

Meet the Access Academy Team



The Access Academy's leaders and teachers are dedicated to helping students realize their potential and develop the skills necessary to succeed at the university – and beyond.



Mrs. Zarina Hossain, Interim Dean of the Access Academy

Mrs. Zarina Hossain has been working with AUW since its inception in Chittagong. Mrs. Hossain is an architect by training with a Master's in Urban Design and Planning, and has also taught at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. During her time at AUW, she has worked on the building designs as well as in student recruitment and admissions.



Dr. Judith Engle

Dr. Engle is from the U.S. but had a multinational upbringing. She has a Ph.D. from Princeton University in Classical Philology and a BA *summa cum laude* from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She has served on the faculties of Pomona College, University of Southern California, University of Oregon, and Western Michigan University. She has also worked as an education consultant to Apple's K-12 Division and as a Certified Financial Planner® at Citigroup. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Dr. Engle walked 1,800 miles on the Appalachian Trail last year. Dr. Engle teaches English Grammar and does Academic Advising at the Access Academy.



Ms. Anna Ellis, WorldTeach Field Director for Bangladesh

Ms. Ellis, who is from Minnesota, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BA in 20th century American History. She was a WorldTeach volunteer in the Marshall Islands. She studied abroad in Italy, and has traveled in Europe, Central America and the Pacific. She teaches English in addition to administering the WorldTeach program.



Ms. Carly Brunswick

Ms. Brunswick is from Australia. She graduated from Monash University with a BA in International Development, with minors in French and Spanish. She has worked as a teacher with disadvantaged youth in Melbourne, Australia. She was an exchange student in Mexico, and participated in a community development trip to South Africa. She has traveled in Egypt, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Fiji, Italy and Mozambique. She teaches English and Composition.



Ms. Jill Davis

Ms. Davis is from Ohio. She graduated from Ohio State University with a BA in Fine Arts. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. She was an English Curriculum Coordinator and ESL teacher in South India following the tsunami. She has taught in Ohio public schools. She's traveled extensively in South and Central America, Europe, and Africa, Fiji and New Zealand. She teaches English, Composition, and Math.



Ms. Augustina Delaney

Ms. Delaney graduated from Seattle University with a BS in the Honors Biology program. She has been a ski and snowboard instructor, a camp director, a biology teaching assistant, an ESL teaching assistant, and she has worked at a children's regional medical center as a volunteer and research assistant. She teaches English, English literature, and Math.



Ms. Brenna Foster

Ms. Foster was born in Nashville, Tennessee. She went to Tulane University in New Orleans, where she majored in English Literature. She spent last year teaching English in Himeji, Japan. She will be teaching Literature as well as Reading and Writing at the Access Academy.

**Ms. Laura Beth Giles**

Ms. Giles is from Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated with a degree in History and French from Vassar College in 2007, where she was a volunteer ESL tutor for francophone children. She spent the 2007-8 school year as an English Teaching Assistant for primary school students in Poitiers, France. She spent the summer before going to Bangladesh volunteering as an ESL facilitator with a group of elder refugees through Catholic Charities of Tennessee. She teaches Literature and Academic Reading and Writing.

**Ms. Nicole Gruel**

Ms. Gruel is from Sydney, Australia. She has a BA in Communications (social inquiry) and International Studies, and in French. She has a graduate diploma in TESOL. In addition, she has a Master's in International and Community Development. She is Myers-Briggs Type Indicator accredited. Ms. Gruel has 3 years of ESL teaching experience for a private language school with secondary exchange school students. For 2 years she was the program coordinator for a regional branch. She was an Oxfam International Youth Partnership program volunteer. She has traveled in Asia, Europe, North Africa, and Central America. She teaches English and Literature.

**Ms. Katherine Houseman**

Ms. Houseman is from Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Pennsylvania where she studied Cultural Anthropology for her BA. She has a TEFL certificate, and has studied at the Lingual Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Houseman has been the Director of Marketing for an Apple computer specialist. She was a volunteer ESL teacher and tutor. She has traveled in Europe and Southeast Asia. She teaches English and Composition.

**Ms. Nancy Ko**

Ms. Ko is from San Jose, California. She studied Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley for her BA. She was a Peace Corps volunteer to the South American country of Guyana where she taught remedial reading and English. She has written and published a book of poetry, "Wings to Fly." She teaches Composition and English.

**Ms. Mahmuda Koli**

Ms. Koli is from New Jersey, in the USA, but she was born in Bangladesh and lived there until her early 'teens. She has a BA in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting and International Business from Montclair State University. She has tutored college students in math and personal finance, and worked as a substitute teacher in public schools. She has worked as a staff accountant. Ms. Koli teaches Computers and Math.

**Ms. Amy Lam**

Ms. Lam attended California State University, Northridge, where she received a BA in Journalism, with a minor in Women's Studies. Ms. Lam was also a WorldTeach volunteer in Hunan, China, where she taught English to middle and high school students. She was an ESL Adult school instructor for Portland's Met family program. She was a high school English tutor for struggling students and a university English tutor for freshmen. She has worked as a freelance writer and graphic designer. Ms. Lam teaches English and Literature.

**Ms. Kate Meehan**

Ms. Meehan is from Virginia, in the USA. She studied International Affairs and Afro-American/African studies for her BA at the University of Virginia. While there she was a freshman resident advisor. She had a minor in Global Culture and Commerce. Ms. Meehan has done research and volunteer work in Gulu, northern Uganda. She studied abroad in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. She has travel in South America, Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia. Ms. Meehan teaches English and Literature.

**Ms. Selena Pang**

Ms. Pang is from Hawaii, USA. She was born in Bangkok, Thailand, and attended international schools in Asia and South America. She attended Carleton College in Minnesota where she received a BA in Geology.

She was president of the Carleton women in math and science club, and also a geology teaching assistant while at school. Ms. Pang has been a math tutor. She teaches English, computers, and math.



Ms. Angela Saunders

Ms. Saunders is from Ontario, Canada. She attended the University of Guelph where she obtained a BA in International Development with an area of emphasis in Biophysical Geography. She had a minor in sociology. Ms. Saunders was a WorldTeach volunteer in the Marshall Islands. She has had teaching and educational experience in high schools, and has worked with sports and extracurricular activities. She has traveled in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Ms. Saunders teaches English and computers.



Ms. Cindy Sobieski

Ms. Sobieski is from Ohio. She graduated from Cornell University with a BA in Biology & Society and a minor in Nutrition. She worked in Doha, Qatar as a Psychology teaching assistant at Weill Cornell Medical College. She has traveled in the Middle East and South Asia. She teaches English Literature.



Ms. Jennifer Thompson

Ms. Thompson is from West Virginia, USA. She attended New York University, where she majored in International Relations with minors in Sociology and Russian language. She was a volunteer ESL teacher with Women for Afghan Women in New York City and also worked with the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program. She studied abroad in the Czech Republic and has traveled throughout Europe, Russia, and Indonesia. She teaches English and Composition.

