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## Director's Note >>

# As CSAMES, we grow



Marilyn Booth

Our first Center newsletter, as the newly constituted Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, is cause for celebration. With the substantial help of our Title VI grant for Middle Eastern Studies, we have been able to expand our activities and our outreach within the university and to the surrounding community. Many of you have attended our events, from our weekly brownbag lecture series to the MillerComm lectures we have initiated, to our other invited speakers, film showings, and annual Turkish Studies Symposium. Many of you have helped enormously to support and sustain our activities, serving on MA admissions and FLAS committees as well as the Executive Committee, offering suggestions for speakers, volunteering to give brown bag talks, and the like. I am grateful for your support and help as we grow.

With the help of Title VI funding, we have been able to fund



*"Our new Outreach page on the CSAMES website is well worth a look"*

fourth-year Arabic; to institute a fulltime lectureship in Turkish (with substantial help from the Institute for Turkish Studies, to whom we acknowledge our gratitude); to support the development of new courses pertinent to the Middle East; and to begin an ambitious program of community outreach. Our new Outreach page on the CSAMES website is well worth a look: we have put together myriad lesson plans, curriculum units and supporting material which teachers everywhere are welcome to download and use!

We have more good news: Dean Sarah Mangelsdorf has just approved the appointment of a fulltime Outreach Coordinator for CSAMES, who will work on both Middle East and South Asia related activities.

**Our mission expands >> page 2**

## Announcements >>

### Girdhari Tikku Memorial Prize

CSAMES invites entries for Girdhari Tikku Memorial Prize. The \$500 prize will be awarded to a student essay on Persian or Indian culture, especially in comparison to Western culture or to each other, on any topic in the humanities including areas such as literature, linguistics, religion, history, philosophy, art and music.

Any student, graduate or undergraduate, currently enrolled at UIUC for AY 2007-08 can apply. Former winners are not eligible to participate.

**Requirement** The prize will be awarded on the basis of

- an unpublished essay (3,000 - 12,000 words)
- good academic standing
- one letter of recommendation from a UIUC faculty member.

**Deadline** March 30, 2008

**How to apply** Submit three hard copies of the paper along with a cover letter and CV to the Associate Director, CSAMES (221 International Studies Bldg, MC 489). The faculty referee should send a letter directly to CSAMES. Applications should be submitted by the student author of the paper. For further information, log on to [www.csames.uiuc.edu/awards/tikkuprize.htm](http://www.csames.uiuc.edu/awards/tikkuprize.htm)

### Tikku Memorial Prize winner for 2007

Susan Johnson-Roehr, a PhD student in the College of Architecture, was awarded the Girdhari Tikku Memorial Prize for the year 2007 for her paper titled "The Archaeological Survey of India and Communal Violence in Post-Independence India". Her entry was chosen from a very competitive pool of papers.

### Summer course development grants

CSAMES is offering a course development grant of \$2,500 (as summer salary) to be utilized towards developing a new course within the area of Middle Eastern studies. Courses should fill essential needs that are currently not being met by established curriculum. All fulltime, non-visiting faculty are eligible to apply.

As stated in our Title VI Proposal, preference will be given to proposals for interdisciplinary courses and proposals from the professional schools. One proposal will be funded for 2008.

**Deadline** April 15, 2008

For further information, log on to [www.csames.uiuc.edu/Fellowships&Grants/summercoursedevelopment.htm](http://www.csames.uiuc.edu/Fellowships&Grants/summercoursedevelopment.htm)

Cont'd from page 1 >>

# Our mission expands

Furthermore, she has approved a search for a fulltime lecturer in Persian. This means that as of next year, we will be able to offer Foreign Language and Area Study fellowships for Persian as well as Arabic, Turkish, and Hebrew. We've been able to buttress our expanding programs with major acquisitions money for the library, while also underwriting an ambitious acquisitions trip to the Middle East by our indefatigable Middle East librarian, Dr. Muhammad al-Faruque.

As interest grows nationwide in the academic study of the Middle East and South Asia, so our student programs at UIUC are expanding. We are proud to have two fine graduate students completing their first year of our Asian Studies MA. We had an impressive increase in applications this year, and have admitted five students to begin the MA next year. Our FLAS applications for funding graduate study also saw expansion. Meanwhile, the numbers of our undergraduate minors in South Asian Studies and in Islamic World Studies are also growing. We are engaging in discussions with student groups to ascertain how we can help foster their interests and on-campus activities. We are also in discussion with the Study Abroad Office about expanding the opportunities for undergraduate study abroad. While we continue to hope that we can expand faculty lines in both world areas, the current funding situation in LAS poses a challenge, although I continue to explore possibilities with various department heads throughout the College.

We are privileged in the CSAMES office to have a fine staff. Under Associate Director Ritu Saksena's expert guidance, our three GAs — Wanju Huang, Darakhshan Khan, and Paul Hartley — have been invaluable, enthusiastic, creative assets to our program. Sonnie Bowman has confronted a growing workload with good cheer. We look forward to welcoming an Outreach Coordinator, and we welcome your suggestions for how we can contribute to furthering the study of South Asia and the Middle East on this campus and among community constituencies across the state.

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## India Sixty &gt;&gt;

# Celebrating 60 Years of Indian Freedom

Fourteen departments and programs of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign came together in Nov 2007 to mark India's sixtieth year of independence through a two-day symposium – India Sixty. The symposium was organized by International Engagement, Communication, and Protocol in association with departments that have interests in South Asia, such as the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security, the College of Social Work, School of Fine and Applied Arts, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, College of Communications, etc.

Held on November 2 and 3, 2007 the symposium comprised six sessions. Each session focused on a

scholarship that centered around key issues that face India as she positions herself as a global player, such as military security, human rights and environmental sustainability. There were equally, if not more, enthusiastic debates about the success stories coming out of India, namely the IT boom and the arrival of India in the global marketplace.

The speakers included faculty experts from UIUC and researchers and dignitaries from around the US and India. The keynote address for the symposium was delivered by Ashok Kumar Khatri, the Consulate General of India, Chicago. The event concluded with Linda Katehi, the Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UIUC, addressing the speakers and organizers over lunch.



▲ Roma Chatterji from Delhi University spoke about Kolkata's folk artists who work with global themes



▲ Washington Univ's Anup Sinha spoke on the issue of education

## Turkish Studies Symposium >>



Top, clockwise: The presentations of Yukleyen, Tepe, Kuru and Turam were followed by spirited and informative discussions

## Is Turkey Islamic or Secular?

On February 28, 2008, CSAMES hosted the Fourth Annual Turkish Studies Symposium. Unlike last year's symposium, this year the weather allowed for a complete compliment of speakers and it was a well-attended event. Titled *Islam, Secularism and Democracy in Turkey Today*, it featured speakers Berna Turam, Sociology & Middle Eastern Studies, Hampshire College; Ahmet Kuru, Political Science, San Diego State University; Sultan Tepe, Political Science at University of Illinois at Chicago; and Ahmet Yukleyen, Anthropology and Sociology, at the University of Mississippi. The focus of their presen-

tations ranged from secularist backlash and civil

and religious groups in Turkey, to religious organizations amongst Turkish immigrant communities in Europe. Although the topic was a difficult one, the four speakers gave multi-faceted presentations that engendered a spirited and informative discussion.

CSAMES was honored and pleased to present this year's event which was cosponsored by REEC and EUC.

### ? Did you know....

Turkey is the only country in the world to be spread across two continents. This transnational nation is usually divided into Asian Turkey, which forms about 97 per cent of the country while European Turkey forms the rest of the three percent

## Faculty — work in progress >>



### Ken Cuno

Associate Professor, History

**Focus** Changing patterns of marriage, divorce, and the changing meaning of marriage and family in Egypt from late eighteenth to the early twentieth century

**Recent publication** "Household: Comparative Practices" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, ed. Bonnie Smith (2007)



### Klaus Witz

Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

**Focus** Qualitative research in cognition and self and research in philosophy of education and science

**Recent publication** *Spiritual Aspirations Connected with Mathematics: The Experience of American University Students*. Published in 2007, the book reflects on a phenomenon in the final high school and undergraduate years that is fundamental both from a philosophical and a broad human development and educational point of view. The research follows the pursuit of doctoral degree by four students who, arrive at an "inner understanding" of mathematics, almost like an inner vision, which involves beauty, metaphysical elements and values that lead them to graduate school.



### Amita Sinha

Associate Professor,  
Landscape Architecture

**Focus** Social issues in design and cultural landscapes of South Asia

**Recent publication** *Landscapes in India: Forms and Meanings*, University Press of Colorado, 2006

### D Fairchild Ruggles

Professor, Landscape Architecture

**Focus** Visual culture and built environment of the Islamic world

**Publications in progress** She is compiling a volume of primary sources in translation on the art, architecture, and visual culture of the Islamic world; writing a comparative study of women's architectural patronage in al-Andalus, Egypt, Iran and South Asia



## New faculty >>



### Mohammad Khalil, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

Mohammad Khalil specializes in Islamic thought and has presented papers at various conferences.

He has published / is publishing peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters on Islamic ethics (and bioethics); Western analyses of Islamic theology particularly the anthropomorphism debate);

conversion out of Islam; the hadith authenticity debates; the intersection of Islamic historiography, exegesis, and law; and the significance of the veil in Egypt, Turkey, and Iran. He is currently working on his first monograph on Muslim scholarly discussions on salvation and the fate of 'others'.



Courtesy: L Brian Stauffer

### Virginia Dominguez, Professor, Anthropology

Much of Virginia Dominguez's work has concerned how people and societies conceptualize sameness and difference both within and outside the units they consider their own — how those things we often casually refer to as "ethnicity" or "identity" develop over time and across particular spaces, how they become discursively naturalized, systematized, and institutionally entrenched.

She has undertaken extensive research on Israel, publishing *People as Subject, People as Object: Selfhood and Peoplehood in Contemporary Israel* (1989). She is President-elect of the American Anthropological Association.

### ? Did you know....

In terms of population, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the largest regional bloc with a combined member states population of almost 1.5 billion people.

## Faculty — work in progress >>



### Marilyn Booth

*Associate Professor, Comparative and World Literature*

**Focus** Aesthetics and historicity in early Arab feminisms; 19th-century Arabic novel and “arabizations” of European novels; theory and practice of auto / biography transculturally; masculines / feminines in Arabic nationalist and feminist discourses; literary translation, theory and practice; contemporary fiction in Arabophone societies

**Recent publication** “Exploding into the Seventies: Ahmad Fu’ad Nigm, Shaykh Imam, and the Aesthetics of a New Youth Politics.” *Cairo Papers in Social Science*. Thirty Years of Social and Political Protest in Egypt; and “From the Horse’s Rump and the Whorehouse Keyhole: Ventriloquized Memoirs as Political Voice in 1920s Egypt.” *Maghreb Review* 32 (2007).



### Wail Hassan

*Associate Professor,  
Comparative and World  
Literature*

**Focus** Modern Arabic, Anglophone and Francophone literatures; gender, postcolonial, translation studies

**Publications (due Spring 2008)** Introduction to the new edition of Tayib Salih’s *Season of Migration of the North*; an article on the rise of Arab American literature: Orientalism and Cultural translation in the work of Ameen Rihani in American Literary History. In April, he will lead a seminar on “Arabs and the New World” at the annual American Comparative Literature Association.

### ? Did you know....

Contrary to popular perception, green is not the most common color in national flags of Middle Eastern countries. As many as eight countries from this region do not have any shade of green in their flags. Some examples are Turkey, Tunisia, Greece and Armenia. It is the color red, not green, that is used most frequently in flags from the Middle East.

## MA students >>



*Rashelle Roos*

Rashelle is an MA student with a Middle Eastern studies concentration. She has an MFA in Studio Art with a Painting and Sculpture concentration and is interested in Turkey’s contemporary artwork – both the expression of political messages, and the morphing of stylistic qualities. Rashelle is also a CSAMES FLAS student for 2007-2008 and is studying Turkish.



*Darakhshan  
Khan*

Darakhshan is an MA student with a South Asian concentration. Her research interests are Islam and gender, especially the impact of puritanical movements like Tablighi Jama’at on the social and religious roles women play. She has a bachelors degree in Microbiology and has worked as a journalist in Bombay for six years prior to moving to the US.

## FLAS Fellows 2007- 2008 >>

**Nicola Dach** is in the second year of the PhD program in the Department of French. Her dissertation focus is religious aspects of the works of major francophone women writers from Algeria and Tunisia.

**Lawrence McMahon** is a second year PhD student in History. He specializes in the social and cultural history of Algeria during the Colonial era.

**Rachel Shulman**, is a Master’s student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. In addition to her coursework on modern Israeli culture and archival studies, she works as a GA at the University Archives.

**Chen Li** is studying Modern Standard Arabic. He studies Linguistics and Computer Science, and is in his fourth year of graduate studies. He has a special interest in studying diachronic aspects of Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing.

**Natalya Khokholova** has completed her Master’s degree in Slavic Languages and Literature, and will continue research in the PhD program. Natalya’s academic interests include film theory with a focus on Russian and Italian neo-realism.

**Other FLAS Fellows:** Andrew Fister, Erica Britt, Rashelle Roos and Christopher Lintecum.

**Summer FLAS Fellows:** Rashelle Roos and Angela Williams

## Outreach &gt;&gt;

# Bringing the Middle East Closer to You

One of the expressed goals of CSAMES, in our capacity as both a Title VI National Resource center and a multi-disciplinary center, is to sponsor, highlight and encourage research and events that further our community's awareness of the societies and cultures of South Asia and the Middle East. Within the university this means sponsoring events, seminars, round tables, and other opportunities for scholars and students to come together and share. With this in mind, we try to provide an opportunity for university scholars to present their current research and to bring in outside scholars. However, this important goal goes beyond academic scholarship and the confines of the University of Illinois. We also hope to reach out to the community at large, and to enrich educational efforts at all levels.

To this end, we have developed an outreach program, focusing on the Middle East, with the goal of providing a host of materials to educators outside the university, particularly those working in K-12 education. Our goal is to increase awareness of the Middle East with its many disparate countries and peoples, and to work to deconstruct popular misconceptions and religious and cultural stereotypes. We hope to aid teachers to provide a deep and nuanced view of the Middle East, and to support these efforts with ideas, materials, and the combined experience of our staff and affiliates.

A major component of our outreach program is ma-

*Marilyn Booth, Director, CSAMES, introduced students of Uni-High Lab School to Turkish and Egyptian cultures as part of Global Fest on March 10, '07*



terial support for area educators. The CSAMES website has an outreach section providing teachers access to a large number of prepared curriculum resources. These include fact sheets on Middle Eastern countries, guided activities, and lesson plans intended to be the basis of classroom units focused on the societies, cultures, and religions of the region. In addition to the online materials, CSAMES has a growing collection of books and objects, all of which are available for loan. The collection of books features cookbooks, novels as well as novels for young readers, collections of folk tales from many countries, and non-fiction books focusing on cultural and social phenomena from the area. All of these books can be used by themselves or in combination with the online materials to enrich any lesson about the Middle East. The lending library also has pieces that supplement the online content such as our collection of Razanne Dolls.

To access CSAMES outreach material online log on to [www.csames.uiuc.edu/outreach](http://www.csames.uiuc.edu/outreach)



## We were there >>

### Where South Side Elementary

**When** April 20, 2007

**What** We conducted an outreach event on India for the fourth graders, introducing them to artifacts, books and musical instruments. Also shared were word finds with words in English of Indian origin and picture flashcards.



**Feedback** "I loved all the help that Ritu Saxena (Associate Director, CSAMES) gave me."

*A teacher from South Side Elementary*

### Where South Side Elementary

**When** April 13, 2007

**What** CSAMES Director Marilyn Booth introduced first graders to Egyptian customs and culture. She shared dolls and picture books. She described what her life in Egypt was like, spoke to students in Arabic and answered their questions about Egypt.



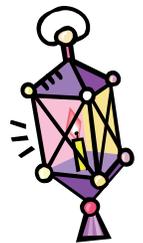
**Feedback** "The students learnt a lot from Marilyn. The fact that she had lived there intrigued them."

*A teacher from South Side Elementary*

### Where University High Laboratory School

**When** Oct 12, 2007

**What** CSAMES set up a booth at the school to participate in the high school's international day celebrations. A prayer rug, Egyptian wall hanging, Arabic alphabet magnets and a Ramadan lamp are some of the materials displayed at the table. Students were also encouraged to form words in Arabic using the scrabble board and identify flags of Middle Eastern countries.



## Outreach &gt;&gt;

## Are you spring cleaning?



Are you spring cleaning this weekend or the weekend after this one? We are so glad that you are because we need your wall hangings, the dolls your child does not play with any more, cook books you don't feel the need to refer to or mementoes you may have lying around, etc.

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies invites readers, residents and everybody else to donate their post-spring cleaning "clutter". We are looking for artifacts, books, toys, home décor items, etc. from South Asia and the Middle East. The donated items will add to our growing collection of supplementary educational materials and will be incorporated into our outreach programs.

While we are open to accepting all donations, for the items to be added to our library they should be in good condition and belonging to South Asia or Middle East.

**Please bring the materials to CSAMES Office**

221 International Studies Building  
910 South Fifth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



## Where Urbana High School

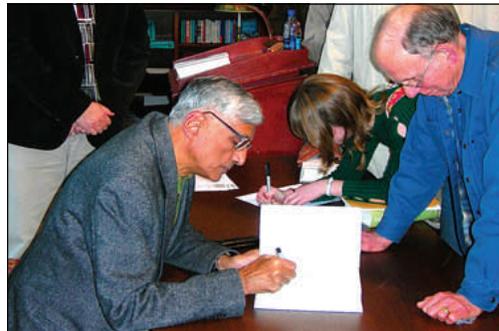
**When** March 8, 2008

**What** CSAMES participated in the school's

Global Fest with an aim to introduce high school students to art, customs and literature of the Middle East. Students were drawn to the booth by interactive games, crosswords and a quiz about the different types of headdress and veils used in the Middle East. They were also encouraged to browse through novels for young adults, and other books from the region that were on display.

## Flashback Fall 2007, Spring 2007

>> CSAMES co-sponsored Fall's first MillerComm talk on Sept 5, inviting Abdullahi An-Na'im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, to talk about *Islam and the secular state*. The Center also hosted an informal talk, where the noted scholar met the faculty and students. Seen in the picture are Abdullahi An-Na'im (first from right) with Mohammad Khalil, Ken Cuno and Valerie Hoffman



<< Rajmohan Gandhi, Director of Global Crossroads & Research Professor at CSAMES, spoke about his new book, titled *Mohandas: A True Story of a Man, his People, and an Empire*, at Illini Union Bookstore on Feb 20. The talk, sponsored by CSAMES, was followed by a book signing event



▲ D Ruggles, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, presented the March 6 Brown Bag talk entitled *Mughal and Rajput Palaces: Swapping Forms, Shifting Identities*

>> A still from *Salata Baladi*, the award-winning documentary by Egyptian filmmaker Nadia Kamel (inset), that was screened at Gregory Hall on Nov 6, 2007



>> Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University, delivered the April 6 MillerComm talk about how the Cold War had shaped and influenced the Middle East



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**Design & Layout** Darakhshan Khan

**Contributing Editors** Darakhshan Khan, Paul Hartley and Wanju Huang



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## Giving to CSAMES >>

You can support our programs and events by contributing to any of the following funds:

- Middle East Studies Fund
- South Asian Studies Fund
- India Studies Fund
- Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Director's Discretionary Fund

Please make the check payable to **The University of Illinois Foundation** and note the fund to which you want your gift directed in the memo line of the check. Fill the form on the bottom left and send it to the address on the right. If you would like to give by credit card, please complete the form on the bottom right and mail it to the same address. For the transaction to be complete, please supply all the information sought in the form.

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