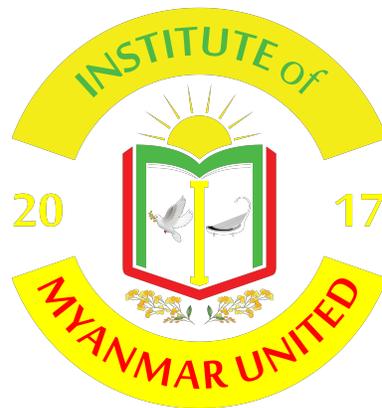


**Report Summary, 2019**  
**IMU's Support of State University of New York, Buffalo State's**  
**Myanmar Program**

**Prepared by John F. Cabra**



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York



## **State University of New York, Buffalo State's Myanmar Program**

The Myanmar program is led by the International Center for Studies in Creativity (ICSC). As the first and oldest degree-granting program in the science of creativity in the world, the foundation of the ICSC dates back to Alex Osborn's seminal work in creativity education in the 1940s and 1950s. Osborn, the developer of brainstorming and the originator of the Creative Problem Solving Process, saw the need for a more creative and innovative trend in American business and education. It was his vision and dream that eventually led to the establishment of the ICSC in 1967. The program works in concert with the IMU by sponsoring experts to accompany students in supporting their extended learning.

Below, I list each cohort member's accomplishments.

### Maureen

Maureen is a School of Education Educational Leadership graduate student. She has many years working in U.S. school systems providing vocational training.

- With Jeremy Brewster (another cohort member), Maureen facilitated a Creative Problem Solving session for the Prospect Burma foundation. This foundation supports the education of over 1,300 Myanmar students and enables them to qualify as nurses, public health workers, teachers, journalists, engineers, human rights specialists, lawyers, and much more. They also support English language courses inside Myanmar to enable more students to gain admission to higher education courses abroad. Prospect Burma has expressed interest in partnering with our program.
- Delivered a 5-hour training for the National League for Democracy (NLD) Education Network Headquarters. Twenty-five NLD Education Network teachers were trained in the Torrance Incubation Teaching Model.
- Delivered a 5-hour training on 21st Century Skills/Creativity Skills for 25 students of age 16 to 26 years old at the Kyaukdatar Amay Saytanar School, which is a NLD Educational Network vocational school.
- Delivered a 3-hour training on 21st Century Skills/Creativity Skills for the Shwepyitthar Suu vocational school. Twenty-five students of age 16 to 26 years old were in attendance.
- Delivered a 5-hour training on 21st Century Skills/Creativity Skills for the Lanmadaw vocational school for 25 students of age 16 to 26 years old.
- Delivered a 3½-hour training on 21st Century Skills/Creativity Skills for the Kyaemyindir vocational school for 15 students of age 16 to 26 years old.
- Maureen plans on developing curriculum for a new school. She has plans to return.
- Maureen and Nicole Sandretto (another cohort member) visited a school for the blind to create a potential new partner.
- Co-delivered activity sessions for children at the Sat Sat Yo Village totaling 2 hours.
- Maureen expressed interest in returning to Myanmar next year as a friend of the program director and would pay all her costs out-of-pocket.

Maureen's Total Hours of training delivered: **25 hours**

### Jeremy

- Jeremy is a Multidisciplinary major and a thrice-returning student to Myanmar. Jeremy designed, coordinated, and led the cohort through activity and art-based stations for children at the Sat Sat Yo Village. The village is located near the ancient city of Bagan, and children are known for an ancient hairstyle called Sanyitwine. The activity stations were well received. The total number of hours were 2 hours
- Created a 5-day art program that taught art skills and weaved art with art therapy for our community partner, the Free Funeral Service Society (FFSS). The number of training hours totaled 25 hours. The FFSS has grown to include free hospital care, free ambulatory services, and free vocational training for middle and high school students. In attendance were folks from the community. The program was well received. Not one person missed a day. Many were thankful and moved by the experience. Many years of military oppression, coupled with a society that does not encourage the show of emotions, makes it difficult for people to express their emotions. The art program provided a therapeutic platform for participants to express their feelings through art. The program will be delivered and grown next year. Jeremy is seeking to return for his fourth trip to Myanmar to run this program.
- Along with Maureen (another cohort member), Jeremy facilitated a Creative Problem Solving session for the Prospect Burma foundation. The session totaled 2 hours.
- Jeremy expressed interest in returning to Myanmar next year as a friend of the program director and would pay all his costs out-of-pocket. I am also working on having Jeremy join my department as an adjunct to lead the program in the Spring Semester.

Jeremy's Total Hours of training delivered: **28 hours**

### Nicole

- Nicole is a School of Education major, and now an alumna of its graduate program. She designed and delivered an English as a Second Language efficacy study for a Monastery school, which is located in one of the most impoverished townships in Yangon. Her study did result in observable improvements stemming from her activities. The number of hours was 5. However, more hours will come from her research analysis as part of her research assignment.
- Co-delivered activity sessions for children at the Sat Sat Yo Village totaling 2 hours
- Supported Jeremy's art program with 10 hours of work.

Nicole's Total Hours of training delivered: **17 hours**

### Rutha

- Rutha is an undergraduate in the School of Education's ESL program. She ran English lessons for middle school students at a monastery school located in one of the most impoverished townships in Yangon. The total of hours is 15.
- Co-delivered activity sessions for children at the Sat Sat Yo Village totaling 2 hours

Rutha's Total Hours of training delivered: **17 hours**

### Myo Thant

- Myo Thant led a Creative Problem Solving workshop for the US Embassy. A group of 25 aspiring leaders completed the one-day, 3-hour workshop. The workshop was well received and we were asked to return to Myanmar to train leaders in the city of Mandalay, which is north of Yangon. We will return in January to deliver these workshops.
- Myo Thant also delivered 2 workshops on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to teachers in the National League for Democracy Education Network. The total number of hours was 16.
- He also participated in activity sessions for children at the Sat Sat Yo Village. The activity stations were well received. The total number of hours were 2 hours

Myo Thant's Total Hours of training delivered: **21 hours**

### Mental Health Awareness

- An activity was presented to the FFSS using the Motivational Interviewing Personal Value Card Sort. Each individual learned about values categorizing 88 values into most important to him or her, and not important at all. Based on this categorization, artwork was created based on top 5 most important values.

**A total of 108 hours of training was achieved in less than three weeks time.**