

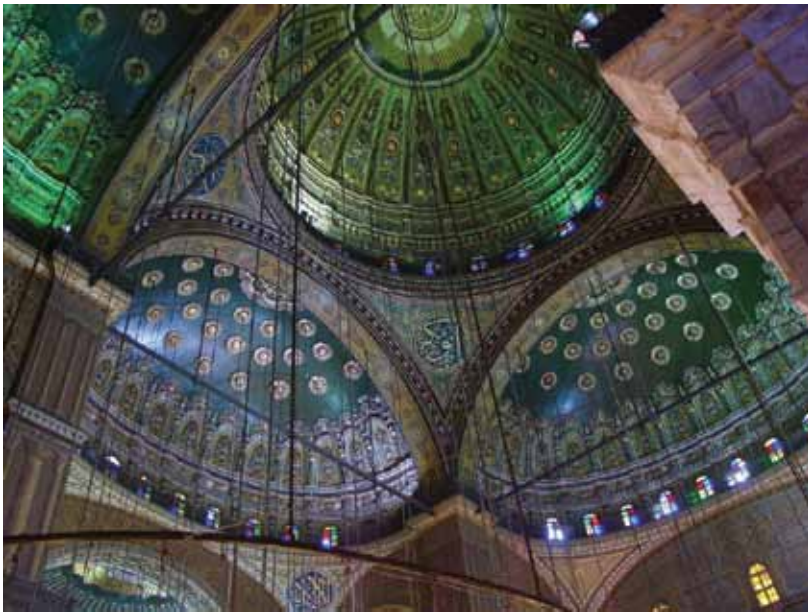
# Program in Middle Eastern Studies



## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

May 2012

Dear Faculty, Students, Alumnae and Friends of Middle Eastern Studies,



Welcome to this year's newsletter. Since Louise Marlow went on leave on January 1, 2012, the responsibilities of chairing have fallen to me, in History, and will remain with me until the end of 2012-2013. Until now, the transition has been smooth, as Louise left the program on stable foundations. The MES Program is flourishing. It currently has 11 Majors and 15 Minors. At the end of this month, the Program will graduate 4 Majors and 6 Minors. We congratulate all of them and hope that they will stay in touch with us in the years to come.

Please keep in touch with us and send us your news. You can email either me

([lkapteijns@wellesley.edu](mailto:lkapteijns@wellesley.edu)) or Dianne Baroz, the Program's administrative assistant ([dbaroz@wellesley.edu](mailto:dbaroz@wellesley.edu)). If you'd like to stay connected throughout the year, we'd be happy to add you to our Arab & Middle Eastern Studies Google Group, which announces program events, language study, fellowships, and job opportunities.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the program for a productive 2011-2012 and wish all of you a great summer.

Lidwien Kapteijns  
*Kendall/Hodder Professor of History*  
*Director of Middle Eastern Studies*



## COURSE OFFERINGS IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES 2012-2013

This year Professor Aadnani will be offering a summer course on “**Arabic Through Song and Poetry**” (**ARAB 306**), which will explore the importance of song lyrics and poetry in the Arabic-speaking world, provide a concise historical survey of some of the most influential figures in poetry and song-writing, and engage students in textual analysis of selected texts in Arabic.

Professor Wil Rollman will be offering **HIST 298 - United States and the Middle East since World War II**, which will critically analyze the programs, leadership, and strategies of protest and reform movements in the modern Middle East and North Africa.

### FALL 2012

#### **ARAB 101 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)**

*Ramadan*

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Prerequisite: None.

Offered: Fall. Section 1: MTWTh 8:30 AM – 9:40 AM; Section 2: MTWTh 9:50 AM – 11:00 AM

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

#### **ARAB 201 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)**

*Aadnani*

A continuation of ARAB 101-ARAB 102. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from

newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Prerequisite: ARAB 101, ARAB 102 or permission of the instructor.

Offered: Fall. Section 1: MWTh 9:50 AM – 11:00 AM;

Section 2: 11:10 AM – 12:20 PM

Each semester of ARAB 201 and ARAB 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

#### **ARAB 210 - Arabic Literature in Translation (1.0) (in English)**

*Aadnani*

Exploration of some highly influential works of literature translated from Arabic. Students will have a chance to delve into literary works composed by authors from a large geographical area, extending from Morocco to the Middle East, from the turn of the nineteenth century to the present day. Our study of modern and contemporary Arabic literature will focus on a number of recurring themes, such as cultural and national identity, colonialism, religion, gender relations, and class conflict. Authors to be discussed include Naguib Mahfouz, Abdelrahman Munif, Ahlam Mosteghanemi, Leila Abouzeid, Tahir Wattar, Mohammed Zafzaf, and Yusuf Idris.

Distribution: Language and Literature.

Prerequisite: None.

Offered: Fall. W 2:15 PM – 4:45 PM

#### **ARTH 247 - Islamic Art and Architecture (1.0)**

*Anderson*

This course offers an introduction to the history of Islamic art and architecture from the seventh century to the present day. Topics addressed will include the development of architectural “types” (mosques, palaces, etc.), the role of figural arts in Islamic traditions, and the utility of the concept of “Islamic art” for understanding contemporary artistic production. Normally offered in alternate years.

Distribution: Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Prerequisite: None,

ARTH 100 and ARTH 101 recommended.

Offered: Fall

**HIST 115 - First-year Seminar: Routes of Exile-Jews and Muslims (1.0)**

*Malino*

This course will examine exile both internal and geographic through contemporary memoirs, letters, novels and films. Our primary focus will be on Jews and Muslims living in North Africa and the Middle East. Questions to be asked include: How was community defined? What provided the author with a sense of belonging? What prompts his/her exile? Is the homeland portable? If so, how, and on what terms? Each week we shall explore a different expression of exile. Discussion will include comparisons and contrasts with previous readings.

Distribution: Historical Studies.

Prerequisite: None. Open only to first-year students.

Offered: Fall. W 2:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Mandatory credit/noncredit.

**HIST 293 - Changing Gender Constructions in the Modern Middle East (1.0)**

*Kapteijns*

Intertwined with the political history of the modern Middle East are the dramatic cultural and social changes that have shaped how many Middle Easterners live their lives and imagine their futures. This course explores the historical contexts of the changing constructions of femininity and masculinity in different Middle Eastern settings from World War I to the present. Such contexts include nationalist and Islamist movements, economic, ecological, and demographic change, and changing conceptions of modernity and tradition, individual and family, and public and private space. Primary sources will focus on the self-representations of Middle Eastern men and women as they engaged with what they considered the major issues of their times.

Distribution: Historical Studies.

Prerequisite: None.

Offered: Fall. MTh 1:30 PM – 2:40 PM

**POL2217 - Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (1.0)**

*Hajj*

How do Arab-Islamic history and culture shape politics in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa? Why is the Arab world despite its tremendous oil-wealth still characterized by economic underdevelopment and acute gaps between rich and poor? How have the events of September 11 and the U.S.-led “war on terror” affected the prospects for greater freedom and prosperity in the Middle East in the future? What do the 2011 revolts mean for the existing regimes and prospects for Democracy? These are some of the questions we will examine in

this course. In readings, lectures and class discussions, the analysis of general themes and trends will be integrated with case-studies of individual Arab states. Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis.

Prerequisite: One unit in Political Science.

Offered: Fall. MTh 8:30 AM – 9:50 AM

**POL2 358S - Seminar. Political Conflict in the Middle East (1.0)**

*Hajj*

Topic for 2012-13: The Arab-Israeli Conflict. This class will provide an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the evolution of the conflict over time. Our goal is to develop an appreciation of the complexities and the dynamism of this conflict through an examination of its origins, the actors involved, and the key historical and political factors that have shaped it.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis.

Prerequisite: POL2 217 or one unit in Middle Eastern history. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available on the political science department website.

Offered: Fall. W 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**REL 243 - Women in the Biblical World (1.0)**

*Geller*

The roles and images of women in the Bible, and in early Jewish and Christian literature, examined in the context of the ancient societies in which these documents emerged. Special attention to the relationships among archaeological, legal, and literary sources in reconstructing the status of women in these societies.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy or Historical Studies.

Prerequisite: None.

Offered: Fall. MTh 4:10 PM – 5:20 PM

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## CURRICULAR NEWS

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### WINTERSESSION 2013

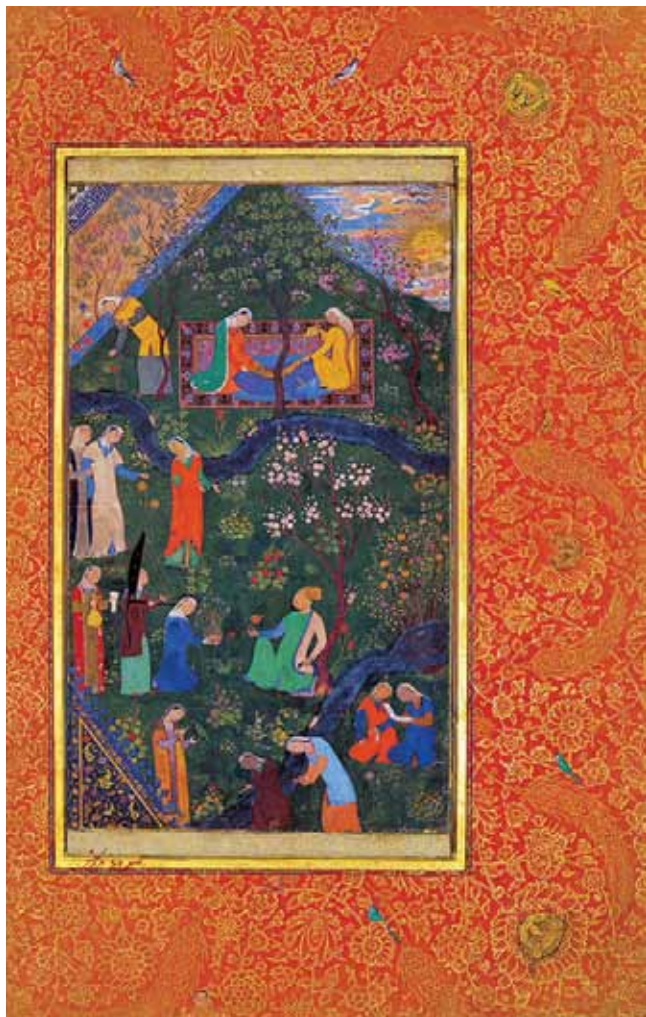
#### **HIST 290 - Morocco: History and Culture (Wintersession in Morocco) (1.0)**

An introduction to Moroccan culture, history, and society through experiential and classroom learning. Students will participate in seminars and attend lectures given by Moroccan faculty at the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning in Rabat. Program themes include: women in private and public life, Berber culture, Islam, Arabic, Morocco's Jewish heritage and history, and the legacy of European cultural rule. Students will travel as a group to the central and southern regions of the country to study historic sites and contemporary life and culture in a variety of rural and urban settings.

Distribution: Historical Studies.

Prerequisite: None. Application required.

Offered: Winter.



### SPRING 2013

#### **ANTH 344 - The Middle East: Anthropological Perspectives (1.0)**

*Kohl*

This course discusses traditional subsistence economies (e.g., irrigation agriculture, pastoral nomadism) and tribal forms of social organization and analyzes their transform with the emergence of independent territorial nation-states and the advent of oil wealth during the twentieth century. The course considers different sects and expressions of Islam in specific countries and discusses kinship structures and family relationships, including the varying roles of women in specific societies. Contemporary political and economic issues and conflicts in Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Iraq, and Israel/Palestine will be studied from an anthropologically informed perspective of cultural continuity and change and the continuous refashioning of religious, ethnic, and national identities over time.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis.

Prerequisite: Normally open to students who have taken a grade II unit in anthropology and/or a 200-level unit in a relevant area/subject matter.

Offered: Spring.

#### **ARAB 102 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)**

*Abdul-Aziz*

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Prerequisite: ARAB 101.

Offered: Spring.

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

## ARAB 202 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

Aadnani

A continuation of ARAB 101-ARAB 102. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Distribution: Language and Literature.

Prerequisite: ARAB 101 or 102 or permission of instructor.

Offered: Spring.

Each semester of ARAB 201 and 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

## POL2 301 - Gender, Islam, and Politics (1.0)

Hajj

This course examines the rights and status of women in contemporary Muslim societies, as well as past and recent initiatives to advance them. The seminar will consider how Western social scientists including some with an explicit feminist agenda define the issues facing Muslim women today, but special attention will be paid to the diverse perspectives and strategies of action that have been adopted by Muslim women themselves. Analysis of issues will be woven into a discussion of case material from countries in the Arab Middle East and the broader Muslim world.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis.

Prerequisite: Two units in Political Science. Open to juniors and seniors only.

Offered: Spring.

## RECENT EVENTS

On April 9, 2012, **Hussein Ibish**, senior Research Fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine, came to campus to lecture on "Reading the Arab Uprisings." Mr. Ibish is a regular contributor to many American and Middle Eastern publications, including Foreign Policy, the Atlantic, Al Hayat, and Now Lebanon. After the lecture all were invited to further discussion and a light dinner at Slater International House.

On April 10, 2012, **Hussein Ibish** and **Beth Daniel '99** gave a luncheon talk entitled "Where a Specialization in Middle Eastern Studies Might Lead You." Beth graduated from Wellesley College with majors in History (and French) before we had a Program in Middle Eastern Studies, writing an Honors thesis about the 'New Historians' and the First Intifada. She earned a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard in 2001, spent a year in Fez, Morocco, on a Fulbright fellowship, and now works for a management consulting firm based in Washington, DC.

In March 27-29, 2012, the Middle Eastern Studies Program and the Cinema and Media Studies co-organized and co-sponsored a film series

entitled, *The Makers of the Seventh Art: Faces of new Egyptian Cinema.*" Wellesley welcomed two award-winning Egyptian independent filmmakers, **Ibrahim El Batout** and **Ayten Amin.** *The Makers of the Seventh Art* was an opportunity not only to see works by these artists, but also to hear firsthand about the process of creatively documenting the cataclysmic events that transpired in Egypt in 2011.

On November 2, 2011, **Diya Abdo**, Assistant Professor of English, Guilford College, gave a lecture, "On Being Arab, Muslim, Woman: Creative Negotiations of Contested Space," which focused on Arabophone, Anglophone and Francophone Arab women writers. This lecture was organized by Professor Malino and co-sponsored by Jewish Studies and MES.

On October 17, 2011, **Asma Afsaruddin**, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University, visited campus to give a lecture on "Islam in the Age of Pluralism: Rethinking Modernity."

# NEW FACULTY

We are delighted to welcome **Yasmine Ramadan** as the Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Arabic Studies. The two-year post-doctoral fellowship begins in fall 2012 and continues through the academic years of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Ms. Ramadan is about to receive her Ph.D. from Columbia University in Middle Eastern, South Asian & African Studies (MESAAS), specializing in Modern Arabic Literature and Culture. The title of her dissertation is *Representing the Nation: Spatial Poetics in the Literature of the Sixties Generation in Egypt*. Professor Ramadan will teach two courses in Arabic language, while continuing to conduct her research. She will also be a fellow at Wellesley's Newhouse Center for the Humanities.

In the fall, **Benjamin Anderson** will join Wellesley College's Art Department, replacing **Lara Tohme**, who left the College in December of 2011. As an art historian of the medieval eastern Mediterranean, Anderson is committed to the study of both Byzantine and Islamic traditions. His initial training at Williams was focused on antiquity and the Renaissance, but a trip to Jordan and Syria in the winter of his senior year introduced him to a group of early Islamic monuments that continue to fascinate him, especially the Great Mosque of Damascus and the Umayyad reception hall at Qusayr 'Amra. Two recurring themes in his scholarship are the medieval reception of classical antiquity and cross-cultural exchange in the middle ages. Both of these topics come into play in his dissertation, a study of cosmological imagery in the early middle ages, with equal attention to Byzantine, Islamic, and western medieval traditions.



## FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN ARABIC 2012-2013

This coming fall Fulbright scholar **Huda Tallaq** from the country of Bahrain will be joining the Arabic/MES family. Ms. Tallaq will be assisting with the teaching of Arabic, organizing the weekly Arabic Tables and also overseeing other Arabic student oriented cultural events. Ms. Tallaq has recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English language and literatures from the University of Bahrain, Sakhir.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to **Mayye Mohamed Zayed**, our Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Arabic during 2011-2012. Ms. Zayed, who is from Alexandria, Egypt, has been a delightful addition to our Program in Arabic. In addition to her hosting the Arabic Table and assisting in Arabic classes, Mayye also organized a five-part Arabic Film Series this past spring along with Wellesley Arab Women's Association. She also hosted Middle Eastern cooking (and eating) nights, including during Eid, and also screened Middle Eastern movies with our students. We are grateful to Mayye for her excellent service and outstanding dedication to our Program. We offer her our very best wishes for the future.

# FACULTY NEWS

**Rachid Aadnani** offered two sections of ARAB 101-102, 'Elementary Arabic' as well as his seminar ARAB 310, 'Resistance and Dissent in North Africa and the Middle East. He is also planning to teach a new course this summer, ARAB 306, 'Arabic Through Song and Poetry.' Professor Aadnani will accompany Professor Rollman for the Wintersession in Morocco this upcoming year.

**Rana Abdulaziz**, one of our beloved faculty members in the Arabic Program, has been reappointed as Lecturer. She will be on family leave in the fall of 2012 and rejoin us in January 2013.

**Roxanne Euben** was on leave for Spring semester and will continue her sabbatical during the academic year '12-'13 as well.

**Barbara Geller** offered REL 244, 'Jerusalem: The Holy City' and REL/CLCV 240, 'Romans, Jews, and Christians in the Roman Empire' (co-taught with Professor Guy Rogers, Department of History), as well as REL 245 'Holocaust & the Nazi State' and the seminar, REL 342, 'Archaeology of the Biblical World.'

**Nadya Hajj** offered POL2 217, 'Politics of the Middle East and North Africa, and POL2 301S, a seminar, 'Gender, Islam, and Politics.

**Lidwien Kapteijns** offered HIST 284, The History of the Modern Middle East and HIST395, Readings in the Histories of Ethnic and Religious Violence, in which several students wrote research papers

about Middle Eastern topics. Her book about the Somali civil war is in press with the University of Pennsylvania Press, Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights. From October 8-10, Lidwien was invited to the Abu Dhabi campus of New York University to present a paper entitled "Truth, History, and Social Reconstruction after Communal Violence: Towards a Somali Scenario." In May she visited the Wellesley Alumnae Club of Minneapolis.

**Fran Malino** offered HIST 115, Routes of Exile-Jews and Muslims, a first-year seminar. She was recently named "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques" by the French Ministry of Education in acknowledgment of her long time teaching and research on French history. The Cultural Attachée from the French Consulate General in Boston presented the decoration at a ceremony, which took place on March 5 at the Wellesley College Club.

**Louise Marlow** offered REL 109 'Religions of the Silk Road' and REL 262 'Formation of Islamic Tradition.' This class was visited by Professor Afsaruddin (Indiana University), who discussed her book, *The First Muslims*. Professor Marlow is on leave for three semesters to work on her project "Wisdom and Counsel in a Tenth-Century Iranian Society: an Early Arabic Counsel for Kings." She spent this last semester as a Member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

**Wilfrid Rollman** offered REL 369, 'Islamic Law as Ideal and Practice in the Modern Middle East and North Africa.' He has already begun preparations for HIST 290, Wintersession in Morocco, planned for January 2013.



# NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE

■ **Carolyn Brunelle '07** is finishing the fifth year of her PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Her primary research interest is medieval Arabic linguistic thought and its intersections with legal theory and theology. In addition to her academic work, she has also served as a Graduate Fellow for Teaching Excellence at Penn, leading workshops on various aspects of pedagogy. She will be teaching this summer at the Arabic Institute for the Next Generation at Harvard, a program for current undergraduates who aspire to teach Arabic at the high school level. She is happy to talk with any Wellesley undergraduates who are thinking about grad school in Middle Eastern Studies, and can be reached at [bcarolyn@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:bcarolyn@sas.upenn.edu).



■ **Raina S. Haque '07** will be graduating from the University of North Carolina School of Law this May, and is preparing to take the North Carolina Bar Exam in July. After taking the Bar Exam, she will be clerking in a federal bankruptcy court under the guidance of a federal bankruptcy judge. She recently married Syed Ahmed and reports that if there ever was a meaningful crash-course in the study of Middle Eastern/Islamic Civilization, it's having a Muslim Wedding! With both newly-weds American Muslims with Bangladeshi heritage and a Moroccan American Imam officiating at the wedding – the event was a fascinating blend of Al-Maghrib and Al-Awsat!

■ **Caitlin Hu '07** finished her MA in philosophy at the Sorbonne and then went to Tahrir Square, Cairo, to cover the 2011 revolution for Colors Magazine. She now works in Treviso, Italy as the editor of Colors Magazine online.

■ **Kacie Lyn Kocher '09** has been busy the past year establishing an NGO targeting issues of street harassment in Istanbul, Turkey. Canmz Sokakta (which roughly means 'We're alive on the streets' in Turkish) is a part of the Hollaback! network and maps stories of street harassment on its site: [www.canimizsokakta.com](http://www.canimizsokakta.com). She also works at one of Turkey's leading telecommunications company, where she conducts market research and is overseeing customer relations projects targeting foreigners living in Turkey. She is considering graduate study in development in London for the future.

■ **Dana Montalto '09** just finished her second year at Yale Law School, during which most of her time was occupied by the Veterans Legal Services Clinic and the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. Through her work with the latter, she traveled to Amman, Jordan to meet with clients, international organizations, and local agencies, and was able to put her rusty Arabic skills to some use. She will divide her summer between internships at the State Department Legal Adviser's Office and Greater Boston Legal Services before heading into her third and final year of law school.

■ **Parnian Nazary '10** is a Program Officer for the Afghanistan Regional Project (ARP) at NYU-Center on International Cooperation (CIC). She helps ARP implement projects on pressing political and regional issues facing Afghanistan. Currently field researchers are working in Afghanistan on a project she developed on education in Afghanistan aiming to preserve access to education and physical safety of educators and students in Afghanistan. Parnian will be traveling to Kabul this summer both to supervise these field researchers and to do wider consulting about women's rights. She also serves as a Special Advisor to Ms. Patricia Ward, the President of the newly established Paula Loyd Foundation, which provides scholarships for Afghan women to study at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) in Kabul or in the United States. The organization Seeds of Peace has invited her join their special guest speaker Madeleine Albright at their Annual Gala Dinner on May 16, 2012 in New York.



■ **Maggie Proctor '08** is currently living in Washington, DC. She works as a Senior Program Associate with the Middle East and North Africa program of Freedom House, an NGO that promotes human rights and democracy internationally.

■ **Julia Craig Romano '11** graduated with a B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies and a minor in Economics. This year, she was the Development Intern at the Arab-American Family Support Center in Brooklyn, NY and volunteered in the AAFSC's Adult Education and Youth Programs. She was recently selected to participate in a six-week summer Arabic program in Oman through the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center and is looking forward to continuing her study of Modern Standard Arabic and learning the Omani dialect. Next year, she will begin her M.A. in Middle East Studies at George Washington University.

■ **Tara Siegel '11** sends warm greetings to Wellesley. Since graduating, she spent eight months in Amman, Jordan, studying Arabic at Qasid Arabic Institute, working for a small business, and interning for Friends of the Earth Middle East. Tara now lives in a village near Mufraq, Jordan, where she researches Jordanian government policy towards Syrian refugees. She welcomes any questions (or career tips!) from the Wellesley community.



■ **Alexandra Stark '10** has been working in Washington, DC, on policies to prevent genocide and mass atrocities and, more recently on international policies to meliorate climate change. She will begin a master's program in International Relations at the London School of Economics this fall.

■ **Saba Sulaiman '09** will be graduating with an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago. She presented her thesis, "Reading Parsipur Through the Eyes of Hedayat's Blind Owl: Tracing the Origins of Magical Realism in Modern Persian Prose" at the Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference. Saba is also editor of the quarterly journal, "Lights: The MESSA Quarterly."

■ **N'Mah Yilla '06** is finishing the overseas portion of the Arabic Flagship program, pursuing a Masters of Professional Studies in Arabic through study at the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of

Alexandria in Egypt. In the fall, N'Mah will go to Spain as a Fulbright Research Fellow and complete a project comparing a prominent Muslim-Arab organization to a prominent Muslim-convert organization there.

■ **Priscilla Yoon '08** will be graduating with a Masters degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University where she concentrated in Economic Development and Humanitarian Crises & Refugees. Priscilla will be moving to Amman, Jordan after graduation in search of employment in a nonprofit organization that serves refugees or promotes development. She would be happy to get connected with other Wellesley alumnae in Jordan, give advice about graduate school, or anything else!

# NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

The Middle Eastern Studies Program congratulates the following graduating Majors and Minors:

Melanie Bellini '12, Renee Coe '12, Zahra Ghadyali '12, Ameera Keval '12 (Majors).

Sophia Ghaus '12, Colleen Purcell '12, Sara Rubin '12, Lena Smoot '12, Myriam Taibi '12, Suzanne Trainor '12 (Minors).

■ **Melanie Bellini '12** just completed an honors thesis in Middle Eastern Studies supervised by Professor Kapteijns. After having followed the Iraq War as the sister of a soldier deployed in Iraq and having focused on Iraq during a History capstone seminar, she decided to write an honors thesis on Iraq. With chapters on the British Mandate, Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, and the U.S. Occupation, she studied how Iraq's governments used group identities as a political tool and traced the politicization of ethnic and sectarian identities in

modern Iraq. After graduation, she plans to first travel to Morocco with friends and family and then to move to Washington D.C. to work as a litigation paralegal with an international law firm called Covington & Burling, LLP.

■ **Grace Abuhamad '13** is a major in MES and is interested in how history and politics are reflected in popular culture, art and literature. Grace was part of a USA Youth delegation to Tunisia in March, which focused on transitional democracy. This summer, she will be studying Arabic at the Lebanese American University in Beirut and conducting independent research. She plans to graduate in December with the eventual goal of attending graduate school.

■ **Colleen Purcell '12** graduates this summer with a major in Economics and a minor in MES. She will spend the summer traveling to Morocco and Dubai, and spending time with family in California, before returning to the

Boston area in the fall to finish her final year in a Master's program at the International Business School at Brandeis University in International Economics and Finance. She then plans to pursue a career in Middle Eastern economic policy and research.

■ **Suzanne Trainor '12** graduates this summer with a major in Political Science and minor in MES. She will be working as the Educational Programs Assistant for Explore Inc. in Boston after graduation, helping to coordinate Explore programming in African countries with Road Scholar. During her four years, she enjoyed taking Middle Eastern Studies courses, studying with School of International Training in Morocco, and interning with the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center in New Haven, Connecticut. Please stay in touch—[trainor.suzanne@gmail.com](mailto:trainor.suzanne@gmail.com)

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Pamela Bristah** is the librarian responsible for the Library's collection of materials on Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic language instruction. She works with faculty to select books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, and

other materials for new courses and new areas of study in the Middle Eastern Studies curriculum, and selects new publications as well. Most recently, she's worked with Rachid Aadnani to add a collection of Arabic-language

comic books, translations of Western classics, poetry, and short stories, for beginning students of Arabic. Coming from Cairo, the first items should be here by fall 2012!

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