



Newsletter Spring 2015

Cetana Educational Foundation cetana.org
200 West 10th. Street, New York, NY 10014

Native English-Speaking Teachers Part of Cetana Program



Amy Kaufman

For the last three years, **Amy Kaufman**, a South Dakota native, has been an important part of Cetana's teaching program. From the start, Amy's innovative spirit has enthused Cetana teachers and students. Her contributions include improving the curriculum, and launching a series of classes that have grown into our newly-launched **Cetana Career Academy** Training course that is popular with English teachers from both private and public schools. We are indebted to the Mennonite Central Committee for supporting Amy's work.

Cetana's new Career Academy presents courses for professional development and preparation for post-secondary students who plan to continue their studies, either in-country or abroad. Our Business English courses can be adapted to specific interests such as communications, tourism and travel. The academy's Young Learners program teaches English to kids during school holidays.

The academy also features periodic workshops led by English language teachers from abroad. Our first workshop, presented in April, was **English Onstage**, an inventive approach to learning English through theater and storytelling that was directed by Joshua McCarey.

Amy's work and the launch of the Academy, point to the value of having native English-speaking teachers available for students. Cetana is so convinced of the value of having a second native English-speaking teachers that we are asking our loyal donors to contribute to this effort. The cost for engaging a native English-speaking teacher is around \$30,000 per year.

We at Cetana hope you will contribute to this initiative for a second native speaker teacher to bring clear, unaccented English into our classrooms.

American Students Intern at Cetana



Two students from Centre College in Kentucky will spend a month with our students in Yangon, Kyaing Tong and Pathein, helping them with conversational English. This pilot program is the first phase of what we hope will develop into a yearly program. Through structured conversation workshops and social interaction, the American students will help their Myanmar counterparts develop an “ear” for colloquial English.

En Nay Thaw and Siera Hanks

The two Centre College freshmen - **Eh Nay Thaw** and **Siera Hanks** -are particularly suited to be Cetana’s first American interns. Eh Nay Thaw was born in Myanmar and at the age of two years fled with his family to a refugee camp in Thailand. In high school in the US he built an impressive record of volunteering, including as an interpreter and tutor to newly-arrived Karen refugees who lacked English language skills. Eh Nay Thaw is highly motivated. He “hopes that one day I will be able to return to Myanmar and share my knowledge with those that have not had the opportunity and experiences that they deserve.”

Siera Hanks is headed for a career in international affairs. She, too, has been active in volunteer activities both on-campus and with immigrant and refugee communities in Louisville. Siera says, “I see this internship as both a continuation of my current efforts and studies, and as a path to further experiences and opportunities. This experience will support my future work within the immigrant and ESL community of Louisville.”

Cetana is proud to have these talented and committed students as our first interns. We want to thank Centre College for sponsoring this internship and Kyle Anderson, Professor of Asian Studies and a Cetana Board member for his assistance in arranging for this program. It is truly a gift to the students at Cetana learning centers.

This is definitely a two-way street, with our young interns learning about conditions and opportunities in a far flung country and our Cetana students enhancing their English and expanding their knowledge about customs in other parts of the world.

Conversation plays an important part in the curriculum at the Cetana Learning Centers for practice in speaking , listening, an exercising critical thinking.



DAWEI LEARNING CENTER

Preparations are underway to launch a third regional center - in Dawei - later this year. The center's director will be Saw Lu Bwe Doh (Chris) who is an accomplished teacher at Cetana Academic Program in English. He is eager to boost the educational resources in Dawei, his hometown.

Students at the learning center in Dawei will be residents of the town as well as young people who come from families in the villages that surround Dawei. Tuition will be modest so that financial considerations will not affect decisions to enroll in the center's English language classes. Construction of a deep-water port and related economic activity is expected to create jobs in the international sector where a mastery of English is required.



Village Students' Boarding House



Dawei's Popular Food Market

"Yesterday was my birthday and my wish was that Amy would come back."

Student in a business English class taught by the Cetana American English teacher at an engineering firm in Yangon



*Today's youth ... tomorrow's leaders.
HELP US build Myanmar's future.*

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