The Monterey Institute’s Global Alumni Network

The Monterey Institute is the hub of one of the most unique and far-flung alumni networks in the world today. Thanks to both the Institute’s diverse student body and its penchant for graduating future leaders in a variety of international fields, the so-called “Monterey mafia” can be found working for governments, non-governmental organizations, private businesses and public concerns in every corner of the globe. As Institute leaders often remind our graduates, “there is no secret handshake, and the only agenda is to leave the world a better, safer, and more harmonious place than you found it.” But there is a genuine camaraderie born of mutual respect for the rigors of the Institute’s programs and the commitment our alumni share to making a difference.

The list that follows offers a small but representative cross-section of positions held in recent years by the Monterey Institute’s thousands of remarkable alumni.

**International Organizations and NGOs**

**Agroforestry and Livelihoods**
Program Manager, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program, Morobe, Papua New Guinea.

**Chief, Language Section, Department of Conferences and Meeting Management, Organization of American States, Washington, DC.**

**Conference Interpreter, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium.**

**Coordinator, Public Security Programme, Latin America & the Caribbean, UN Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development, Lima, Peru.**

**Deputy Director for Risk Management and Global Security, International Relief & Development, Arlington, VA.**

**Head of Interpretation, International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, Switzerland.**

**Head, Asian Languages Section, PCT Translation Service, World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.**

**Nonproliferation Strategy Analyst, Department of Safeguards, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria.**

**Senior Coordinator, Interpretation and Translation Unit, Court Management Section, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.**

---

**Anna Cummins (MAIEP ’02)**

*Education Advisor, Algalita Marine Research Foundation*  
*Co-founder, 5 Gyres Institute*  
*Long Beach, California, USA*

- Through her studies at MIIS, received a fellowship with Santa Cruz-based nonprofit Save Our Shores that led to her focus on the growing problem of plastics debris polluting our oceans.
- With her husband Dr. Marcus Eriksen, co-founded the JunkRaft and JunkRide projects to raise awareness about the now-famous Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and brought evidence to the international press in 2010 confirming the existence of a similar “plastic soup” patch in the North Atlantic.

**Pablo Chang-Castillo (MAT ‘01, MACI ‘02)**

*Co-Owner, Chang-Castillo & Associates, LLC*  
*Paris, France*

- Born in Nicaragua, grew up in the U.S., and studied in France; operates independent translation and interpretation business
- “The friendships I made at MIIS opened many doors for me… Now I am the one opening doors for MIIS graduates and that gives me great joy.”

**Edward “Edo” Forsythe (MATFL ’06)**

*Lecturer, English and Cultural Studies, Hirosaki Gakuin University*  
*Hirosaki, Japan*

- Taught languages (principally Russian) in the U.S. Navy before retiring in March 2010 to move to Japan (where he was stationed for 12 years) to teach English.
- Values relationships he forged with MIIS professors: “I just know that I can always look to my former professors for help if I need it.”
Donna Stefano (MPA ‘94)
Program Director, CHF International
Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine
- Spent nearly two decades working for the United Nations, Save the Children, the United Methodist Committee for Relief, and CHF International in many of the world’s most volatile countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Yemen.
- Highly recommends the MPA program at MIIS: “I can whole-heartedly say that is the most practical degree for this kind of work.” She gives a special nod to Professor Beryl Levinger for her non-profit management class, saying it was “so spot-on.”

Joshua Ramey-Renk (MBA ‘02)
Director, Talent Acquisition and Development
Sierra Club
- Has experience working in both the corporate world and the non-profit sector. Credits MIIS for great academic foundation and “fantastic multi-national and intercultural interaction” that has proved invaluable to advancing his career.
- Believes strongly that “we are all responsible for developing and maintaining the MIIS alumni brand and networks,” and frequently interacts with current students seeking advice.

Wanna Sukasriboonamphai (MAIPS ’05)
Harvest Program Manager
Institute of International Education
Bangkok, Thailand
- Three years after graduating, was managing an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) cyclone relief operation in Burma (Myanmar), overseeing 40 staff members and 60 field workers.
- “Luckily, I learned a lot about nonverbal communication in my crosscultural communications class at MIIS, and so in meetings I was often able to read [Burmese officials’] intentions by looking at their eyes and watching their arm and hand movements.”

Tarana Patel (MATESOL ’01)
Education Development Advisor
S. K. Campus of the Nootan Education Group
Gujarat, India
- Tarana Patel recently founded LearnEd, Inc., through which she strives to create customized English development and teacher training experiences in Gujarat. In her position with the Nootan Education Group she runs short-term English programs for students and faculty.
- “I realized that teaching languages was what I wanted to do in life... The education I got at MIIS gave me a real advantage.”

Staff Interpreter, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY.

Government
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, New York, NY.
Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba, Government of Canada, Havana, Cuba.
Director, Europe/Middle East Affairs, Executive Office of the President, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Washington, DC.
Executive Officer to the Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Washington, DC.

Private Sector
Director, Academic Language Research & Training, Arlington, VA.
Managing Director, Asia Pacific Growth Segment, HSBC Private Bank, Hong Kong, China.
General Manager, Microplace, San Jose, CA.
Practice Leader, Sustainability and Environment, Health and Safety, TRASYS, Brussels, Belgium.
Senior Markets Campaigner for Greenpeace, co-founder of Tataki Sushi Bar, and author of Sustainable Sushi, San Francisco, CA.

Assistant Professor, Conference Interpretation, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA.
Dean and Professor of Applied Linguistics, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan.

Professor, Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, Portland, OR.
Professor (Associate), MATESOL Program, English Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.

Education
Chair, Environmental Studies Program and Professor of English, Davidson College, NC.

Assistant Professor, Conference Interpretation, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA.
Dean and Professor of Applied Linguistics, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan.

Professor, Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, Portland, OR.
Professor (Associate), MATESOL Program, English Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.

Assistant Professor, Conference Interpretation, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA.
Dean and Professor of Applied Linguistics, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan.

Professor, Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, Portland, OR.
Professor (Associate), MATESOL Program, English Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.