

BENJAMIN JAMES THURN

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WORK EXPERIENCE

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Washington D.C

Senior Program Officer – Camp & Media Literacy Programs

October 2018 – Present

- Wrote, designed, and animated *FLEX on The News*: a 24-week news literacy social media campaign focused on combatting misinformation through animated videos and interactive production tasks
- Conducted teacher trainings, workshops, and taught classes focused on new media skills such as digital citizenship, media literacy, and storytelling foundations

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY

St. Paul, Minnesota

Adjunct Professor

Summer 2017/Summer 2018

- Taught Intercultural Communication to a group of Japanese and American exchange students
- Developed verbal and non-verbal language and communication structures to aid interaction

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Mumbai, India

Media Specialist

August 2017 – March 2018

- Designed and implemented a visual literacy and digital media curriculum
- Assisted in writing successful government grants for U.S. Department of State funded media programs
- Adapted digital literacy material for use in teaching workshops and training sessions
- Worked in a dynamic international environment teaching students from India and Afghanistan
- Trained educators on creative and effective use of digital media in the language classroom

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Bursa, Turkey

English Instructor

August 2015 – August 2017

- Provided English instruction to a diverse student population in a variety of subjects, including academic writing, job skills, and public speaking
- Implemented a visual literacy and digital media curriculum
- Evaluated student writing with emphasis on skills that are transferable to other contexts
- Conducted training seminars, administered SLEP tests, and assisted in planning/organizing events
- Created online and in-person teacher training materials for student counselors

SPLENDID BEAST (WWW.SPLENDIDBEAST.COM)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Founder and Owner

March 2014 – May 2017

- Developed and built business from a start-up into brand that generates six-figure annual sales
- Designed website/promotional materials and independently managed all aspects of production
- Successfully maintained relationships with hundreds of customers, vendors, and contractors

ADDITIONAL INVOLVEMENTS

AMERICAN COUNCILS ALUMNI COORDINATOR TRAINING <i>News Literacy Trainer</i>	<i>Tbilisi, Georgia</i> <i>August 2019</i>
NAMLE 2019 CONFERENCE <i>Presenter: Developing Media Literacy with Afghan Youth</i>	<i>Washington D.C.</i> <i>June 2019</i>
ACCESS PROGRAM - JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS <i>Workshop Facilitator</i>	<i>Various Cities, India</i> <i>May 2019</i>
U.S. EMBASSY SPEAKER SERIES <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	<i>Moscow, Russia</i> <i>April 2019</i>
EURASIA FLEX-ABILITY WORKSHOP <i>Lead Trainer</i>	<i>Vilnius, Lithuania</i> <i>October 2018</i>
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON <i>Workshop Lead – The Language of Movies</i>	<i>Madison, Wisconsin</i> <i>October 2018</i>
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA LITERACY EDUCATION <i>Resource and Content Development Team</i>	<i>New York City</i> <i>Summer 2018</i>
EASTERN EUROPE FLEX-ABILITY WORKSHOP <i>Lead Media Trainer</i>	<i>Chisinau, Moldova</i> <i>October 2018</i>
WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH LEADERS IN ENGLISH TEACHING <i>Teacher/Chaperone</i>	<i>Washington D.C.</i> <i>April 2016/April 2018</i>
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	<i>Madison, Wisconsin</i> <i>Spring 2018</i>
METRO STATE UNIVERSITY <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	<i>St. Paul, Minnesota</i> <i>Fall 2016</i>
JLS ENGLISH ACADEMY <i>Adjunct Instructor</i>	<i>Wonju, South Korea</i> <i>Fall 2014</i>
WONJU SAHMYOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL <i>Lead English Instructor</i>	<i>Wonju, South Korea</i> <i>2012 Academic Year</i>
KOREA HERALD SCHOOL <i>English Instructor</i>	<i>Suwon, South Korea</i> <i>2010 Academic Year</i>

EDUCATION

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

Masters in English as a Second Language

- TEFL Certification
- 2016 Outstanding Capstone Nominee *The Language of Movies: Using Film to Teach Visual Literacy in the EFL Classroom*

*St. Paul, Minnesota
June 2013 – August 2016*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Bachelors in English Literature

- Language Proficiency Exam (LPE) in Spanish

*Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 2005 – June 2009*

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite (After Effects, InDesign, Photoshop)
- Web Design
- Microsoft Office Suite (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Digital Videography and Editing
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality