roles, he travels abroad to connect the campus with an international community of partners in education, business, and government.

One significant collaboration has been with National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi, Vietnam, where Joshee visited on two occasions last fall. Along with Dr. Michael Solt, Dean of the College of Business Administration, Joshee arrived in Hanoi in August to mark ten years of the Advanced Educational Program, a partnership between NEU and CSULB that includes the exchange of faculty, students, and curriculum. It is designed to elevate the quality of NEU’s accounting and finance programs to U.S. standards. Joshee and Solt were welcomed back on November 9–14, this time to receive awards from the Vietnamese Ministry of Education for their contribution to the country’s educational development. The deans were accompanied by CSULB Provost Brian Jersky at NEU’s 60th Anniversary celebration, with the Vietnamese Prime Minister and Education Minister also attending.

During the visit, the institutions signed a 2+2 Program agreement, offering NEU students the chance to transfer to CSULB for the second two years of their bachelor’s degree. The first group of Vietnamese students is expected to arrive at CSULB in two years, with a target of 40–50 students per semester.

The deans were accompanied by CSULB Provost Brian Jersky at NEU’s 60th Anniversary celebration, with the Vietnamese Prime Minister and Education Minister also attending.

“In my view, it’s a sustainable, solid partnership between institutions,” said Joshee. “I anticipate more student and faculty exchanges as well, and look forward to the possibility of future collaborative projects.”

John P. Lyons  Continued from page 1
Service Officer and Program Director for the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Extension, including a Master of Arts Degree in Latin American and Iberian Studies.

“I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks for the support the CSULB community has given me,” said Lyons. “I have felt very welcomed and am impressed with the dedication and determination of the faculty, students, and staff at CCPE. I know our team can face whatever challenges and uncertainties that arise, and move to make every challenge a new opportunity as we confidently meet the future.”
CSULB’s Graduate Program in Sport Management sent a group of students to Japan this summer, providing an incredible education on the global reach of the athletics industry.

From July 20 to August 1, the 11 students were immersed in Sendai University’s programs for physical education, sports, and health science.

Located outside of Tokyo, Sendai has enjoyed a longstanding partnership with CSULB’s Center for International Education (CIE). Several groups of Sendai students have met during an exchange visit in Long Beach earlier this year.

Sendai’s program director Marty Kuehnert was joined by Hitoshi Furuya, CCPE Program Developer, who acted as a Japanese-speaking liaison between the CSULB and Sendai groups. The students’ busy schedule included historical site visits, lectures, and classes on sports administration as well as Japanese calligraphy and language. They also enjoyed local cuisine, took in soccer and baseball games, and explored Tokyo.

“Sendai was a culturally enriching trip,” said Sport Management student Ashley Hampton. “It has helped me see the world in a new light. Japan introduced me to a completely different culture of sports and competition. Definitely an experience of a lifetime!”

The accelerated Graduate Program in Sport Management allows students to earn a master’s degree while preparing for careers in professional, fitness, college and scholastic sports organizations; private businesses; community services; and academic institutions. While the program concentrates on American sports like baseball and soccer, Sendai exposed students to traditional Japanese martial arts such as sumo wrestling and kendo swordsmanship.

Peace Corps Continued from page 2

educating the community on environmental awareness, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS prevention, and English tutoring. Phung was equally educated about Ethiopian culture. After helping those in need, Phung shared some of the lessons he learned with CSULB students during November’s International Education Week, when he spoke as part of the International Careers Panel.

“We know that participating in study abroad helps develop skills and qualities that are desirable to employers,” said Graham. “But it’s something that students might not think about. They might think about study abroad as something to do because it’s cool, fun, and educational. But it also really prepares you for the workplace, and often it really changes your thinking about your career trajectory.”

This spring, Phung will be hosting several events on campus. For details, follow him on Facebook and Instagram @PeaceCorpsatCSULB.
Our partnership with the industry in designing those programs is what defines us and makes us unique.”

Much of the success of CITT can be traced to the leadership of its Emerita Executive Director, Marianne Venieris. During her tenure, Venieris created many partnerships and programs while earning respect across the goods movement industry.

The first of these major initiatives was the Global Logistics Specialist (GLS) program, which was launched in 1997. Reflecting on CITT’s origins, Venieris said, “I would argue that it was the GLS program and town halls that really put the university at the center of trade and transportation.”

The GLS program led to the development of other programs, including the Master of Arts in Global Logistics (MAGL). In response to changing demands in supply chain education, the MAGL program was later replaced by the Master of Science in Supply Chain Management. CITT’s educational offerings now include other programs such as the Marine Terminal Operations Professional Designation Program, and the Working and Living in a Port City seminar series.

CITT’s State of the Trade and Transportation Industry Town Hall events also blazed a trail in bridging the gap between employers and labor, by creating a constructive environment where all stakeholders could address issues of common concern. Initially, the meetings were designed to make sure that the rank and file members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) were included in any debate surrounding port growth in Long Beach. The late Dr. Dominick Miretti, CITT Policy and Steering Committee member and ILWU liaison to the ports, often encapsulated the CITT brand by saying that “we brought the university to the docks and the docks to the university.”

“We brought the university to the docks and the docks to the university.”

According to Executive Director Tom O’Brien, “CITT’s role really hasn’t changed, but the need for university-based education designed for the industry has increased.

The “College and Career Exploration” event in November 2015 brought hundreds of local high school students to campus to learn about CITT.

GLS students at the Port of Long Beach with retired GLS instructor Carolyn Martin (far left) and CITT Emerita Executive Director Marianne Venieris (far right).
Danish Study Abroad Students Make Connections Through CITT

This past November, CCPE’s Open University and the Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT) hosted a tour for Danish students from Study Abroad @The Beach. The students learned about the business of shipping and logistics beginning at the Port of Los Angeles, where they met Martin Cresmer, Manager of APM Terminals. The global trade and cargo transportation company has a network of over 20,000 professionals in 69 countries worldwide. “I saw a group of ambitious students, eager to take it all in,” said Cresmer. “I told the group that, in addition to the core technical competencies they were learning at CSULB, skills in leadership, decision-making, and personal interaction were key in being able to lead a team to success.”

The second stop, at the warehouse of leading freight forwarding company Shipco, featured a presentation entitled “Europeans Doing Business in California.” The discussion, highlighting business and cultural differences between the U.S. and Denmark, was held by Shipco representatives Gary Osterback, Vice President of the Pacific Region; and Mette Karapetian, Vice President of Global Accounts in North America, and instructor in CITT’s Global Logistics Specialist program.

While the students have a variety of undergraduate interests, the tour opened their eyes to the global connections made through supply chain management.

CCPE HELPS JOB SEEKERS WITH LAUNCH OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

“Where do you see yourself a year from now?” That’s a question that many job seekers ask themselves. Luckily, there’s a new way to help them find an answer.

The Workforce Development Apprenticeship is the first program of its kind in Southern California to provide training opportunities for employees to earn higher wages, better benefits, and more promotions. The collaboration includes multiple organizations: CSULB, CSULA, the California Workforce Association (CWA), the Department of Labor’s Apprenticeship-USA program, the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS), and Managed Career Solutions (MCS).

CCPE’s Professional Programs department helped launch the first class on January 24, with 40 students taught by industry professionals through lectures, group discussions, and on-the-job training.

For details, contact Program Developer Cindy Nathan at (562) 985-8839 or Cindy.Nathan@csulb.edu.
Middle East region, the organization I am employed with volunteered to donate fully-stocked ambulances and paramedics to train medical personnel in Syria,” explained Graham. “The pilot course is held in Turkey, as many of the medical personnel fled there, and have permits to travel back and forth. The goal is to train over 200 medical personnel over the next two years to be paramedic instructors, and establish a university-run paramedic program.”

Since the EMER program was developed specifically for working professionals, it was a perfect fit for Graham, helping him build the leadership skills he needed while on the job managing a community affected by disaster.

“Our key work right now is focusing on next-generation emergency management core competencies,” said Shirley Feldmann-Jensen, the Program Coordinator for the EMER program, which was launched in 2008. “Because our social structures have changed so much—with technologies, social networking, and a globalized system of emergency management—we need to train our students with new competencies.”

New challenges are always a part of emergency situations, and since the paramedic course is taught solely in Arabic, it requires Graham to teach with a translator. Meanwhile, Graham still has plenty of school work of his own to finish, as he’s also writing his EMER thesis and preparing to graduate later this year.

“Being a student in the EMER program has helped me gain credibility within the organization I currently am employed with,” Graham continued. “I have gained the confidence and real-world experience that is needed to move upward in the field of emergency management.”

Town Hall events received wide recognition in the goods movement industry, and have evolved to include a wide array of stakeholders interested in the relationship between the ports and the community.

Over the years, CITT has also partnered with organizations that have established endowments to encourage students pursuing careers in the industry. These funds have been provided by associations including the Los Angeles Transportation Club, the Harbor Transportation Club, and the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce.

Looking ahead, O’Brien said he sees multiple challenges and opportunities for CITT.

“We will do more programs that are targeted at a specific audience,” he said. “We are also going to do more work at the beginning of the logistics educational pipeline, because our industry partners see value in getting young people excited about this industry as a career.” CITT will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary with a variety of events and programs in 2017.