

Newton Grad Katrina Alden Now Teaching in Malaysia

By Jennifer Brown

A graduate of the Newton School, Sharon Academy, and Wheaton College, ~~Katrina~~ Alden of Stratford has been teaching since January in Malaysia at a SMK (SMK means high school) Pekan (Pekan is town) Kuala Penyu (Penyu means turtle) in the Fulbright Teaching Assistant program.

She is in Kuala Penyu in the state of Sabah on Borneo, Malaysia. She is currently working on a project to help five female students at her school go to a National Women's Leadership conference in the Capital City of Kuala Lumpur.

Katrina has been channeling her energies this year into being a supportive mentor and resource for her students. She has been leading some after-school workshops on Women Leadership practices and starting the school's very first all-female soccer team.

The Summit in Kuala Lumpur is a two-day conference that will focus on interests such as, STEM, politics, education, entrepreneurship, medicine, mental health, and the arts. Katrina recalls going to the UVM all-women's science conference while at the Newton School. She attributes seeing women there working in science, as well as her first view of a human brain, lungs, and heart, as the inspiration for entering the field of science in college. She and other English teaching

assistants in the Fulbright program are fundraising for their Malaysian students to be able to attend the conference so they can be inspired and empowered. The students who applied are primarily interested in politics, perhaps because for the first time Malaysia's deputy prime minister is a woman.

Other interests of the applicants include art and design, business, technology, and education. The Ful-

bright teaching assistants are also working on plans to host the female Malaysian ambassador, Kamala Shirin Lakhdar, as a keynote speaker at the National Women's Leadership Conference.

Anyone interested in contributing may find out more by visiting www.gofundme.com/ETALeadershipcamp; or mail a donation to: Anna Alden, 78 Vt. Route 132, South Stratford, Vt. 05070.



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Katrina Alden is seen working as an English teaching assistant with the Fulbright program with some of her students in Borneo, Malaysia. (Provided)

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