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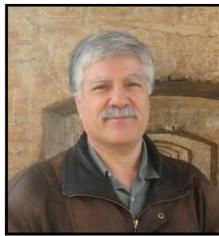
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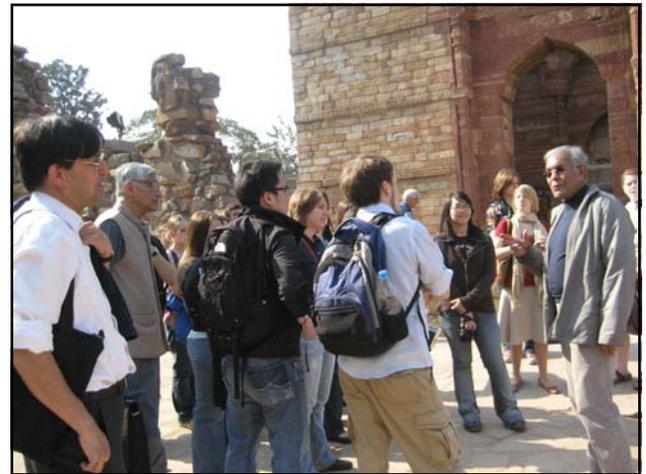
## Director's Note >>

# A Growing Center



^ Dr. Hadi Salehi Esfahani,  
^ Director, CSAMES

*The Center has  
rejuvenated its  
M.A. program in Middle  
Eastern as well as South  
Asian studies.* >>



It is with pleasure that I have joined the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies as the Director. CSAMES has taken major strides over the past several years and has enhanced its contribution to research, education, and outreach on a host of issues concerning the regions of South Asia and the Middle East. In particular, thanks to the efforts of its past directors and support from CSAMES faculty, associates, and staff, over the past few years the unit has managed to attract a major Title VI grant from the Department of Education and elevate itself from a program to a National Resource Center for Middle Eastern studies. We have also successfully rejuvenated the master's program in both Middle Eastern studies and South Asian studies with our first M.A. student

having graduated this past December. It is my goal to build upon these achievements and take CSAMES forward.

The University of Illinois campus at Urbana-Champaign has substantial potential for contributing to South Asian and Middle Eastern studies. A unique feature of the campus is its strength in a wide range of fields, from engineering and sciences to social sciences and humanities. The large size of the campus has also facilitated the emergence of a large number of cross-disciplinary units focusing on a variety of issues facing today's world. With help from the faculty, students, and the community, I believe CSAMES will be able to take advantage of these resources and fulfill its mission with distinction.

Cont'd on page 2 >>

Cont'd from page 1 >>

# Turning the Page at CSAMES

The current year is a critical juncture for the continued growth of CSAMES as we strive to expand its scope and resources. To this end, a task force has been appointed at the campus level to seek enhanced funding for South Asian studies and programs. This initiative is being led by Professor Rajeshwari Pandharipande of the Department of Religion. More information about this initiative can be found on the web pages dedicated for this purpose on the CSAMES website.

Our comprehensive plans to expand our scope include increasing the set of courses being offered on the Middle East, arranging new activities in support of research on the region, and augmenting the Center's outreach activities. In all these activities, CSAMES will be enhancing its collaboration with other campus units and student organizations to productively leverage its resources as much as possible. The

Center will also work with other campus and community organizations to maintain the momentum of the Illinois Network on Islam and Muslim Societies (I-NIMS), which was launched last year with the help of a grant from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Although that grant was not renewed for the coming academic year, we plan to tap into other resources and support I-NIMS while we reapply to SSRC for future years.

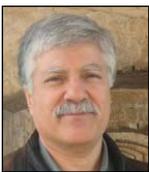
One of the visible and immediate changes at CSAMES is the remake of its website. We owe this redesign to the thoughtful efforts of Ritu Saksena, Associate Director of CSAMES, Elizabeth Rogers, our Visiting Project Specialist, and the staff of ATLAS. We hope that this new design will make the site more accessible, informative, and interesting. Any suggestions for improving the website or any other aspect of CSAMES

activities would be welcome and greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the CSAMES staff—Ritu Saksena, Angela Williams, Elizabeth Rogers, Darakhshan Khan, and Stevanna Farley-Wamberg—for their dedicated work. I would also like to add, on behalf of the staff and myself, that we very much appreciate the generous support that CSAMES receives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University. And, of course, we are all thankful to the community and the faculty and students affiliated with CSAMES who assist us in various ways and make it easy for us to serve them.

I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and the community to boost the contribution of our campus to the understanding of South Asian and Middle Eastern societies.

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## Turkish Studies Symposium >>

# Talking Immigrant Angst



^ Professor Jeffrey Jurgens from Bard College  
^ presenting his paper “‘The Police Came from Leipzig, You Know’: Gendered Violence, Racialized Space, and Turkish Immigrant Soccer in Berlin”

CSAMES hosted the fifth annual Turkish Studies Symposium that saw five scholars from diverse campuses presenting their work on Turkish immigrants in the West. Titled, “Turkish Diasporas, Turkish Communities,” the symposium began on the afternoon of March 12 and ended with the traditional reception at The Bread Company. The event raised issues of religious, ethnic and political identities of Turkish

immigrants in countries such as Germany, Bulgaria, and the U.S. The Center collaborated with the Turkish Students’ Association to conclude the symposium with the screening of the film *In July* by acclaimed German director of Turkish origin Fatih Akin. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Center, the European Union Center, and the Center for Global Studies.

### Participating scholars

- Professor Kemal Karpat, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Professor Kristen Ghodsee, Bowdoin College
- Professor Jeffrey Jurgens, Bard College
- Professor Aydin Cecen, Central Michigan University
- Dr. A. Deniz Balgamis, University of Wisconsin-Madison



## Announcements >>

### Tikku Memorial Prize Winner for 2008

Stanley Thangaraj, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was awarded the Girdhari Tikku Memorial Prize for the year 2008 for his paper titled “Indo-Pak Basketball Courts as ‘Place-Worlds’ for Narrating, Performing and Imagining South Asian American Masculinity.” His entry was chosen from a very competitive pool of papers.

### Website Redesign

CSAMES redesigned its website! The redesign has made the website more accessible, informative, and interesting, and the updated site layout improved the website to be more user-friendly and intuitive. CSAMES also added some new content, such as the South Asian curriculum materials. Take a look at the design, and let us know what you think!

### CSAMES Master’s Graduates



**Rashelle Roos**

Rashelle Roos graduated from our program in December 2008 with a master’s in Asian studies, focusing on the Middle East; she also holds an M.F.A. in sculpture/painting. Rashelle worked as a graduate assistant for CSAMES in summer 2008. She is now involved with the local art scenes in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE. Rashelle is currently creating a body of work, including oil and mixed-media paintings, which are inspired by historical and contemporary styles from the region.



**Darakhshan Khan**

Darakhshan Khan will graduate from our program in May 2009 with a master’s in Asian studies, focusing on South Asia. Her area of interest is religion, gender, and Islamic revivalist movements in South Asia. Darakhshan has a bachelor’s degree in microbiology and has worked as a journalist in her hometown of Bombay. She also worked as a CSAMES graduate assistant. Darakhshan will attend a Ph.D. program at the University of Pennsylvania beginning in fall 2009.

## Faculty at Work >>



### Dr. Hoffman is 2009 Carnegie Scholar

Dr. Valerie Hoffman, Associate Professor, Department of Religion, has been selected as a 2009 Carnegie Scholar. Hoffman will receive a two-year grant of up to \$100,000 from the New York-based foundation. Dr. Hoffman was selected for her commitment to enriching the quality of the public dialogue on Islam, the foundation has said. Dr. Hoffman's project — "Islamic Sectarianism Reconsidered: Ibadism in the Modern Age" — explores the impact of globalization on Ibadism, a marginalized strand of Islam distinct from the two dominant branches, Sunni and Shiite.



### Dr. Ahmad Presents at Seminars in Pakistan

Dr. Irfan Ahmad, Associate Director, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, delivered seminars on bionanotechnology and nanomedicine in January 2009 as part of the joint project between USAID and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (2007-2010). He also made presentations at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital and Research Center, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Advanced Science and Technology, and the International Islamic University, Islamabad. The project is coordinated by the University of Illinois Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology.



### Senior Fulbright for Dr. Sinha

Dr. Amita Sinha, Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, received the Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship in spring 2009 and a grant from the Humanities Released Time Program of the UIUC Research Board. She lectured at IIT, School of Planning and Architecture, and Jamia Millia and also gave presentations at the Asian Cities: Legacies of Modernity Conference and Sacred Arts Festival in New Delhi, and the Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Conference in Oxford. The paperback edition of her book, *Landscapes in India: Forms and Meanings*, was also published in April 2009.

## Faculty Publications >>



### Dr. Kenneth Cuno

Dr. Kenneth Cuno, Associate Professor, Department of History, published "Divorce and the Fate of the Family in Modern Egypt," in *Family in the Middle East: Ideational Change in Egypt, Iran, and Tunisia*, edited by Kathryn Yount and Hoda Rashad (Routledge, 2008) and "African Slaves in Nineteenth Century Rural Egypt" in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 41, 2 (2009) as well as short essays on teaching the Middle East as part of world history in *Illinois International Review* and on the Israel-Hamas cease fire in the online *Illinois International Global Viewpoint* in July 2008. He presented "Keeping Women at Home: Was the Enforcement of Marital Cohabitation Islamic or Colonial in Origin?" at the UI-UC collaborative workshop on "Islam, Modernity, and Eurasia" in October 2008.



### Dr. Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi

Dr. Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, published *Islam and Dissent in Postrevolutionary Iran: Abdolkarim Soroush, Religious Politics and Democratic Reforms* in spring 2009 (Palgrave Macmillan). In his book, through a close reading of the work of important contemporary Iranian philosopher Abdolkarim Soroush, Dr. Ghamari-Tabrizi argues that the 1979 Iranian Revolution unintentionally opened the public sphere in Iran to competing interpretations of Islam, not just by high-ranking seminarians but also by lay theologians, intellectuals, lawyers and social activists.

## M.A. Students >>



**Nilufer  
Duygu Eriten**

Duygu lived in Istanbul, Turkey, before coming to the U.S. in 2007. She studied at Istanbul University and has a B.A. and an M.A. in economics. She has now started her M.A. at CSAMES. Her research is about the formation of ethnic identities in the Middle East — especially among the Kurds — and in the Balkans during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the nationalist movements in these regions.



**Jeffrey  
Peyton**

Jeffrey Peyton joined the CSAMES M.A. program in fall 2008, with a focus on the Middle East. His interest is in religion in the Middle East; in particular, he plans to examine interreligious relations and relations between states and minority religions in the region. Jeff completed his undergraduate work in Islamic studies in the Department of Religion at the University of Illinois. He is currently a CSAMES FLAS student.



**Natasha  
Samreny**

Natasha Samreny is pursuing her master's degree in Middle Eastern studies and Arabic. She moved from Tampa Bay where she reported for WUSF 89.7 FM. She graduated cum laude in 2006 from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in broadcast news. Natasha is also a CSAMES FLAS student.

## FLAS Students Summer 2008 >>

**Rosemary Admiral, History**

Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco

**Nicola Dach, French**

Arabic Languages Plus in Rabat, Morocco

**Natalya Khokholova, Slavic Languages and Literature**

Bogazici University Intensive Turkish Language and Culture Program in Istanbul, Turkey

## FLAS Students AY 2008-09 >>

**Rosemary Admiral, History**

A Ph.D. student, Rosemary focuses on the Middle East and Islamic law. She is studying Arabic in order to understand classical and modern legal and historical texts.

**Jacob Baum, History**

A Ph.D. student, Jacob studies Hebrew to further his comparative research of diasporic Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewish communities in Europe and the Ottoman Empire.

**Natalya Khokholova, Slavic Languages and Literature**

A third year FLAS fellow, Natalya's research is devoted to tracing Orientalism in the 19th century Society Tale (money and gossip). Her research languages are Turkish and Russian.

**Chen Li, Linguistics**

Chen Li is currently studying colloquial Arabic, mainly Jordanian Arabic. A fifth-year linguistics and computer science

graduate student, Chen is interested in studying the diachronic aspects of computational linguistics.

**Christopher Lintecum, History**

Christopher is a Ph.D. student in History, learning Turkish to improve his study of the intellectual and cultural history of nationalism in Greater Syria.

**Jeffrey Peyton, CSAMES**

**Archana Prakash, History**

A first year Ph.D. candidate, Archana's research focuses on identity formation in the 18th-20th centuries in the Middle East, particularly through interaction with Europe. She is learning Arabic and has also enrolled for Persian and Sanskrit.

**Rashelle Roos, CSAMES (graduated December 2008)**

**Natasha Samreny, CSAMES**

## Illinois Outreach Network on Islam in the World >>

# Reel Islam

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) awarded CSAMES and CGS a grant entitled "Academia in the Public Sphere: Islam and Muslims in World Contexts" for a period of 12 months, from March 15, 2008, to March 14, 2009. This was followed by an extension that has given CSAMES an opportunity to organize film screenings and lectures for residents of Urbana-Champaign and the larger Illinois community until August 2009.

The SSRC grant has funded the establishment of the Illinois Network on Islam and Muslim Societies (I-NIMS), with members from different universities and colleges in Illinois participating in the network. Members

have research or teaching interests related to Islam or Muslim societies, and are committed to community (non-K-12) outreach. I-NIMS, through SSRC funding, sponsors a lecture series and film series. The lecture series invites I-NIMS members and outside



academics to give lectures on a broad range of topics dealing with Islam and Muslim communities all over the world. The film series sponsors screenings of relevant films paired with commentary by the film director or a relevant academic. Both series are geared toward community audiences,

and series events are held in various locations across Illinois, organized by I-NIMS members.

I-NIMS has also established a Speakers Bureau that provides a list of names and information on faculty and academics who are willing to travel locally or across the state to give lectures in their relevant areas of expertise. Community organizations can draw upon the Speakers Bureau to coordinate lectures on topics related to Islam or Muslim societies. The Speakers Bureau also includes a list of members who are willing to serve as point-of-information contacts for media or local businesses and organizations.

## I-NIMS Events Calendar >>

**Sept. 8-10** Dr. Ali Ansari, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, gave two lectures, in Springfield and Champaign, and appeared on WILL's *Focus 580*.

**Sept. 19** *Persepolis*, a film by Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud, was screened for the Champaign community.

**Oct. 2-3** Dr. Mark Tessler, University of Michigan, gave a lecture on campus and also addressed the Champaign community. He appeared on WILL's *Focus 580*.

**Nov. 9** *Arranged*, a film by Stefan Schaefer and Diane Crespo, was screened for the Urbana community.

**Dec. 7-9** *Jashn-e-Azadi (How We Celebrate Freedom)*, a documentary

by Indian filmmaker Sanjay Kak, was screened in Springfield, Normal, and Champaign. Screenings were followed by a discussion with Sanjay Kak.

**Feb. 8-10** Dr. Anouar Majid, University of New England, gave a community lecture in Urbana and on campus, and also appeared on WILL's *Focus 580*.

**Feb. 28** Dr. Marvin Weinbaum, Middle East Institute, Washington DC, gave a community lecture in Urbana.

**March 8-9** Dr. Juan Cole, University of Michigan, gave a community lecture and a campus lecture in Urbana, and appeared on WILL's *Keeping the Faith* and *Focus 580*. Dr. Cole also spoke to the Chicago community on April 8.

**March 31** *Slingshot Hip Hop*, a documentary by Palestinian-American

### Coming soon

Mai Abdul Rahman from the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace, will talk about Jerusalem and the three Abrahamic faiths on May 27 in Springfield, and on May 28 in Champaign.

filmmaker Jackie Salloum, was screened in Chicago, Charleston, and Urbana. These screenings were followed by discussions with Salloum.

**March 31** Dr. Nagasura Madale, Mindanao State University, Philippines, gave a community lecture in DeKalb. He gave the same community lecture on April 1 in Macomb and on April 2 in Springfield.

**April 2** Dr. Mohammed Fadel, University of Toronto, gave a community lecture in Urbana. He also gave the same community lecture in Carbondale on April 1.

**April 24** *Make Chai Not War* comedians Ashar Usman, Rajiv Satyal and Paul Varghese performed for the Champaign-Urbana community.

**April 25** Anna Baltzer, International Women's Peace Service, talked about life in occupied Palestine in Champaign.



**Sept. 23, 27, Oct. 8 and 29** *American Ramadan: Fasting for Faith* by director Naeem Randhawa was screened at Urbana Free Library, Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village, and in Springfield.

## Interviews with Filmmakers &gt;&gt;

# 'Palestinian Hip Hop Inspired by Tupac'



*Jackie Salloum (standing), whose film Slingshot Hip Hop premiered at the Sundance festival last year, visited Champaign in March with her documentary*

## What are the origins of the Palestinian hip hop scene?

Hip hop started in Palestine because of Tupac Shakur. When Tamer (founding member of the group DAM) first saw American rap videos on television, he didn't connect with the "blinged-out" images he saw. But then he saw a video with Tupac where he saw cops, drugs, and the ghetto and connected immediately with those images because it looked like his "hood," Lyd, an area 10 miles outside Tel Aviv. So he decided to try to talk about what he sees in Lyd through hip hop. The artists are using hip hop as a form of resistance against occupation.

## What were some of the problems you faced while you were shooting the film?

When you are shooting in a place that is under occupation, you have to deal with things that you would not normally have to deal with. For instance, traveling to different areas was difficult, since you never knew how long it would take to get through the checkpoints, or if you would be questioned, or flatly refused entry into an area. Traveling to Gaza was extremely

difficult. Gaza is like an open-air prison: they don't allow many people to get in and Palestinians are not allowed out. Once we were in, we dealt with things like electricity being randomly shut off for days at a time, so charging camera batteries was difficult. Not being able to travel with the rappers to other areas of Palestine was also frustrating.

## Is the film getting the kind of response you had expected?

When I began shooting the film, I did not have many expectations. I had no background in making movies. Of course, making it to Sundance was great for the attention we got. After a year of traveling with it, the thing I like most is seeing such diverse people in the audience.

## Do you foresee the movement becoming commodified, as it has to some extent in America?

No. Palestinians are living under occupation. For them, hip hop is about their struggle for human rights. There is no materialistic focus here or disrespect of women. Besides, there are no corporations trying to commodify it in Palestine.



*Sanjay Kak's Jashn-e-Azadi film about the 'sentiment behind the political struggle in Kashmir' was screened in December*

## Telling It Like It Is

### What were some of the problems you faced when you were shooting the film?

The 'problems' of shooting in Kashmir were really one of method. How do you even begin to understand what is going on in a place that is so heavily militarized, so overrun with police and intelligence agencies, with such a controlled media? The traditional methods were quite unequal to the place. So finding a way around these barriers to tease out people's feelings was tough.

### Is the movie getting the kind of response you had expected? What are some of the criticisms the film has faced?

I don't know that we knew what we really expected: if we had, then the film would probably have had to take on those reactions! So my editor and I just proceeded to cut the film in the way we wanted to tell the story, not oblivious of what people may have to say, but just trying to be certain that we were prepared to stand by our telling. Criticism? Many, many people have been deeply been moved and disturbed. Others have been upset by it, saying that it was not telling the full picture. Telling the full story, if indeed it exists, was never the intention. We were trying to tell a story that you do not often encounter: the story of the sentiment behind the political struggle in the Kashmir valley.

### How do you respond to the criticism that your movie circumvents issues of gender violence?

It is probably valid, although to be honest, I have not had much of that thrown at me! There have already been several films that talk only of women, which is a good thing. I was telling a different story. Women are an equal, not separate, part of that struggle.

### How do you see Kashmir voting for Lok Sabha?

I don't think the general elections or the recent state elections are in any way significant to the reality of what is happening in Kashmir. Elections have become the superficial layer that many people use to justify blatantly undemocratic behavior.

## Outreach &gt;&gt;

## Close Encounters

In keeping with its commitment to introduce the students and communities of central Illinois to Middle Eastern and South Asian languages, traditions, and culture, CSAMES has increased its outreach programming in the community and to K-12 audiences. During this academic year the Center has participated in classroom visits, given presentations at community venues, and forged closer partnerships with educators and educational institutes.

In September, the Center partnered with the campus Muslim Students Association and created a Ramadan outreach program for local elementary schools, and in February hosted an after-school program on Islamic art at the Kids' Club of Orchard Downs' residential community.

At the 2008 International Summer Institute, "Multiple Perspectives in Teaching World History," Dr. Ritu Saksena led a discussion on Deepa Mehta's film *Earth*. Additionally, as part of the South Asian outreach initiative, CSAMES has built partnerships with the Asian Educational Media Services for a

documentary and independent film series. Film screenings featured *Going to School in India* and *Kabul Transit*. CSAMES also created South Asia curriculum units, including country fact sheets, currency and language information, and other activities, which are available on the website.

As part of its growing community outreach efforts, the Center implemented a series of programs for children and families at the Urbana Free Library and Champaign Public Library. The series at Urbana Free Library, "Middle East Story Time," takes place the third Saturday of each month at the library. The program focuses on festivals and celebrations in the Middle

East, profiles various countries and regions, and teaches Arabic language and songs in addition to reading a children's story and demonstrating crafts from the region. The Center has also connected with educators, students and their families through various open houses and fairs.



*Middle East Story Time draws children from diverse backgrounds to learn about the cultures and languages of the Middle East*

## We Were There &gt;&gt;

**What:** Ramadan outreach program

**Where:** Thomas Paine School

**When:** Sept. 12, 2008

**What:** The Center partnered with the campus Muslim Student Association and created a Ramadan outreach program for the students. The children participated in an interactive presentation that described Ramadan. They also made Ramadan lamps and Eid cards and tasted foods that are traditionally associated with Ramadan.



**What:** Head Start Heritage Celebration  
**Where:** Champaign Early Childhood Center

**When:** Feb. 25, 2009

**What:** CSAMES participated in a community event that was attended by over 200 early childhood education students and their families and teachers. At the CSAMES booth students and their parents could make calligraphy bookmarks, assemble an Arabic alphabet puzzle, and color animal cards with the Arabic name of the animals printed next to the illustrations for children's reference.



**What:** Teaching Islam

**Where:** University Laboratory High School

**When:** Feb. 17-20, 2009

**What:** Dr. Mohammed Khalil, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, and Angela Williams, CSAMES Outreach Coordinator, co-taught "Introduction to Islam" at the high school for a week in February for the school's Agora Days. Twenty-five students enrolled for the course, which focused on the origins of Islam, Islamic celebrations, and Muslim communities.

**What:** Global Fest

**Where:** Urbana High School

**When:** Mar. 13-14, 2009

**What:** Global Fest, a multidisciplinary celebration to promote the study of world languages and cultures, drew nearly 1,000 middle and high school students from around the state. CSAMES staff Darakhshan Khan and Angela Williams instructed a series of language immersion classes, where students, teachers, and parents were introduced to the writing systems and basic, daily greetings in Hindi and Arabic.

To access CSAMES outreach materials online, log on to [www.csames.illinois.edu/outreach](http://www.csames.illinois.edu/outreach)

## Outreach >>

### Message Board

Angela,  
I want to thank you so much for working with me on bringing this film to the Urbana Free Library. I got wonderful feedback from those who came. I was especially excited to see how diverse the audience was... I hope we continue to work together. Thanks again!  
Carol Inskip, Urbana Free Library

Dear Angela,  
Thank you again for joining us for "Around the World Wednesdays" at the Spurlock Museum. It was wonderful to see children and parents learning about modern Egypt through the story and other activities you provided. Fondly,  
Julia Robinson, Learning Center Coordinator, The Spurlock Museum

### Coming soon

The International Summer Institute will be held from **June 15-19**. The week-long institute will be entitled "Music in Many Languages" and will focus on the teaching of less commonly taught languages — one from each of the world areas — through traditional songs. The participants will include 25 elementary general and vocal music teachers.

CSAMES will hold its first Middle East Summer Institute for Educators this summer from **June 23-26**. To be called "Understanding and Teaching about the Middle East and Islam," the four-day institute will offer resources and methods for teaching about the region's geography, religions, trade and art. Films, activities, and discussion sessions will be incorporated into each session.

## A Thank You Note to Our Friends

In the last six months, CSAMES' outreach initiative has grown abundantly. Not too long ago, we were a small group of students who were putting together educational modules for K-12 students and teachers. But by the time 2008 had rolled into 2009, we had turned into storytellers for toddlers, screened documentary films for high school students, and brain-stormed with teachers to conceptualize educational aids that could make the teaching of and learning about the Middle East and South Asia an interesting and enjoyable journey.

Our remarkable successes in the last semester would not have been possible without the help of individuals and organizations both on and off campus, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends for donating to the Center:

- Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The Outreach Center, Harvard University
- Natalie Twigg, Iraqi Children's Songs Project
- Thomas Paine Elementary School
- Shahyar Daneshgar
- Naile Sanat Evi
- Meem Gallery, Dubai
- Mojgan Momeni
- Mohammad Marandi
- Rashelle Roos
- Rajwant Chilana
- Amr Sharaf

We hope to forge more bonds in the community in the coming semesters and strengthen the ones we have already built.

-Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies



## Are You Spring Cleaning?

Are you spring cleaning this weekend or the weekend after? We are glad you are, because we need your wall hangings, the dolls your child does not play with anymore, cookbooks you don't refer to, mementos, etc.!

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern studies invites readers, residents and pretty much everybody else to donate their post-spring cleaning clutter. We are looking for artifacts, books, toys, home décor items, etc., from or about South Asia and the Middle East. The donated items will become

part of our collection of supplementary educational materials and incorporated into our outreach programs.

While we are open to accepting everything that residents choose to donate, in order for items to be added to our library they should be in good condition and relate to South Asia or the Middle East.

**You can drop the materials at:**  
CSAMES  
221 International Studies Building  
910 South Fifth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

## Flashback Fall 2008, Spring 2009



^ Dr. Sherman Jackson, University of Michigan, delivered the MillerComm Lecture in January 2008. The title of his talk was "Beyond Jihad: New Directions in Muslim Fundamentalist Thought."

>> Dr. Juan Cole, University of Michigan, was invited to Champaign-Urbana as part of the I-NIMS initiative in March 2009. Dr. Cole talked about America's withdrawal from Iraq and the future of U.S. security.



^ Political Science student Asma Faiz (first picture from the left) presented a Brown Bag lecture in April 2009 about citizen diplomacy in India-Pakistan relations. In November 2008, Dr. Mohammad Khalil, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, presented a Brown Bag lecture that discussed Rashid Rida's position on religious pluralism. Dr. Hale Yilmaz from Southern Illinois University presented her paper on "Politics and Culture of Dress in Early Republican Turkey" in March 2009 as part of CSAMES' Tuesday Brown Bag series.



^ Students and faculty from the University of Illinois and University of Chicago participate in the discussion at the end of the two-day collaborative workshop "Islam, Modernity, and Eurasia" held in October 2008.



<< The Honorable Aman Rashid (sitting, first from left), Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, spoke about the political developments in Pakistan during the Ambassador Series lecture on October 23, 2008.

## Study Abroad >>



**Egypt Summer 2008**  
RLST 410, Islam in Egypt

"The course helped students grow both intellectually and personally. In our last class session, I asked the students to tell of something they had learned from the course. One student said that he now understood just how pervasive Islam is in daily life. Another commented that he had certainly come to understand how diverse Islamic life really is. Another said that the course had confirmed his interest in pursuing a career in diplomacy. One of the two religion majors, who had each taken a number of courses on Islam, said that nothing had really surprised her, but so many things made her say, "Ah ha!"; phenomena of which she had heard or read became real and concrete. The course vastly increased students' understanding of the Muslim world, and in some cases affected them in a profoundly personal way."

**Dr. Valerie Hoffman** (first from left, standing)

**Associate Professor, Department of Religion; Instructor, RLST 410**

"Students were cheek-to-jowl with India's magic and India's misery. The bonds they made with one another were reflected in songs spontaneously sung in the bus on bumpy roads. After an initial shock, they coped resiliently with India's traffic and noise. I was happy with the depth of their involvement with India which came across in research papers on subjects ranging from the place of Sikhs in contemporary India to how Delhi responded (or failed to respond) to a rape incident occurring within days of our arrival."

**Professor Rajmohan Gandhi** (not pictured)

**Research Professor, CSAMES; Instructor, LAS 199**



**Delhi Winter 2008**

**LAS 199, Diversity and Integration in Delhi**

**Istanbul Winter 2008**  
LAS 199,  
Diversity and  
Integration in  
Istanbul



"This winter break program in Istanbul was great fun not only for students but also for me. Students loved the historical and natural beauty of Istanbul but they were not very thrilled about the rainy days. Because of the special geopolitical status of Istanbul, they were able to understand the influences of globalization, the interactions between the East and the West, modernity and history and the crossroads of secularism and religion. Students noticed small but important details during this trip and were surprised by the diversity of Istanbul. Interacting with Turkish students made them realize how similar they were although they live thousands of miles away from each other."

**Dr. Ercan Balci** (far right)

**Lecturer, Linguistics; Instructor, LAS 199**

# Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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