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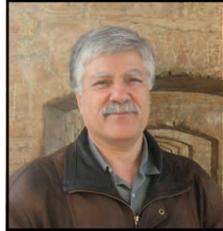
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Letter from the Director >>

Making Strides at CSAMES



<< *Dr. Hadi Salehi Esfahani,*
Director, CSAMES

It has been quite busy at CSAMES during the past 12 months. Besides a full schedule of programs on South Asia and the Middle East, we prepared our application for the renewal of our Title VI grant for the Middle East and helped the South Asia Initiative develop a proposal to form a Title VI National Resource Center for South Asia within CSAMES. The efforts required for these grant applications were extraordinary, as we had to coordinate a wealth of projects proposed by faculty and build a variety of linkages across colleges within the University as well as with other universities and colleges in the region. However, our team was quite up to the task and we benefited greatly from the support of our faculty and of the staff and administrators at IPS and LAS. The end result was high quality proposals along with a clear map for new directions at CSAMES.

A cornerstone of the development strategy at CSAMES over the next four years is to facilitate the offering of a variety of new area courses, targeting advanced undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students in different disciplines. These courses will be offered in the Colleges of Business, Law, and Media as well as LAS. We will collaborate with other colleges, especially ACES and Engineering, to help offer interdisciplinary courses with Middle Eastern and South Asian content. The new courses, along with a host of other planned activities such as lecture series, conferences, film festivals, and the like, will greatly enhance CSAMES' area studies programs and

elevate its position as a major center of research, education, and outreach on the Middle East and South Asia. The courses and other programming will also give a boost to our MA program, which is to be separated from the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and offered as an independent MA program with a redesigned curriculum. With these developments, our program should attract increasing numbers of high quality students, offering professional education in Middle Eastern and South Asian studies.

The support from the University, especially from LAS and IPS, has been crucial in building the capacity we need for these major expansions in our area studies programs. During the past four years, in the area of Middle Eastern studies for example, there have been seven new tenure-line appointments in non-language fields (two of them at the full professor rank) as well as two full-time language lecturers (in Persian and Turkish). The Center has also been lucky to have as its affiliates a large number of highly productive and supportive faculty members. Finally, very special thanks must go to the extremely dedicated, enthusiastic, and competent staff at CSAMES: Ritu Saksena, Angela Williams, and Elizabeth Sartell. I am also thankful to Rajeshwari Pandharipande who led the South Asia Initiative, and Lars Dyrud, who assisted in developing the proposal for a South Asia National Resource Center grant.

These are certainly exciting times in our Middle Eastern and South Asian studies programs, and I look forward to working with our faculty, staff, students, and the community to bring our plans to fruition.

Workshops and Symposia >>

Iran's Politics & Policies: Presidential Election of 2009 and Iran's Nuclear Policies

CSAMES hosted an Iranian Studies Symposium which brought eight scholars from diverse campuses to present their insights and research on "Iran's Politics and Policies: Presidential Election of 2009 and Iran's Nuclear Policies." The symposium took place on October 2 and



drew a standing-room only attendance, with panels focusing on Iran's nuclear policies and the international response, Iran's presidential election of 2009, and

future trends in social and political change in Iran. The event raised issues within electoral politics and nuclear technology acquisition, and included an analysis of the Green Movement, the leadership of Iranian women, and U.S.-Iran diplomatic engagement. The symposium ended with a reception at The Bread Company where panelists and participants continued their discussions on these subjects.

The Iranian Studies Symposium was organized and hosted by CSAMES. Co-sponsors included the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security; the Center for Global Studies; the Department of History; the Department of Political Science; the Department of Sociology; the European Union Center; the Illinois Network on Islam and Muslim Societies; and the Parkland Reads Program (at Parkland College).

Participating Scholars

Professor Asef Bayat, Leiden University (Netherlands)

Professor Kaveh Ehsani, DePaul University

Professor Hadi Salehi Esfahani, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Professor Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Professor Norma Moruzzi, University of Illinois at Chicago

Robert Naiman, Just Foreign Policy

Professor Muhammad Sahimi, University of Southern California

Professor Cliff Singer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Violence, Trauma, and Displacement in the Middle East and Eurasia

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies along with the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center and our counterparts at the University of Chicago, hosted our second collaborative workshop entitled *Violence, Trauma, and Displacement in the Middle East and Eurasia* on January 29-30, with additional co-sponsorship from the Department of History and Center for Global Studies at Illinois. The event brought together scholars from the two universities, as well as surrounding areas, for engaging discussions on violence, trauma, and displacement in terms of historical and contemporary situations in the regions. An underlying theme of the workshop considered whether trauma and displacement may be examined in terms of human agency used to constitute group identity. Faculty and graduate students discussed diverse issues ranging from the Israeli-Palestinian crisis to the Albanian

rebellion as the culmination of decay of the Ottoman Empire. Ethnographic research of Syrian society examined political dimensions of suffering, the institutions of marriage and divorce, and the development of Iraqi cultural heritage in Syria to symbolize a loss of agency that may be associated with displacement. Participants later continued animated discussions on these topics over an enjoyable Mediterranean dinner.



^ James Tallon, University of Chicago, presents at the workshop



Of Music and Peace >>

Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Visits Illinois



▲
▲ Gale Summerfield, Ritu Saksena, Muhammad Yunus, and Hadi Salehi Esfahani

Muhammad Yunus received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering concept of banking without collateral for the poorest of the poor along with Grameen Bank, which he founded in 1983 to offer small loans for self-employment for the rural poor, especially poor women. Bob Easter, interim chancellor at Illinois, presented the University's Presidential Award and

Medallion to Yunus on March 1, 2010. The award and medallion is given to recognize those who "support and bring distinction to the university in profound ways." The presentation ceremony began at 7pm at Foellinger Auditorium. Yunus spoke on "Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century" after the ceremony and took audience questions after his remarks.

In connection with Yunus' talk, students, researchers, and organizations with social entrepreneurship projects were invited to display posters and talk about their projects. Posters were on display in the Atrium of the Business Instructional Facility. Poster topics addressed several areas of enduring interest to Yunus: micro-credit opportunities for poor people, gender equity, health care, and social business. Yunus is the author of two best-selling books, *Banker to the Poor* and *Creating a World Without Poverty*; he signed copies of these books in the BIF Atrium.

The video of Dr. Yunus' lecture is available online at:
<http://csames.illinois.edu/news/archive>.

Biography

Yunus was born in 1940 in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and studied at Dhaka University in Bangladesh. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at Vanderbilt University and earned his doctorate in Economics there in 1969. Yunus has previously worked as an assistant professor of Economics at Middle Tennessee State University and led the Department of Economics at Chittagong University. Yunus serves on the board of directors of the United Nations Foundation.

Ostad Zolfonoon at Illinois

The *Masters of Classical Music of Iran* with Master of the Setar Ostad Jalal Zolfonoon, percussionist Siamak Pouian of UCLA, and members of the Silk Road Ensemble visited Illinois to perform for the campus and local community at the Spurlock Museum Knight Auditorium with support from CSAMES, the Persian Cultural Association, Robert E. Brown Center for World Music, Spurlock Museum, and several community sponsors. The performance at Knight Auditorium drew a full audience of students, faculty, and community members for the unique opportunity to experience traditions of Iranian classical music. CSAMES also coordinated a visit to Urbana High School, where the group gave a music demonstration and interacted with band and orchestra students who were captivated by the stringed instruments and drumming techniques.

Ostad Jalal Zolfonoon studied

musical theory, composition, and technique at the National School for Iranian Music, and studied the setar while a faculty member at Tehran University. Ostad Zolfonoon combines the techniques of the older masters of setar with his own creativity. He composes for the setar and has proved to be one of the most expressive and technically virtuosic players of the instrument.

Perhaps most notable of Ostad Zolfonoon's contributions to this music is that he was the first to show the power and versatility of the setar as both an ensemble and a solo instrument that can fully express the nuances of traditional Persian music. He records albums, tours worldwide, and has written a seminal book on *Setar Playing / Teaching Method*.



Faculty Accomplishments >>

Elabbas Benmamoun, Professor of Linguistics, is a co-author of *The Syntax of Arabic*, with Joseph Aoun and Lina Choueiri (Cambridge University Press 2010). He has also received an NSF grant for 2009-2010 for "A Comparative Grammar of Five Arabic Varieties." Dr. Benmamoun will give an invited lecture in March 2010 at American University in Beirut, and he was selected as an Illinois Center for Advanced Study Fellow for 2009-2010.

Francis Boyle, Professor in the College of Law, published a book entitled *The Tamil Genocide by Sri Lanka* (Clarity Press 2009).

Kenneth Cuno, Associate Professor of History, is co-editor of the newly published book *Family, Gender, & Law in a Globalizing Middle East & South Asia*, with Manisha Desai (Syracuse University Press 2009). The book includes a chapter he contributed, "Disobedient Wives and Neglectful Husbands: Marital Relations and the First Phase of Reform of Family Law in Egypt." Dr. Cuno also published "Al-Bajuri, Ibrahim b. Muhammad" in *The Encyclopaedia of Islam 3* (Leiden: Brill 2008), co-authored with Aaron Spevack.

Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Associate Professor of History and Sociology, published articles "The Theory of Survival: An Interview with Taraneh Hemami" and "Memory, Mourning, Memorializing: On the Victims of Iran-Iraq War, 1980—Present" in the Radical History Review's special issue *The Iranian Revolution Turns Thirty*, for which he was also an editor (Fall 2009).

Valerie Hoffman, Associate Professor of Religion, was named a Carnegie Scholar for 2009-10. She recently published "Historical Memory and Imagined Communities: Modern Ibadī Writings on Kharijism," in *Historical Dimensions of Islam: Essays in Honor of R. Stephen Humphreys* (Princeton 2009). Dr. Hoffman also delivered papers at three international conferences this year in Japan and Greece.

David Prochaska, Associate Professor of History, is co-editor with Jordana Mendelson of the newly-published book *Postcards: Ephemeral Histories of Modernity*

(Pennsylvania State University Press 2010).

Fazal Rizvi, Professor of Educational Policy Studies, published *Globalizing Education Policy* with Bob Lingard (Routledge 2009).

D. Fairchild Ruggles, Professor of Landscape Architecture, was selected as a University Scholar for the impact of her original research in the field of Islamic landscape and garden history. Dr. Ruggles was also awarded the J. B. Jackson Book Prize from the Foundation for Landscape Studies for her book *Islamic Gardens and Landscapes* (University of Pennsylvania Press 2008), and she received the Allen G. Noble Book Award from the Pioneer America Society for *Sites Unseen: Landscape and Vision* (co-edited, University of Pittsburgh Press 2007).

Cliff Singer, Professor of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering, was awarded the 2008 Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement.

Amita Sinha, Professor of Landscape Architecture, was a Senior Fulbright Researcher in Spring 2009 at the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in New Delhi. She organized a symposium and edited its proceedings on Delhi's Natural Heritage that was funded by United States-India Educational Foundation. Dr. Sinha led a site workshop in the first half of January 2010 on conservation of the sacred Govardhan Hill in Braj.

Marina Terkourafi, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, was awarded the Alumni Discretionary award by the University of Illinois in 2009 for her contributions to establishing the program in Modern Greek Studies at the School of Literatures Cultures and Linguistics.

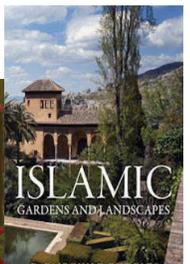
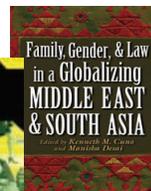
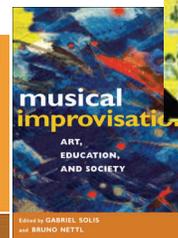
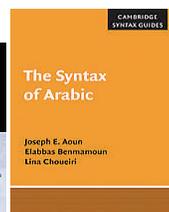
Faculty Emeritus

Evelyne Accad, Professor Emeritus of French, published *L'Excisée / The Excised*, new translation by Cynthia Hahn (Paris 2009). Additionally, Dr. Accad has published many articles on gender and war, directed writing workshops in Qatar and Beirut, and gave numerous lectures in venues across the world this past year.

Hans Henrich Hock, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Sanskrit, was a Fellow at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study (JNIAS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, February-March 2010.

Bruno Nettl, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Music, was the recipient of a Mellon Emeritus Fellowship for research on the history of ethnomusicology for 2009-11. Dr. Nettl co-edited *Musical Improvisation: Society, Education, Art* (University of Illinois Press) with Gabriel Solis; the book is the result of a conference held at Illinois and supported by CSAMES. His book, *The Radif of Persian Music: Studies in Structure and Cultural Context* (Champaign 1992), has been translated into Persian and published in Iran (Tehran 2009), titled *Radife Musiqi-ye Dastgahi-ye Iran*.

Burton Swanson, Professor Emeritus of Rural Development, Agriculture and Consumer Economics, published *Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Systems: Procedures for Assessing, Transforming, and Evaluating Extension Systems* with Riikka Rajalahti. Dr. Swanson has also just begun an in-depth study of the pluralistic agricultural extension system in India.



Our Students >>

CSAMES MA Graduates



Duygu

Nilufer Duygu Eriten lived in Istanbul, Turkey, before coming to the U.S. in 2007. She studied at Istanbul University and has a BA and MA in economics. Duygu's interests are the formation of ethnic identities in the Middle East and in the Balkans during the nineteenth century, the late Ottoman Empire era, and Turkish and Kurdish nationalism.



Natasha

Natasha Samreny moved here from Tampa Bay where she reported and produced daily and in-depth news for WUSF 89.7 FM. Natasha graduated cum laude in 2006 from the University of South Florida with a BA in broadcast news, and then pursued her MA at CSAMES in Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Duygu and Natasha on their accomplishments at CSAMES! We offer them our best wishes for their continued success after graduating in May 2010.

Tikku Memorial Prize Winner 2009

CSAMES presented the 2009 Girdhari Tikku Memorial Prize to **Supreet Saini**, a PhD candidate in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. His exemplary scholarship was demonstrated by his paper "Food, Farmers, Famines, and Hunger: the Role of Market Forces," a critical evaluation of the British imperialist free market policies that continued in spite of the famines of 1876-78 and 1896-1902. His paper relates the British imperialist policies with the present day neo-liberal policies followed by the Indian government. Mr. Saini's entry was chosen from a very competitive pool of papers.

Our FLAS Fellows

*Summer 2009
Academic Year 2009-2010*

Rosemary Admiral, History

Rosemary is a doctoral student focusing on the Middle East and Islamic law; she is studying Arabic to research classical and modern legal and historical texts.

Melinda Bernardo, Anthropology

Melinda is studying Hebrew as part of her doctoral dissertation project, examining constructions and negotiations of Jewishness as expressed in the interactions between state- and quasi state-trained Israeli *schlichim* (ambassadors) and individuals in "the Diaspora" who identify as Jewish.

Liliana Carrizo, Music

Liliana is a PhD student learning Arabic and studying Arab Jewish and Israeli Arab communities from an ethnomusicological perspective, as well as the impact of nationalism on religious and social identity and musical expression.

Amos Lieberman, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

Amos is an MA student specializing in Medieval Spanish Literature and is learning Arabic.

Evan Murphy, History

Evan is a first year PhD student studying the history of the Modern Middle East, specifically Modern Egyptian social history, and Hebrew.

Jeffrey Peyton, CSAMES

Jeff is an MA student in Middle Eastern studies whose research focuses on religion and religious diversity in the Middle East, and he is studying Turkish and Arabic.

Archana Prakash, History

Archana is a PhD student in history with a research focus in issues of modernity in 19th century Egypt and Iran, and she is currently learning Persian.

Nicolle Rivera, History

Nicolle is a PhD student learning Arabic and studying the exchange between Christians and Muslims in the Medieval Mediterranean.

Donald Robinson, Germanic Languages and Literatures

Donald is an MA student learning Turkish to study Turkish emigrants, communities, and cultural influences and tensions in Germany and Austria.

Natasha Samreny, CSAMES

Natasha is learning Modern Standard Arabic and the Lebanese dialect, and her research focuses on the power of the historical narrative and using oral storytelling as a teaching tool in post-civil war Lebanon.

Jeffrey Thibert, Educational Policy Studies

Jeffrey's doctoral research focuses on comparative religious, moral, and spiritual education, with a special focus on Islamic education, for which he studies Arabic.

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Looking Forward >>

Summer Institutes 2010

**Middle East Summer Institute (MESI):
“The Middle East Uncensored: Media
Literacy and Current Issues in the
Middle East Region”
June 28 – July 1, 2010**

Organized by the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, this summer’s Institute will be focused on teaching about the modern Middle East through its representation in mainstream and independent media. The material presented will be designed to support the teaching of U.S. history, government, global studies, current events, and media studies at the upper middle school, high school, and college levels. Through use of print, audio and video, and online materials, participants will be given strategies on how to use media to encourage the development of critical thinking skills in their classes while learning about political conflicts and other current issues in the region.

Registration and Website: <http://csames.illinois.edu/news/institute/>

**The Second Summer Institute for the
Languages of the Muslim World
(SILMW-II)
June 14 – August 5, 2010**

SILMW-II will offer intensive courses in a variety of Muslim World languages, including Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Swahili, Urdu, Wolof, and Indonesian.

Registration and Website: <http://silmw.linguistics.uiuc.edu/>

**International Summer Institute (ISI):
“Understanding and Teaching about
World Religions”
June 13 – June 18, 2010**

ISI offers a week-long professional development workshop for multi-disciplinary approaches to understanding and teaching world religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, Taoism, and diasporic religious practices.

Registration and Website: http://i2i.illinois.edu/2010_institute.php

Featured Events

**“Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of
Others” at the I-Hotel and Conference
Center, Champaign IL
April 16 – April 17, 2010**

The Department of Religion, with CSAMES and other co-sponsors, hosted an international symposium (and book project and documentary project) on the topic of salvation in Islam, with emphasis on discussions of the salvation of Others (i.e. non-Muslims). Presenters, who came from South Africa, Iran, the United Kingdom, and the United States, were among the most prominent academics engaged in this discourse, and represented different (and sometimes conflicting) views. Presenters included Farid Esack, William Chittick, Bruce Lawrence, Tariq Ramadan, Sherman A. Jackson, and many others.

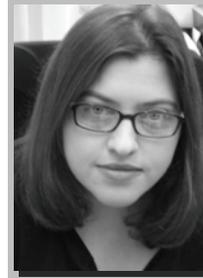
For the symposium schedule and more information, please visit the **website:** <http://religion.illinois.edu/salvation>

**“The Language of Global Hip Hop
Culture and Education on the Middle
East Region” at Harvard University
April 30 – May 1, 2010**

This two-part workshop, co-sponsored by CSAMES, will introduce Hip Hop as a social and artistic movement that can serve as a powerful lens through which students and teachers can find source material to study contemporary art, culture, language, and society in the Middle East region and Africa. While contemporary art in both of these regions will be the wider focus for the workshop, specific time will be spent examining Hip Hop in particular linguistic communities such as Arabic, Swahili, Persian, Wolof, and Hebrew. A goal of the workshop is to explore methods for introducing the subject of Hip Hop into secondary education classrooms.

For registration information, **contact:** Angela Williams, aswillms@illinois.edu

New Faculty



Rachel Harris is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies at the University of Illinois, beginning in Fall 2009. Previously she was Assistant

Professor of Hebrew Literature and Language at the University at Albany (SUNY). Her research interests include the role of suicide in Israeli literature on which she wrote her doctorate at the University of Oxford. Among her most recent scholarly endeavors is a new project on contemporary literary journals in Tel Aviv. With Anna P. Ronell (Brandeis) she is co-guest-editing an interdisciplinary special issue of the *Journal of Jewish Identities* on “Russian-Jewish Immigrant Identity Post-1978.” Together with Ranen Omer-Sherman, she is working on a scholarly reader about representations of war in Israeli culture since 1978.



Asef Bayat, Professor of Sociology and Middle East Studies, currently holds the Chair of Society and Culture of the Modern Middle East at Leiden University, The

Netherlands. Before joining Leiden, Dr. Bayat taught Sociology and Middle East Studies for many years at the American University in Cairo. His research areas range from social movements and non-movements, religion-politics-everyday life, Islam and the modern world, to urban space and politics, and international development. His books include *Street Politics: Poor People's Movements in Iran*; *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn*; *Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Change the Middle East*; and (with Linda Herrera) *Being Young and Muslim: Cultural Politics in the Global South and North*. Dr. Bayat will be joining the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois in Fall 2010.

Through the Cinematic Lens >>

Films are a proven way to reach diverse audiences and to generate identification with, and knowledge about, human experience and group dynamics in myriad societies. Employing arts cinema has been a particularly successful approach in our community outreach. This past year, CSAMES has collaborated with a number of organizations to bring awareness of and knowledge about South Asia, the Middle East, and the diversity of peoples in these societies to the community through film screenings.

Global Lens

Those Three (Iran 2007), directed by Naghi Nemaï, follows three conscripts who desert their camp and escape into the frozen wilderness of Northern Iran. The film was screened at the University YMCA in October 2009 and at the Virginia Theater in Champaign in December 2009. Sponsors: Global Film Initiative; CAS, EAPS, EUC, CLACS, CSAMES, REEEC, Asian American Cultural Center (Illinois); Parkland College.

What a Wonderful World (Morocco 2006), directed by Faouzi Bensaidi, connects a prostitute, a traffic cop, and a contract killer in a new vision of an old culture. It was screened at the University YMCA



and followed by a panel discussion with Dr. Mahir Şaul, Dr. Maggie Flinn, and Dr. Abbas Benmamoun in October 2009, and again at the Virginia Theater in Champaign in December 2009. Sponsors: Global Film Initiative; CAS, EAPS, EUC, CLACS, CSAMES, REEEC, Asian American Cultural Center (Illinois); Parkland College.

Parkland College

Persepolis (France 2007), co-directed by Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud, is the poignant story of a young girl in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. The film was screened at Parkland College in September 2009 by Parkland Reads.

Jihad For Love (USA 2007), directed by Parvez Sharma, explores the global intersections between Islam and homosexuality. The film was screened at Parkland College in October 2009 and again in March 2010. Sponsors: Parkland Reads, the Ally Team, LGBT Network, Library, Office of Student Life, Q & A (Parkland College); CSAMES, LGBT Resource Center, Women's Resource Center (Illinois).



Women of Islam: Veiling and Seclusion (USA 2004), directed by Farheen Umar, explores stereotypes of Muslim women and veiling. The film was screened at Parkland College in December 2009 and again in April 2010. Sponsors: Parkland Reads, Muslim Student Association (Parkland College); CSAMES.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Salata Baladi: An Egyptian Salad (Egypt 2008) shares film director Nadia Kamel's family heritage, a complex blend of religions and cultures. The film was screened in February 2010 at the Center for Theology and Social Analysis in St. Louis, with commentary offered by Dr. Chmiel of St. Louis University and Dr. Tamari of SIUE. Sponsors: Center for Theology and Social Analysis (SIUE); CSAMES.

Slingshot Hip Hop (USA/Palestine 2008), directed by Jackie Reem Salloum, braids together the stories of young Palestinians as they discover hip hop and use it as a

tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. The film was screened in March 2010 in St. Louis, with commentary offered by Dr. Chmiel and Dr. Tamari. Sponsors: Center for Theology and Social Analysis (SIUE); CSAMES.

Spurlock Museum

The Glass House (Iran 2008), directed by Hamid Rahmanian, follows four girls attending a rehabilitation center in Tehran. It was screened in February 2010 at Spurlock Museum, and Dr. Noreen Sugrue, Dr. Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, and Dr. Ritu Saksena led a panel discussion following the film. Sponsors: CSAMES, Spurlock Museum, Program for Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, Persian Cultural Association (Illinois); Parkland Reads (Parkland College).

My Daughter the Terrorist (Sri Lanka 2007), directed by Beate Arnestad, is a rare look at the women suicide bombers of the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka. The film was screened as part of AsiaLENS in March 2010 at Spurlock Museum, and Dr. Ritu Saksena led discussion and answered questions following the film. Sponsors: Spurlock Museum, Asian Educational Media Service.

Other

The Last Homecoming (Cyprus 2008), directed by Corinna Avraamidou, is a love story set amid the unstable political landscape of 1974 Cyprus. The film was screened in January 2010 at Illinois. Sponsors: Modern Greek Studies, EUC, CSAMES.



Outreach >>

Middle East Summer Institute 2009

CSAMES held its first annual professional development institute for educators in June 2009. The Middle East Summer Institute, with the theme of *Understanding and Teaching about the Middle East and Islam* was a four-day intensive institute attended by 18 Pre-K, high school, and community college educators from Illinois, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Tennessee. Throughout the Institute, participants gained access to materials developed by professionals in the field of education and Middle East outreach.



Barbara Petzen of the Middle East Policy Council addressed stereotypes and diversity in the Middle East and gave a practical overview to demonstrate how teachers may use Google Earth in their classrooms to teach about the contemporary Middle East, and in the

evening, participants were joined by Dr. Zohreh Sullivan (English) for the viewing and discussion of the Iranian film *Children of Heaven*. Susan Douglass of the Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University introduced interactive methods for teaching about cross-cultural connections throughout history. Dr. Hadi

Esfahani (CSAMES, Economics) discussed comparative economic development in the Middle East. In the evening, participants were joined by Dr. Valerie Hoffman (Religion), who led a discussion of the Moroccan film *A Door to the Sky*. Participants were also introduced to new ways to use visual arts, literature, and poetry to teach about the Middle East. In a session led by Audrey Shabbas of the Arab



World and Islamic Resources and School Services, the participants learned about characteristics of Islamic Art and demonstrated their knowledge by creating a replica panel on an Egyptian tent wall using repeating pattern stencils of geometric shapes and Arabesque and Arabic calligraphy. During the final day of the Institute, Dr. Mohammad Khalil (Religion) presented on the Islamic calendar and celebrations, as well as musical expressions of Islam. The participants were accompanied by Dr. Khalil and CSAMES staff to the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (CIMIC), to interact with members of the local Muslim community and observe Friday prayers. After the sermon and prayers, participants met in the CIMIC library and discussed Islamic worship practices with various attendees of the mosque.



We Were There

Hospitality Traditions in the Middle East

First Mennonite Church, Urbana
June 10, 2009

Sadia Bekal of Urbana and Angela Williams introduced families at FMC to the hospitality customs of Algeria as part of the Church's summer intergenerational Bible school. Attendees experienced the hand-washing tradition that is done for guests, and enjoyed sampling tea and sweets.



Celebration of the Arts

Westview Elementary School
Sept. 25, 2009

Students decorated a poster with their names written in Arabic during an outdoor arts celebration.



Illinois Conference for the Social Studies

Bradley University
March 19, 2010

Angela Williams gave a presentation and shared resources on teaching about media representations of conflicts in the Middle East to high school and pre-service educators.

Cultural Differences in Child Rearing

Campus Development Laboratory
March 11, 2010

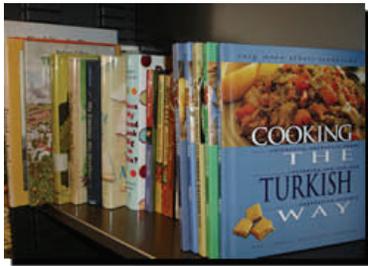
Ritu Saksena, Angela Williams, and Aisha Sobh (PhD candidate, History) visited CDL for their staff training. The group introduced CSAMES resources for early childhood education, as well as information on diverse philosophies and practices that inform parenting in the Middle East and South Asia.



Resources >>

CSAMES Library

Our outreach program promotes Middle Eastern and South Asian studies education for K-16 constituents, businesses, civic and non-profit organizations, the media, governmental agencies, and the general public. We collate educational materials that offer a closer look at issues that pertain to these regions of the world, and that make the teaching of and learning about the Middle East and South Asia an interesting and enjoyable journey. CSAMES houses online curriculum units on culture and daily life in the Middle East and South Asia, which can be used individually or as a complete unit in classrooms, in addition to the CSAMES lending library that consists of over 200 publications, films, audio recordings, and artifacts about and from the Middle East



and South Asia. These items are available for free check-out to educators and the general public. Some recent additions include:

- *Media Construction of the Middle East: A Digital Media Literacy Curriculum* by Project Look Sharp. New York: Ithaca College, 2005.



- *Nothing Like My Home: A High School Curriculum about the Iraqi Refugee Crisis* by Marieke van Woerkom. Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility, 2009.
- *Discovering Iran through Journeys in Film: Children of Heaven. An Interdisciplinary Guide for Teachers.* Placitas, NM: Journeys in Film, 2005.

- *The Ancient South Asian World* by Jonathan Mark Kenoyer and Kimberley Heuston. New York City: Oxford University Press, 2005.

- *Children's Songs from Afghanistan* by Louise Pascale. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2008.

- *Nadia's Hands* by Karen English. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyd's Mills Press, 1999.

- *Monsoon* by Uma Krishnaswami. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003.



Thank You!

CSAMES' outreach has continued to grow in K-16 schools, in our community, and across the state. Our successes and expansions would not have been possible without the help of individuals and organizations both on and off campus. We sincerely thank our friends for their contributions to the work of the Center:

- **Siham Al-Rasadi**, Middle East Story Time - Oman
- **Diane Baker**, Illinois Extension
- **Sadia Bekal**, Hospitality Customs and Middle East Story Time - Algeria
- **Shih-Mei Carmody**, Urbana Free Library
- **Sherry Cmiel**, Parkland Reads Program
- **Susan Douglass**, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding
- **Firouz Gahvari**, Dept. of Economics
- **Taghreed Hamdto**, Middle East Story Time - Saudi Arabia
- **Darren Hicks**, Urbana Schools Music Coordinator
- **Yasmeen Husain**, author, *Colors of Saudi Arabia: Children's Artwork for National Saudi Day*.
- **Natasha Samreny**, CSAMES
- **Naem Sheikh**, CIMIC
- **Aisha Sobh**, CDL Teacher Training
- **Yasmine Sultan**, Arabic instructor, 2009 International Summer Institute

- **Dawn Waller**, Scott Air Force Base

If you are interested in working with us on our outreach efforts, or in making a donation of any South Asian or Middle Eastern artifacts (such as books, toys, home décor items, etc.), please contact the CSAMES office. These donated items will become part of our collection of supplementary educational materials and will be incorporated into our outreach programs. Thank you!

A k h b a r staff

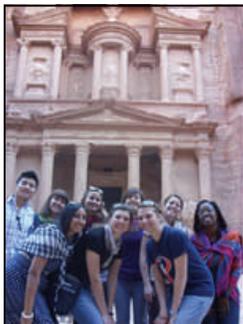
Ritu Saksena, Editor
Elizabeth Sartell, Co-Editor
Angela Williams, Contributor
Wanju Huang, Designer

CSAMES Abroad >> Winter 2009 Courses

Irbid, Jordan

“Thirteen students were hosted by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The course provided the students with a comparative (U.S. vs. Middle-East) understanding of the issues related to environment and sustainability. As a “prototype” of the Arab countries in the region, facing water shortage and environmental problems, Jordan is an excellent candidate to provide the view from the Middle East. Students from the U.S. were accompanied by Jordanian and international students on their educational and cultural trips. The interaction among students was beneficial to both groups. Students also learned conversational Arabic. In addition to educational seminars and trips, we visited Um-Qais, Jarash, Azraq castle, Dead Sea, Petra, Aqaba, Wadi Rum, and historic sites in Amman.”

- Dr. Rizwan Uddin, Professor of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering



Jerusalem, Israel

“This course allowed students to explore issues related to immigration and intercultural interactions in Israel. Students met guest speakers from several government and non-government agencies and met members of several immigrant and Arab communities. The group visited and conducted observations in different sites within Jerusalem, including the Old City, religious sites, Hebrew University, and several commercial centers and districts. Excursions to other parts of Israel included a visit to a bi-lingual school and a research center in an Arab town; a city built by immigrants, the mayor's office at the center for immigrants; and Tel Aviv. Many of the student projects generated unique observations about social, educational, and political issues in Israel, while analyzing these issues in the U.S.”

- Dr. Yore Kedem, Visiting Lecturer of Modern Hebrew



New Delhi and Ranchi, India

“A new short term study abroad course titled ‘Globalization and Language and Culture of India’ was offered. Nineteen students visited New Delhi and Ranchi to study and experience the linguistic and cultural diversity of India and the ongoing impact of globalization on the lives of people of various social strata in rural, urban, and metropolitan settings. Students examined the challenges that transnational cultural integration brings to the Indian identity through debates on maintenance and shift of the local traditions.”

- Dr. Rajeshwari Pandharipande, Professor of Linguistics, Religion and Comparative Literature, and Dr. Mithilesh Mishra, Lecturer of Linguistics



Summer 2009 FLAS Students

Melinda Bernardo, Jerusalem, Israel



“Israel, Palestine, the Promised Land, Medinat Yisrael, the Holy Land, Eretz Israel. However

you choose to name it, claim it, argue it, or draw its boundaries, this place, with all its complications, is the focal point of my dissertation research. I needed to develop a knowledge of both written and spoken Modern Hebrew. In the summer of 2009, I had the opportunity to develop my language proficiency in a summer course at Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The course, which met six hours a day, six days a week, was intensive, but in the best way possible. By combining several types

of activities (e.g. readings, field trips, performances, lectures), the instructors managed to create an atmosphere that was both challenging and engaging. Further, the requirement that students speak only Hebrew in the classroom proved to be a great unifier, since students were not only from the U.S., but also from Brazil, France, Japan, China, and Switzerland. Studying the language in the country where it is spoken was an enormous benefit. In addition to the more academic classroom lessons, I was also pushed to interact on an everyday level, whether I was buying a bus pass, asking for directions, or ordering a coffee.”

- Melinda

Natasha Samreny, Beirut, Lebanon

“Summer 2009 I spent three months studying Arabic in Beirut and in North Lebanon in a small daya (village) with my family. At LAU's SINARC (Lebanese

American University's Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic and Culture) we focused on MSA (Modern Standard Arabic) with some practice of the Lebanese dialect. But the highlight of the entire trip came in Arjess. I went to record the stories of my grandfather's family. Sitting in the shaded coolness of my cousin's salon, liquid sunshine slipped in through white stone windows. Her eyelids tapped gently under wisping grays and she sang the hymns from years under church walls. Two days 'till I had to fly home, but in that song, and the weaving kneading of her cords, I felt I was.”

- Natasha



The Year in Pictures, 2009-2010 >>



Dr. Asef Bayet discusses "Social Non-Movements: The Politics of Everyday Life in the Middle East" in April 2009. >>



Dr. Evelyn Accad gives a lecture on "Violence and Globalization: Women Seeking Freedom in the War Zone" in November 2009. V

^ Mai Abdul Rahman speaks on "Jerusalem and the Three Abrahamic Faiths" at First Mennonite Church, Champaign in May 2009.



>> "Make Chai Not War" comedians Azhar Usman, Paul Varghese, and Rajiv Satyal perform an interfaith comedy show in April 2009.



^ Dr. Lynn Visson, United Nations Interpreter, speaks about "The Work and Life of a Conference Interpreter at the UN" in February 2010.

^ Sujata Dey-Koontz of Champaign makes henna designs for students at Quad Day in August 2009.



Dr. Cristobal Pagan Canovas, of the University of Murcia, Spain, delivers a Brown Bag lecture on "Love Causation as Emission: A Cross-Cultural Conceptual Model in Medieval Greek Folksongs and 20th Century Greek Poetry" in February 2010. V



^ Students present at the SILMW Languages Showcase and Banquet in July 2009.

Professor Rajmohan Gandhi delivers a Brown Bag lecture entitled "A Tale of Two Revolts: India 1857 and the American Civil War" in November 2009. >>



Dr. Vibha Arora, of the Indian Institute of Technology, India, presents a Brown Bag lecture on "The Sacred Stones of Kabi Sacred Grove: The Politicization of Identity and Sacred Landscapes in Sikkin" in October 2009. V



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- Middle Eastern Studies Fund
- South Asian Studies Fund
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Marilyn Upah Bant
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