



PHOENIX
Sister Cities

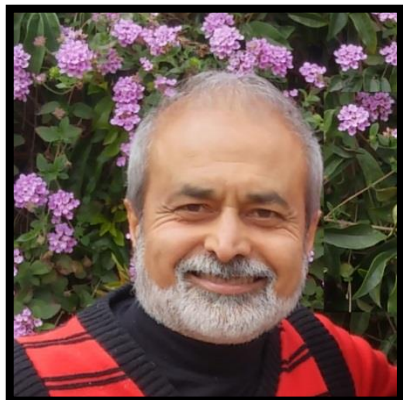
Discovery Changes Everything.

presents

Teach Abroad - Himeji
2017 Participants



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Anil Solanky is currently a supervisor at the Phoenix Police Department Crime Laboratory and will be retiring this year after 36 years in the Forensic Science profession. He has a loving wife and two children who are in post graduate school. Throughout his personal and career life he has been intimately exposed to various cultures of the world. Having been born and raised in Zimbabwe, Africa to Indian parents. After graduating high school he attended college and graduate school in England, UK where he ultimately received a Master's in Medicinal Chemistry. In 1983, he immigrated to New Jersey, USA and continued his career in forensics, which he started in Zimbabwe, with the NJ State Police. He moved to Arizona in 1995 where he worked at the AZ State Police and Phoenix PD

Crime Laboratories. His passion for discovering other cultures and travelling has taken him to countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. In USA he has visited over 30 states and travelled extensively in Arizona hosting friends and family from abroad. However having a close Japanese friend, he always yearned to visit Japan and personally experience their rich history, culture, and traditions. He has been teaching at his temple Sunday school for the last 20 years which he finds very rewarding. The incredible creativity and eagerness to learn that many children inherently possess never ceases to amaze him. He is looking forward to opening a new chapter in his life by sharing his established career experience, globally diverse background and years working with children to serve them and the community of Himeji.



Jeremy Clifford spent the first eighteen years of his life down in the lowlands of Arizona before relocating to Prescott and completing an Associate's Degree. Motivated by a deep appreciation for literature, Jeremy transferred to Northern Arizona University to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in English. However, he soon changed his focus after taking his first course in linguistics. Linguistics appeals to him because of its theoretical approach to languages and its focus on improving communication among speakers of different languages. Through the university, he tutored ESL students and underperforming children from public schools in Flagstaff

before applying to teach abroad with Phoenix Sister Cities. He plans to eventually attend graduate school and pursue his research interests in language and linguistics. Jeremy loves to spend time reading, especially philosophy, history, and literature. He collects more books than he could ever hope to read in a single lifetime. He also enjoys riding his bicycle, hiking, and watching films. He feels incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work as an Assistant Language Teacher in Himeji. Japan will undoubtedly afford him many opportunities to experience the country's fascinating cultural and religious history. He hopes to encourage his future students to view themselves as global citizens and to improve their ability to communicate with english speaking people around the world.

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Nick Giannini grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and moved to Tucson in 2012 to start his higher education at the University of Arizona. He is currently an Instructional Specialist at the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning in Tucson. Nick graduated from the University of Arizona in July, 2016 with a B.S. in Literacy, Learning, and Leadership with an English minor. His focus is on informal education of elementary students. He first found his love for educating as a preceptor for a Biology 101 lab at the U of A, and soon after found his love for working with elementary school students by teaching at various summer camps. Nick has worked as a lead at a student-run restaurant, an instructor for a summer sports camp and STEM Rocketry camp, lead instructor at Arizona Youth University for various STEM related summer camps, and played a

key role on a 100% Engagement grant that created a handbook for community organizations hosting University of Arizona volunteers and interns. hopes to improve his experience as an informal educator and to learn about and appreciate the wonders of the Sonoran Desert. Nick is ready to bring his experience to the classroom, develop his professional skills, and expand his social and cultural outlook.



Stephanie Nevitt was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, with her parents, younger brother, and a pack of much cuter, four-legged siblings. From a young age, she had an interest in Japanese pop culture from video games to anime, but the spark of that interest was the animated film *Kiki's Delivery Service*. This, plus her lifelong passion for feminism and complex female protagonists in media, resulted in her undergraduate honors thesis on famous Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki and his depiction of women in his films. In the summer following the devastating Fukushima earthquake, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Hiroshima, Japan, where she saw the juxtaposition of disasters past and present. Now she hopes to

experience the brightness of the future in the city of Himeji, sustaining the long friendship between them and her own beloved home. She graduated from Barrett the Honors College at Arizona State University with a degree in Japanese and the goal of working in International Relations. Teaching with the Phoenix Sister Cities is a dream come true and the first step in her career of building strong international bonds across all borders.

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Clayton Wilkins was born February 17, 1987 in Dallas, Texas. He spent the majority of his childhood years living in various rural areas of the American Midwest in places such as Illinois and Nebraska with his parents and younger sister. Both sides of his family heavily feature farmers, but always felt that he wanted to leave home to travel across the world. At the age of 21 he enlisted in the United States Army and subsequently deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from Iraq, his unit was given leave which he and a friend spent in Tokyo, Japan. He would tell you that looking at Shinjuku for the first time was love at first sight. This began an interest in Japanese language and culture that he pursues today. He is currently completing a degree in Japanese language studies at Arizona State University. When he is not studying, he spends his time engaging in fitness, participating in the exchange and international student community at ASU, and lovingly tending to his garden. Due to

his love of nature, he cannot wait to see Japan's famous bamboo forests and hopes to have a bonsai tree of his own.



A 2016 graduate of Arizona State University, **Zacary Zamora** was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona and is a proud Sun Devil. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences, Zac works as an academic advisor at Rio Salado Community College. While at ASU, Zac participated as a senior undergraduate researcher with the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development- IMSD Program in the Cadillo Lab, studying Nitrous Oxide emissions in the Amazon. Always seeking out opportunities to learn about new traditions, languages and cultures, Zac traveled as much as possible during his college career including visits to Hong Kong, Thailand, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. He enjoys exploring

languages and has studied Spanish and German and learned some Korean as he participated as an English teacher to middle and high school students in South Korea through the University of Arizona South Korean Jeollanamdo English Camp Program. Facilitating dialogue between his culture and other cultures is one of Zac's greatest interests and joys. Besides traveling, Zac enjoys all types of outdoor activities, baseball, dancing and music. His eventual educational and career goals include combining his interest in Biological Sciences and his passion for teaching by pursuing a PhD in Biology and Higher Education. Zac is excited to expand his teaching abroad experiences through the Phoenix Sister Cities Teach Abroad Program.



Julia Daley (ASE) attended Northern Arizona University and received her Bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education. Julia was accepted into the Phoenix Sister Cities Teach Abroad program as an ALT in 2013 and was beyond thrilled at the opportunity. Upon arrival in Himeji, Julia was quick to realize that while she had plenty of experience in teaching students about literary classics, she'd never had to teach students their ABC's before.

After two years of fumbling around in the pedagogical dark, Julia promised herself that she would return to Arizona and further her own education in the arts of language teaching.

Fortunately, Julia was accepted into NAU's MA-TESL (Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language) program. In addition to her studies, Julia currently works for the Composition Department as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, where she both teaches composition and serves as a Writing Assistant Supervisor at the University Writing Commons. Julia is honored to be the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. Julia looks forward to this amazing opportunity of once more returning to Himeji. This time, she hopes to be better prepared for the unique challenges that Japanese students have to offer."