Establishing lasting peace is the work of education. Maria Montessori

Graduation 2015

See what your support of ISP has made possible!

Eight ISP students finished their undergraduate studies in May and June 2015:

- **Sarab Shada**, Loyola University, Chicago, with a BA in Elementary Education.
- **Anas Anees**, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL, with a BA in Psychology, and a BA in Human Resource Management, with minors in Business Studies and International Business.
- **Mohammed Al-Ani**, Tufts University, Medford MA, with a BA in Finance and Accounting.
- **Saif Al-Saegh**, University of Great Falls, MT, with a BS in Business Administration and a minor in Political Science.
- **Mimoon Alwash**, from Worcester Poly Institute, MA, with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and an MS in Material Science Engineering.
- **Hasan Ali**, Whitman College, Walla Walla WA, with a degree in Politics.
- **Mustafa Mahmood**, Gonzaga University, Spokane WA, with a BS in Civil Engineering.
- **Ziad Al-Shamsie**, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH, with a BA in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics.

See what your support of ISP is accomplishing? Our students are fully aware of how you have altered their lives and given them opportunities they could only dream of four years ago!

Please give generously in response to our Fall appeal. Your donations to ISP are fully tax-deductible. Click the CROWDRISE button ➔
Eight New Seniors: The final ISP class

Eight ISP students have entered their senior year of college. Six will graduate in May 2016, and two will graduate in December 2016.

Top L to R: Taleen Dilanyan, Smith College, Northampton MA, Safana Alomary DePaul University, Chicago IL, Mustafa Hmood Christian Brothers University, Memphis TN, Riyam Al-Karkokliy Regis University, Denver CO.

Bottom L to R: Huda Al-Sammarraie Berea College, Berea KY, Awss Dabe Lewis University, Romeoville IL, Rand Zalzala Oberlin College, Oberlin OH, Ahmed Al-Dulaimi Fontbonne University, St. Louis MO.

Academic Excellence Award for Ahmed Al-Dulaimi

Ahmed Al-Dulaimi (Fontbonne University, St. Louis MO) ended his junior year at Fontbonne with a special commendation for academic excellence. Ahmed is pursuing a degree in Global Studies, which requires interdisciplinary work in History, Philosophy, and Religion. We are very proud of Ahmed’s achievement and wish him every success as he continues to excel on his path toward the Bachelor’s Degree.

Lamentation and Hope

Nearly a quarter-million people have died in Syria’s conflict since it began in March 2011

ISP graduate Ahmed Alazawi responds to the Syrian conflict:

“Having sought refuge with my family in Syria from the violence that ravaged my father’s country [Iraq], it is absolutely unimaginable for me to fathom this reality. I am beyond saddened to read this statistic. Damascus was the most peaceful city I have ever lived in. I have no words to say how I feel about this. My heart goes out to the families and the innocent souls that have been lost back at home.

What I do have words for, however, is that we shall maintain our humanity, we shall stand on our feet once again, we shall dust off this storm and continue moving forward and overcoming our troubles. History will tell the tale of my home as a story of human resilience and perseverance, not as a story of hate and violence. If there’s anything we know how to do best, it
is to survive, to smile, and to stand strong in the face of hate. We shall continue this journey and no matter what is happening, hope will not be lost.”

The Refugee Crisis has been in all our thoughts and hearts recently.

A few days ago, Ahmed shared the following on his Facebook page: “When you think about the refugee crisis keep this poem in mind” –

HOME
by Warsan Shire

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city
running as well
your neighbors running faster than you
breath bloody in their throats
the boy you went to school with
who kissed you dizzy behind the
old tin factory
is holding a gun bigger than his
body
you only leave home
when home won’t let you stay.
no one leaves home unless home
chases you
fire under feet
hot blood in your belly
it’s not something you ever
thought of doing
until the blade burnt threats into
your neck
and even then you carried the
anthem under
your breath
only tearing up your passport in an
airport toilets
sobbing as each mouthful of paper
made it clear that you wouldn’t be
going back.
you have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a
boat
unless the water is safer than the
land
no one burns their palms
under trains
beneath carriages

no one spends days and nights in
the stomach of a truck
feeding on newspaper unless the
miles travelled
means something more than
journey.
no one crawls under fences
no one wants to be beaten
pitted
no one chooses refugee camps
or strip searches where your
body is left aching
or prison,
because prison is safer
than a city of fire
and one prison guard
in the night
is better than a truckload
of men who look like your father
no one could take it
no one could stomach it
no one skin would be tough
enough
the
go home blacks
refugees
dirty immigrants
asylum seekers
sucking our country dry
niggers with their hands out
they smell strange
savage
messed up their country and now
they want
to mess ours up
how do the words
the dirty looks
roll off your backs
maybe because the blow is softer
than a limb torn off

or the words are more tender
than fourteen men between
your legs
or the insults are easier
to swallow
than rubble
than bone
than your child body
in pieces.
i want to go home,
but home is the mouth of a shark
home is the barrel of the gun
and no one would leave home
unless home chased you to the
shore
unless home told you
to quicken your legs
leave your clothes behind
crawl through the desert
wade through the oceans
drown
save
be hunger
beg
forget pride
your survival is more important
no one leaves home until home is
a sweaty voice in your ear
saying-
leave,
run away from me now
i don’t know what i’ve become
but i know that anywhere
is safer than here

Warsan Shire is a Somali-British writer, poet, editor and teacher.
We’re Planning a Reunion . . . and Looking toward the Future!

The current Senior Class will graduate in 2016. Because of the instability in Iraq and Syria, they will be the final class to graduate from ISP. In 2012 we were forced to close our recruitment and training center in Damascus, where sixty-four Iraqi students were prepared for undergraduate programs in the United States. A host of volunteers in Damascus and the US—and forty-eight US colleges and universities—made our mission possible until the conflicts in Syria made it impossible.

To celebrate the struggles and successes we have shared over the past eight years, we are planning a reunion for all sixty-four ISP students and the extraordinary people who helped them achieve their goals. During that gathering we will consider how the ISP Alumni and Friends might become a powerful group in their own right—to “pay it forward” and continue to work for peace and justice.

Watch for updates in our next newsletter about this much-anticipated gathering in the Chicago area next summer. We ask you to continue to sustain us—and our final senior class—during the coming year as you have done so generously in the past.

Click here to donate ➔

We depend heavily on donations from those who see the value in our mission. Please give generously.

Gratefully, in the name of peace,

Robert L. Rosser, Ph.D.
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PS. If you prefer not to donate online, checks may be mailed to the address above. Thank you!

Consider a Gift of Stocks

Donations of stock bring significant tax benefits to the donor. To make the process of gifting stocks easy and cost effective, ISP maintains an account with Stifel Nicolaus & Co. Our practice is to convert such gifts to cash. If a gift of this type is appropriate for you, we invite you or your financial manager to initiate a transfer of stock using the following account information:

Stifel's DTC number is: 0793
ISP's account number is: 66506526
ISP's federal tax identification number (EIN) is: 26-1356230

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