

# VOICE OF SPRING

*Spring International Language Center, Littleton and Denver, Colorado  
May 2016*

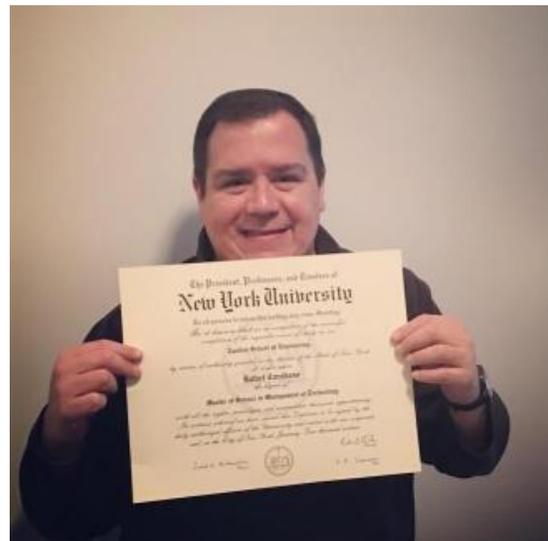
## Spring Alums Reach Goal: University Graduation



Khiria Ali, Spring grad in 2014, fulfills many roles: graduate student, wife and mother of two sons, and office worker at Spring International. Her success in balancing these obligations was recognized when Khiria received her life-long dream of higher education, a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado Denver.

As speaker at the Spring Term graduation in May, Khiria inspired other international students with words of wisdom that have come from her hard work and persistence. "The many struggles and hardships that Khiria had to, and continues to, face here in the United States have made her a stronger person who accepts life's challenges with grace and dignity," says Shirlaine Castellino, Director of the Littleton Center. "She's an inspiration to us and to many of our students."

She also expressed gratitude to her husband for helping her to achieve her dreams. She will continue her education with special training in her field and plans to be a university professor.



### Alum Graduates from NYU

Rafael Carabano, Venezuela, recently graduated with an MSc in Management and Technology at New York University. "I'm very happy to be a Spring alumnus. Because of the scholarship Spring gave me," he says. "I have been able to pursue my professional career and my education. I will always be grateful." We're proud of you, Rafael!

**We Remember You. Do You Remember Us?**

# Littleton's News from Around the World

## China

Yun Xia "Winnie," SILC 2012, finished her Bachelor's degree and now works for Colorado Chinese News and also manages her own non-profit, Concinnity Creation Institute. She has a 16-month-old son.

## France

Franck Martin, 1989, is owner and manager of a long-term care center in Colorado Springs.

## Libya

Mohamed Bouker, SILC 2013, graduated from Florida Institute of Technology with a master's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Ibrahim Adam, SILC 2013, graduated from Florida Institute of Technology with a master's degree in Analytical Chemistry.

## Saudi Arabia

Mahdi AlHayder, 2012 Spring grad, is a senior student at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces proudly presented his senior paper this month.

Abdullah AlSaif, SILC 2011, is currently a senior accountant at Tawuniya Insurance in Saudi Arabia and has a two-year-old son, Ibrahim Abdullah led the Saudi group at Spring in International Day program in 2011.

Abdullah AlShaghathanh, 2011, will graduate from University of Colorado Denver with an MIS degree this month.

Fares AlSonsooni, 2011, continues to work on his bachelor's degree in Science of Architecture at the Univ. of Colorado Denver.

## United Arab Emirates

Ghadeer Assas, is currently a direct entry 2<sup>nd</sup> year student, Nurse/Midwife at SUNY downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. She will graduate in Spring 2017. Her sister Zain was married two years ago and is completing her BSN special education in Long Beach, California with her husband. A great family with brother Mohamed also studying at Spring.

Bibiche ElEdin completed medical assistant training and is working at Swedish Hospital while he attends Regis university for a computer science degree.

Arlene Aguedos is busy working with her husband at a dental office in Denver and "is busy practicing my English, of course."



## Our Nurses Have Fun in California

Sayuri Kodama, Misaki Nagatoshi, Aoi Naka, and Riko Koto, Spring students who left us in March 2015, had a great time in California on an ASO Nursing School trip. "We are going to go in different ways after graduating from our school, but we have decided to see each other once every four years (like the Olympics) at our favorite Cheese Cake Factory."

Misaki tells us that she will practice her nursing skills for the next six months, including terminal care, home nursing, cardiovascular, ICU, and maternity skills. She will take the National exam in February to become a licensed nurse. As she reflects on the future year, she comments, "I know I can overcome everything because there are always my friends and family. I appreciate them, so I will help them as a nurse in the future."

# DENVER CENTER NEWS

## Second Generation Spring Student Graduates from Colorado University



Rashid Al-Yousef graduated with a Master's in Engineering from the University of Colorado Denver in May. Rashid has a long history with Spring beginning in the early 1980s when he was 18 months old. His father, Ismail Al-Yousef, studied at the Littleton center through an ARAMCO program. He then returned to Spring in 1997 for a summer while still in high school. After graduation from high school, Ismail completed his English at the Denver Center and began his studies at Community College of Denver, continuing to CU Denver where he earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Engineering.

Rashid worked at Spring International doing housing placements, airport greetings and orientations for Saudi students who started arriving in large numbers in 2005. In May, he completed his second Master's degree and returned to Saudi Arabia. Thank you, Rashid, for so many wonderful years with us. We look forward to remaining in touch for many more.

## Goodbyes and Hellos

The Denver Center sadly said "aloha" to Christen Breaux, who has returned to the Littleton Center to replace Niki as international student advisor. "We had two wonderful years with Christen," Director Jeanne says, "and are glad we'll get to continue to work with her as part of the Spring family."



Denver alums are always welcome to stop by with news of their lives. Ahmed Alojari said hello to the Spring

family and filled us in on how he's doing at our partner institution, Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. He is in his second year, likes the small-town feel of Grand Junction, and the much lower rents. He is majoring in Computer Information Science. It's always nice when our Western slope alums stop by to visit.





## Life in Japan for Alum Amr

Amr Tarabulsi, Saudi Arabia, completed Spring International in 2003, and continued to the University of Colorado Denver to earn his degree.

Amr has an active You Tube channel called Piece of Amr, where you can enjoy reading about and seeing his life in Japan where he lives with his wife.

## SPRING ON DISPLAY AT NAFSA

Littleton's Assistant Director Andy Pulford was busy answering questions about Spring in our booth at the NAFSA, National Association of International Educators, conference in Denver May 30-June 3.

The display featured photos and information about the three Spring International Language Centers in Colorado and Arkansas.



**DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY INTERESTED in higher education in the United States? Studying English at Spring International is the first step to achieving their goals. We will waive their application fees if you, as an alum of Spring, refer them to us. See our application and additional information at [www.spring.edu](http://www.spring.edu). To contact a specific center: [Denver@spring.edu](mailto:Denver@spring.edu) or for Littleton, [info@spring.edu](mailto:info@spring.edu).**

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Each issue of VOICE OF SPRING, Denver and Littleton Centers' alumni news, is posted on the Spring website. [www.spring.edu](http://www.spring.edu). Please send us your news and photos to Jeanne Hind, [Jeanne@spring.edu](mailto:Jeanne@spring.edu) for the Denver center, and Connie Shoemaker, [connie.s@spring.edu](mailto:connie.s@spring.edu) for the Littleton Center.