

Summer Language Intensive Programs



CSUSB Persian Residential Program (top)
CSUSB Arabic Residential Program (middle)
CSUSB Arabic Study Abroad Program (bottom)

SUMMER 2011

SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

Arabic Summer Language Intensive Program



Overview

The CSUSB Summer Intensive Program marks its fifth year in operation in 2011 and continues to be one of the most engaging, diverse, comprehensive and affordable Arabic Language Summer programs in the United States. It is a robust program that integrates Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) with colloquial Arabic, developing all students' language skills with special emphasis on communication.

Both components of the Arabic program -- the residential-immersion in the United States and the study abroad in Jordan -- are carefully planned to engage students and provide them with a stimulating learning environment. In addition to



building language proficiency, participants gain a thorough understanding of Arabic culture: they are exposed to authentic material from the Arab world and they connect with members of the Arab community as well as with institutions conducting business in the Arab world.

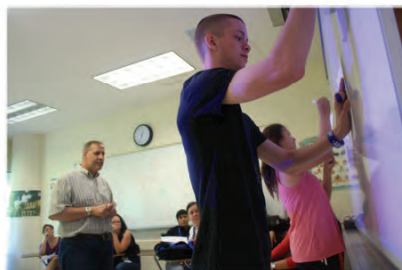
Academic Aspects

During the on-campus Summer Programs, the Arabic language is taught in context by exposing participants to real-life situations and



building their confidence in expressing themselves in Arabic. In addition, students gradually gain understanding and appreciation for the historic, cultural, and socio-political aspects of the Arab world and culture. Classroom and lab work are supplemented with daily extra curricular activities. These include games, calligraphy, music, liturgical recitations, movies, discussion, cooking, folkloric dance and interaction with guest speakers.

All activities, including field trips, are conducted from early mornings to late evenings. These programs are extremely demanding and stimulating and it is not uncommon to find students working on their projects, practicing their oral skills, and preparing a late-night snack at 2 or 3 a.m.



Students who studied abroad with CSUSB's partner, Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan during Summer 2011

earned 14-18 quarter units in the Arabic language. Some students enhanced this special international experience by undertaking an internship and helping out in a community service project. All of our students abroad connected with the local people and experienced the culture of the Middle East.



Upon completion of both the residential and study abroad programs, Arabic students usually earn a minor or certificate in Arabic Language. Those who take a few more content-based courses, can also opt to receive the bachelor of arts in Arabic Language and Culture, the first such degree in the 23 campus-wide CSU system. If carefully planned, students can also earn a minor or certificate in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and complete several requirements for a degree in business administration (international track).



SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

Persian Summer Language Intensive Program

Overview

In 2006, with the cooperation of SLI Initiative Program, Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) started its Persian Program with Cohort 1 which led to a summer study abroad to Armenia in 2008. Following that, Cohort 2, Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 summer programs were successfully offered at CSUF in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Students spent their summer studies abroad in Tajikistan.



The Persian program has been a comprehensive program which focuses on Persian language, Persian culture and history as well as the current issues in the Middle East.

In Summer 2011, the Persian program joined the Arabic Program at CSUSB in the format of Cohort 5 with 20 beginner and intermediate students and followed the same academic activities experienced in the previous four cohorts.

The program was primarily funded through the Strategic Language Initiative Program. CSUSB's Provost Bodman, Dean Yasuhara of the College of Arts and Letters and Dr. Nelson, the chair of the Department of World Languages and Literatures, full-



heartedly supported our Persian program. This year we had the most successful program to date (based upon student achievements).



Academic Aspects

Students at each level not only learned Persian language but also obtained a vast knowledge of the current issues. Excellent documentary movies enriched our program with abundant information on Persian traditions, culture, food and rituals.

During the program, besides participating in academic activities with the Arabic group, we also arranged a field trip to a Zoroastrian Temple, where the students became familiar with the pre-Islamic religion in Iran. They were warmly welcomed by the minister and the members of the Temple. During a separate field trip, students visited Iranian bookstores at Westwood and downtown Los Angeles.



Students who participated in this year's residential program at Cal State San Bernardino earned 6 unit credits in Persian language and Persian-related studies. Intermediate level students, took regular language classes in addition to studying



content-based topics; they searched Persian websites on a daily basis and built up written and audio portfolios including the most recent current issues in the region. Beginners compiled written and audio headlines extracted from Persian websites. Under the leadership of Dr. Miremadi, Dr. Esfarjani, from Cal State Northridge, Professor Danaee, from CSUF, and two knowledgeable Persian tutors, Hadi Hosseini and Matthew Zakhori, helped enrich the program. Students' positive feedback is a good sign of our program's success.

We hope that with the promised CSUSB support we can expand our



Persian academic activities in the upcoming year of 2011-2012. We anticipate developing the program to the level of minor and, hopefully, to the B.A. level in Persian language and culture.

CSUSB administration is wholeheartedly making efforts to bring funds to the program which, hopefully, will provide us with the facilities to accommodate a larger group of students in the coming academic years.

Program Field Trips



Friday, July 1, 2011

With this year's Arabic program overarching theme of technology (how Arabs developed technology in the past and how they integrate it in their daily lives today) our first field trip led us to the California Science Center's *1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization* which opened under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's patronage. We explored 7th through 17th Century inventions, from Baghdad to China and Spain, that dealt with optics (9th Century camera obscura), time keeping (13th Century elephant clock), hydraulics, navigation (world and space maps), architecture, medicine and mathematics. Right after visiting the exhibit, we watched the award-winning Imax documentary film, *Arabia in 3D*, which took us deep into an exotic land, steeped in 2,000 years of ancient history and unique customs of the Arabian peninsula. We learned about the lost city of Madain Saleh, explored its ancient tombs, traveled with a camel caravan along the early frankincense trade route, survived a desert sandstorm, dived the coral reefs and shipwrecks of the Red Sea, experienced the warmth of the world-famous Bedouin hospitality, joined in the annual hajj pilgrimage, and discovered modern day Arabia, which finds itself in the midst of monumental change. We ended our field trip to the renown Waheeb restaurant in Alhambra, eating a flavorful dinner with more than 15 different dishes and beautiful oriental music.

Sunday, July 10, 2011

The Persian group visited the Zoroastrian Temple on Westminster Avenue. They were welcomed by the minister and the Iranian families attending the ceremonies. Students had already practiced on the

Iranian National Anthem and had memorized it. They were praised by the participants when the students recited the anthem. Students had lunch with the Iranian families. Dr. Anoushirvani delivered a very interesting and informative lecture on Zoroastrianism, Zoroaster and his teachings. Following the ceremonies, the students visited an Iranian shopping center in Anaheim Hills.

Friday, July 15, 2011

Our next field trip took us to Orange County's Little Arabia, also known as Little Gaza. That morning started with a visit to the Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Corona, where a large number of Arab-Americans warmly welcomed us at an all-

Arabic convention. Later, we headed out for a short breakfast stop at Cham-Ya restaurant in Anaheim, where we tasted cheese and *zaatar* (thyme) *manqouch* and sipped flavorful hot tea, with lots of sugar, the way Arabs drink it! Then, we went to our all-time favorite Jarir Bookstore where faculty and students spent more than two hours

and a lot of money loading up on books, flashcards, posters, and Arabic language learning aids ... and yes, students did use them! Afteward, we visited the Islamic Institute of Orange County where we observed the weekly Friday congregational service. We also learned about the various services that the Islamic Community of Southern California is involved in. Our day couldn't end before taking a detour to a large Arab community market, King of Fruits, then going to al-Anwar Fashion to purchase garments imported from Morocco all the way to Iraq. Our final stop was at the Sahara restaurant in Philips Ranch, where we received royal treatment from its owner, eating lamb, beef, chicken and falafel, with a variety of salads, appetizers and desserts, all in a serene ambiance under a beautiful clear sky and folkloric music.



Field Trip Highlights

A collage of 15 photographs capturing various moments from a field trip. The images show participants engaged in different activities: looking at a large map, kayaking on a river, sitting on a red rug in a hall, participating in a workshop, and posing for group photos. The participants are diverse in age and background, and the activities are varied, ranging from educational to recreational. The collage is arranged in a grid-like fashion with some overlapping images, creating a dynamic and comprehensive overview of the trip's highlights.

Field Trip Highlights

SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

Cultural Program & Banquet

August 9, 2011



Arabic Program: Beginning Class



Shani Akobundu



Susana Arias



Asrar Biabani



Arlette Chavez



Qiguang "Chino"
Chen



Karam El-Zein



Kyle Feldman



Tyler LeQuia



Ashley Llanes



Lisa Llanes



Jenny Marquez



Vu Nguyen



Fernando Nunez



Autumn Oraiqat



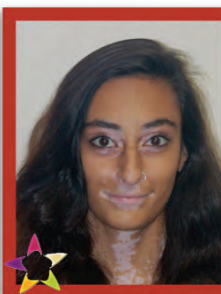
Ivy Quintero



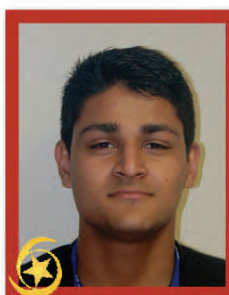
Clinton Rollock



Garret Saunders



Aliyah Shaikh



Tegh Singh



Rosario
Villalobos

Scholarship Recipients



-ROTC, Project GO



-StarTalk



-Strategic Language Initiative
(SLI)

Ustatha Maha
El-Bidaoui



Arabic Program: Beginning Class



Tamara Alrwais



Marne Austin



Celestial "Cece"
Diamond



Shauna Dool



Sieuzaan
Eygabroad



Tetta Frank



Valeria Garcia-
Pineda



Oliver "Olly" Kay



Anna Knight



Ruben Lopez



Casey Madison



Joaquin
Menchaca



Mark Moore II



Harold Morales



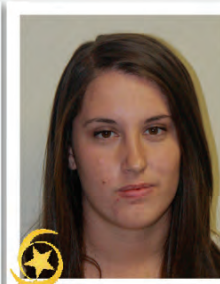
Lucy Ortiz



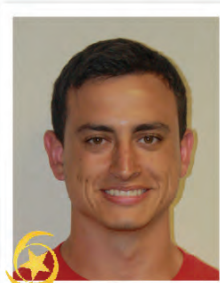
Cindy Quintero



Katie Rozsa



Ashley Vess



Paul Warner



Lisa Young



Matthew Zollman

Ustath Ayman
Ramadan



Arabic Program: Intermediate Class



Faisal Abdullah



Stephanie Attar



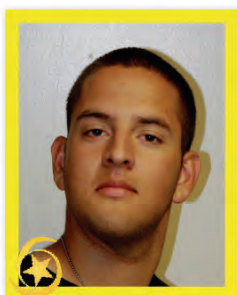
Intifadeh "Ola"
Ayesh



Jordan Baird



Josue Chahin



Aidan
Fahnestock



Rolando
Gutierrez



Milagros Jacome



Carlos Llanes



Gonzalo Saldana



Andreas Santoso



David Vazquez



Anwar Zaben

To view videos from this year's programs, visit
<http://flan.csusb.edu/SLIP>.

Application information for the 2012 Summer
Language Intensive Programs will also be made
available by the end of 2011.

Ustatha Andree
Gebara



Arabic Program: Advanced Class



Imran Ali



Nizaam Ali



Barton Buckner



Josue "Andrei"
Cuesta



Stephen "Omar"
El-Khatib



Daniel Ghossein



Noah Ghossein



Shetha Hamad



Soo Hur



Amy Jensen



Grace Lee



Beatrice
Longshore-Cook



Jennifer Martinez



Jenna Nimri



Robert Thomas



Tiffany Tsai



Issack Vaid



Dane Wold

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, our students attended the world-acclaimed Caracalla Dance Company's latest musical, "Zayed & the Dream." With a cast and crew of 158 (not including the falcons and the seven horses), this production follows the journey of seven horsemen as they travel through the sands of time in search of the destined one who will engrave his vision on the deserts of Arabia.

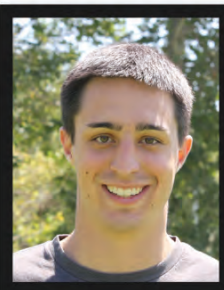
Ustatha Huda
Aljord



Persian Program: Beginning Class



Mina Daneshvar



Thomas Eilers



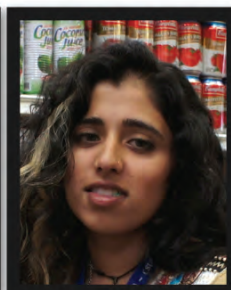
Azalia Felix



Logan
GrosJean



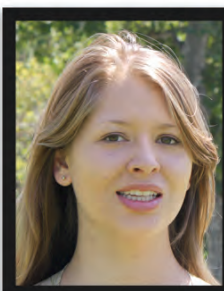
Arika
Khajetoorians



Sonam Koushan



Cristina Lopez



Veronica Ng



Jiro Oka



Jeffrey Rich



Joe Underwood

Not Pictured:
William Mann

Persian Program: Intermediate Class



Ariana Antonio



Chanelle Chestnutt



Puya Farhadzadeh



Landis Hosterman



Benjamin Kwiecien



Devon Lee

Not Pictured:
Bridget Garcia
Ava Sabri

Program Mentors



Samira Murtada,
Arabic Lead Mentor



Mohamad Alamad,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Fatima Alrahem,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Marina Awad Hanna,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Brian Baker,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Garrett Beach,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Mahbuba Hammad,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Yasmeen Hantuli,
Arabic Peer Mentor



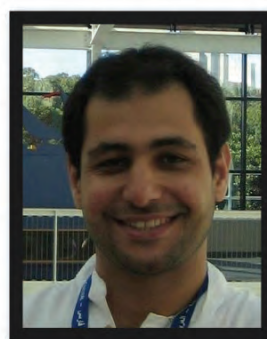
Batul Kanawati,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Huda Kaoud,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Shatha Kaoud,
Arabic Peer Mentor



Hadi Hosseini,
Persian Peer Mentor

Not Pictured: Matthew Zakhor, Persian Peer Mentor

SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

Program Instructors & Staff



Dr. Terri Nelson,
Department Chair



Dr. Dany Doueiri,
Arabic Program Director



Dr. Gaby Semaan,
Arabic Co-Director



Dr. Seyed Ali Miremadi,
Persian Program Director



Afaf Nash,
Jordan Faculty Supervisor



Dr. Eri Yasuhara,
Dean, College of Arts & Letters



Dr. Homa Esfarjani,
Persian Instructor



Parastoo Danaee,
Persian Instructor



Khadeeja Abdullah,
Tajweed Instructor



Dr. Imad Bayoun,
Calligraphy Instructor



Nabila Metualli,
Dance Instructor



Zaride Saleh,
Cooking Instructor



Georgia Pallas,
Program Assistant



Cynthia Moss,
Dept. Secretary



Alysha Timmons,
MMLC Director



Tania Quesada,
Student Assistant



Teresa Zabalsa,
Student Assistant



Parri Semaan,
Volunteer/Historian

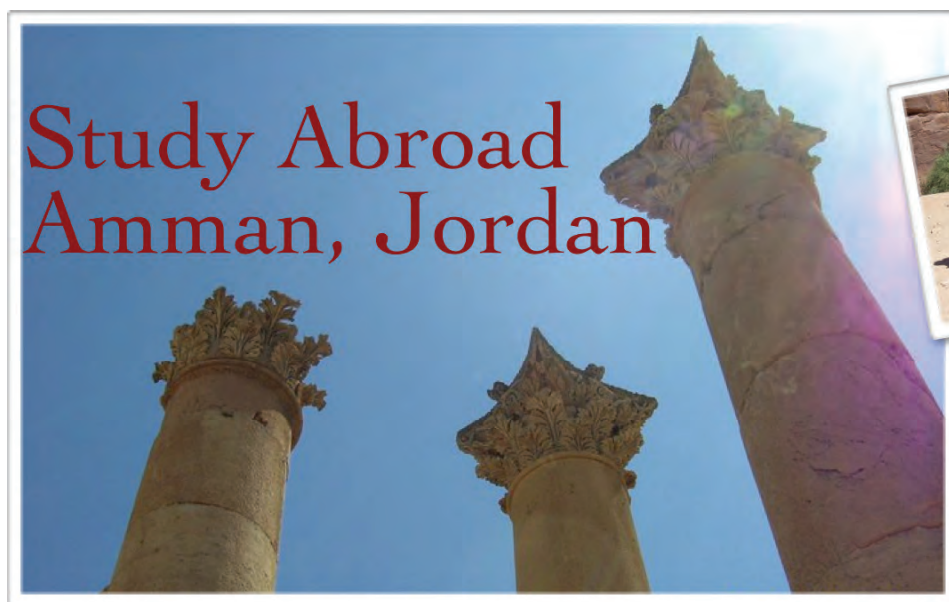


Lana Ramadan,
Photographer

Not Pictured:
Dr. Oraib Mango,
Jordan Faculty Supervisor

Plus the SLI team in Long Beach who came up with the idea of Summer Language Institutes: Dean Gerry Riposa, Dr. KimOanh Nguyen-Lam, Dr. Jutta Birmele and Dr. Frank Fata!

And our wonderful colleagues at Qasid who taught the students with great care and talent.



During Summer 2011, the CSUSB Arabic program sent its fourth cohort of students to study Arabic language abroad. The students had already gained Arabic language and cultural knowledge as they had already participated in the intensive residential program in San Bernardino during the Summer 2010.

They joined an enriching, stimulating, and educationally rewarding and learner-centered summer experience in Jordan. Their program was carefully designed to make sure they get in-depth and first-hand knowledge of the Arab people, their language, culture and tradition. This was a cooperative endeavor between the Department of World Languages and Literatures at CSUSB and Qasid Institute in Amman.

Classes at Qasid

Our students received their formal language training at the Qasid Institute. The institute was selected again due to its professional staff and outstanding instructional faculty members who are recruited from among the most dedicated and experienced teachers in Jordan. In addition, CSUSB's own faculty also accompanied our group, attended their classes, participated in their activities, and resided in the same facility with them.

Internships & Community Service

Some students spent time performing work at an organization by either serving as an intern or by doing community service. The purpose of this exercise is to connect with the local population and exchange real-life experience and ideas. It also aims at broadening the students' professional growth outside the academic

setting and increasing their understanding of the socio-cultural, political, and economic issues related to the Arab world. Some organizations were public agencies while others were private or non-profit.

Life in Jordan

The program also asked students to explore and experience the day-to-day life of the local residents. While opportunities to connect with the Jordanian people were unlimited, our students attended sport games, concerts, theaters. They listened to lectures, shopped at popular souks, got hair cuts at the round-the-corner barber shops, visited bookstores, walked in public parks and attended social events.

Field Trips

Although small in geographic size, Jordan is actually home to many world acclaimed sites such as Petra, Jarash, the Crusaders' Castle, Aqaba, the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum, Salt, etc. Our students participated in several guided field trips exploring Jordan's natural physical and man-made wonders. They camped overnight, hiked, explored and documented their experience and discoveries online and in journals.

Time to go home?

CSUSB's nine-week program in Jordan was not long enough to fully benefit from the study abroad experience. Most students actually stayed a few weeks to few months longer. Some of them decided to visit other neighboring countries while others still continued their voluntary work and study in Jordan.

Mohammad Usman Asrar,

B.A. in National Security Studies 2006, CSUSB



I have been studying Arabic on-and-off since 1998. After taking more than 10 years off from studying Arabic at a formal institution, I decided to re-commit to a more disciplined regimen and decided to enroll in the 2010 summer intensive program at CSUSB. After completing the program and due to the encouragement and support I received from Dr. Dany, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad during this past summer at Qasid Institute at Amman, Jordan. I have always sought Arabic fluency at a level where I can comprehend classical texts without assistance. Although I've set the bar quite high for myself, because of the 2010 summer CSUSB program and 2011 Qasid program, I am, by the grace of God, working progressively to realize my goal. I have made a commitment to study Arabic without interruption for as long as I live.

The most important thing I have learned in my quest to achieve fluency is to first be disciplined and set a regular, do-able regimen for one to follow. Studying a new language for an adult is not a painless endeavor, nor does it follow the natural course we experience as children when we picked up our first language. It is important to consult experts as well as those who have experience in achieving fluency from scratch to establish a solid and progressive personal program since taking university courses alone will not deliver seekers of fluency to their goal. The most rewarding aspects of learning a language is knowing and seeing your own progress. This provides a huge confidence boost necessary to stay engaged during this toilsome process. Although it took me several years to figure out some basic things of how to approach studying a language, I now have a strategy and the tools needed to assist me to where I want to be, and now the ball lies squarely in my court to make it happen.

During my years I have met several people that have assisted me in learning Arabic, the first of which is my teacher in usul al-fiqh, Abu Tariq, and certainly Dr. Dany has afforded me some wonderful opportunities to work towards my goal. Over this past summer, I have met several individuals I have greatly benefited from including the director of student affairs of Qasid, Sharif Rosen, my skills teacher, Dr. Abdullah Quweider, my sciences teacher, Yusuf Bhatti, and my good friend, and graduate of Qasid, Hakem Rahman. These individuals have allowed me to put together a roadmap for the future, of which I am eternally indebted. Of course, as a complement to this technical support, my moral support has come from my family, especially my wife, Safia Mullick, my mom, Riffat Asrar, my sisters, Sumra, Rabya, and Sayra and their husbands. I certainly would not have been able to make the tough decisions I've had to make over this past year if not for these individuals realizing the priority of studying the Arabic language. Moreover, all of them have in some form, been or begun studying Arabic, and in doing so have created an environment for me where I can enhance my skills. My son of two years, Sufyan, has also taken a keen interest in learning the Arabic alphabets and the names of animals, which impelled me to buy all sorts of children books that afford me another opportunity to be surrounded by the language I love. By the grace of God, I've benefited at their hands, may God bless them all and make their efforts bear fruit in this life and the next.



Natalie Bedney, B.A. in Arabic & Communication 2013, CSUSB



At first I chose to study Arabic as a backup language because CSUSB only offered limited classes of the language I initially wanted to learn —Korean. After doing

some research on the Arabic language I found it to be an incredibly beautiful writing style that seemed to have a lot of history behind it and a lot of job opportunities for the future. So I decided to take a few classes and feel out whether it was a subject I would want to look further into. Once I started, I

couldn't stop. Even though I ran into many obstacles I found myself improving all the time and I became dedicated to the goal of one day becoming fluent. If I succeed in my goal, it will open up many career opportunities for me in the future; especially since there is a high demand for Arabic speakers within many career sectors. For personal aspirations, however, I hope to use the

discipline and skills I've obtained learning this language and apply it to my future efforts of learning as many languages as I can. If I can learn Arabic, I can do anything!

Everything about this learning experience has been great! I am not going to sit here and pretend that everything went smoothly and cheerfully. There were plenty of times I just wanted to give up and walk away. I had the choice and I am glad I didn't. Throughout this experience I think I have actually learned more about myself and what I am capable of even more than the language itself. I am now able to see that there is immense pride and pleasure in studying something many people don't know or find challenging and being able to push through the minor trials in order to improve. My favorite part of this would have to be the journey itself. Meeting so many other students who have the same goal as I do and being able to work together in order to build our Arabic skills made it all the more fun and we've created memories I will never forget.

I want to take this time to thank everyone and especially Georgia Pallas in the World Languages Department for helping me move forward in my Arabic Studies and addressing my questions and issues with grace and kindness. I'd especially like to thank Dr. Dany for truly being my inspiration and mentor in this difficult but rewarding journey. He believed in me from the very beginning, even when I didn't believe in myself and he is the reason I have come as far as I have. He is like a second father to me and everyone else in this program and we couldn't do anything without his guidance and his love. Shukran Ustadh Dany for being the lovely and kind person that you are; God truly blessed the world when he put you in it!



Andrew Brake, B.A. in Arabic 2011, CSUSB



...and that's it? Ten weeks? Already? A short parting ceremony at Qasid marks the end of a summer spent studying abroad in Amman, but as I watch the certificates of completion being awarded, I'm lost in my thoughts, remembering the first time I wrote my name in Arabic. As I stared at the indecipherable scribbles after copying them from the blackboard, I couldn't have imagined my language skills would ever be developed enough where I could understand newspaper articles and media broadcasts, write research papers and fictional stories, and even deliver class presentations on a wide variety of topics – all in Arabic. Nor could have I envisioned studying in the Middle East and immersing myself in the local culture, experiencing the joys, challenges, and frustrations of living in a foreign country.

Yet, here I am. Ten weeks after arriving in Jordan, I reflect upon both the everyday and the exceptional. Shopping excursions in the balad and late nights spent drinking tea at cafes blend with the awe-inspiring grandeur of Petra and camping under the stars at Wadi Rum. Taxi rides and daily walks to Qasid intermingle with trips to the Dead Sea, Aqaba and Wadi Mujeb. Truly, each one of these experiences has imparted lifelong memories.

Of course, this opportunity would not have been possible without the dedicated individuals at CSUSB

and Qasid. I would like to first thank Dr. Dany, whose extraordinary commitment to Arabic studies and boundless enthusiasm for his students form the foundation of the summer program. I would also like to thank Dr. Nelson, Georgia and all of the faculty in the Department of World Languages and Literatures for organizing the trip to Jordan. I am grateful for my professors at CSUSB and Qasid; I owe my success to their superb instruction. Special thanks also go to the tutors, Fatima, Mahbuba, Greg, Huda and Nada, who have consistently inspired and helped me throughout my years of studying Arabic. I would also like to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff at Qasid for planning the field trips and ensuring our stay in Amman was as enjoyable as possible. Finally, I would like to thank Ayman and his family for their overwhelming hospitality; the meals they prepared were among the best I had in Jordan.

So, is that really it? Although the study abroad program has concluded, I am not yet able to discuss the nuances of the Arab Spring on al-Jazeera, nor am I capable of writing best-selling novels in Arabic. I realize it will take several more years to achieve my language goals, so the degree I will soon earn will remind me to continue studying. There's (a lot) more work to be done...

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Laura Brantley, B.A. in Arabic & Political Science 2011, CSUSB



My name is Laura Jean Brantley (Sefeeya in Arabic), I plan to graduate with a degree in both Arabic Language and Political Science from California State University, San Bernardino. Originally, I studied Political Science in San Francisco and solely needed extra credits. Since language courses were worth significantly more credits, I ended up in Arabic 101; and there began my journey with Arabic which started as an accident, but led me to switch schools and move 400 miles to San Bernardino. It now has taken me all the way to the beautiful Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is from this experience that I have gained more than the ability to understand the language, but also to be patient and tenacious. Arabic isn't just a class you can take for the credits, one grows to have a relationship with the language and the culture, and grows to constantly absorb more and more of the Arab world; which can be excruciatingly frustrating! But the more I've studied Arabic, the more understanding I've become. I've learned more about not only the Arab people and culture, but the world.



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Heather Dugas, B.A. in Arabic 2011, CSUSB

My name is Heather Dugas, known in Arabic circles as Haifa (هيفاء) and I am lucky enough to be majoring in Arabic at CSUSB and graduating with the program here in Amman, Jordan.

The question of why I studied Arabic is a complicated one, because the beginning started from self-interest, but has ended with such a deep passion for the language and culture that to talk about the beginning makes me sad. I started to study Arabic because I believed it would be beneficial for the Air Force, which I will be joining. But with this self-centered reason, once I realized Arabic wouldn't come easy to me like other languages, I started to hate the language and regret my decision to pursue it.

The change in my heart I can only say came from God, as I prayed that I would learn to live with a decision I was now stuck with. They say love is a choice, and last summer I found that choosing to love the culture and the language resulted in greater growth than I could have ever imagined, both in my heart and in my ability to speak the language. Now I can hardly imagine the time when I didn't love everything about the Middle East, because my heart is firmly here now. The only thing I can imagine doing after the Air Force is returning here to live and learn and grow and, God willing, teach English to adorable little Arab children.

Throughout my journey, I have learned that the single most important thing is to love the people and the culture, and be willing to set aside biases that are often taught unknowingly from childhood and from the media. The history, for those who are willing to set aside what you "know," changes your perspective on everything, and the warm and hospitable culture will soften the hardest hearts.

I cannot thank enough all the teachers who have been a part of my journey, and especially Ustaz Dany, who has been much more than just a teacher. Thank you for your patience with me in the beginning when I

knew nothing, as well as your encouragement this past year to push me past what I myself believed I could do. And most of all, I have to thank my God, because only He can change the hearts of men. Thank you for giving me a dream.



Kali Kreitz, B.A. in Political Science 2011, CSU Stanislaus



I study Arabic because I would like to work in an American embassy in the Middle East for the State Department.

The most important thing that I have learned while studying Arabic is to never give up. Even if you feel that it is too hard or that you always mess up, it will eventually become easier and easier.

There are so many people that have made this experience amazing. First, I would like to thank the entire staff at the CSU San Bernardino Summer Arabic Program. You all have done so much to make this program run smoothly and create a great experience for everyone. To the teachers and tutors, thank you for all the time and effort that you have put into teaching all of the students Arabic. Lastly, I would like to thank my wonderful parents for all their love and support; you are the most amazing parents and I love you both very much.



Luisiana Leos, Pre-Nursing & B.A. in Arabic 2011, CSUSB

Hello. My name is Luisana Leos, but my Arabic name is Leila and I am a student at California State University, San Bernardino. I have been studying Arabic since January 2010 and currently I am completing the third level of Arabic here in Jordan. My majors are Pre-Nursing and Arabic and I will be able to graduate from Arabic this December with a minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies.

When I was first interested in obtaining a language degree it was for Spanish, but when I talked to Dr. Dany, aka my mentor, I got just as excited about Arabic as he is about it.



Once I took an Arabic class with Ustadha Lina,



inspiration to succeed and never give up! There have been nights where I am very frustrated and she looks at me and in her own way crawled over and hugged me and kissed me to encourage me. Lastly, but not at all at the least, is my family. It is because of my parents, Luis and Ana, and my siblings, Melissa, Luis Jr., and Anakren, for helping me to practice my Arabic at home. Encouraging me by incorporating Arabic into everything I know like food, music, games, and even learning a few phrases with me. I truly owe all these great people my degree and my success. I would also like to thank my professors who gave me this passion for Arabic; Ustadh Ayman, Ustadha Lina and my tutor, Ustadha Ebtisam. Thank you all so much for taking the time to help me learn Arabic and being so patient with me.

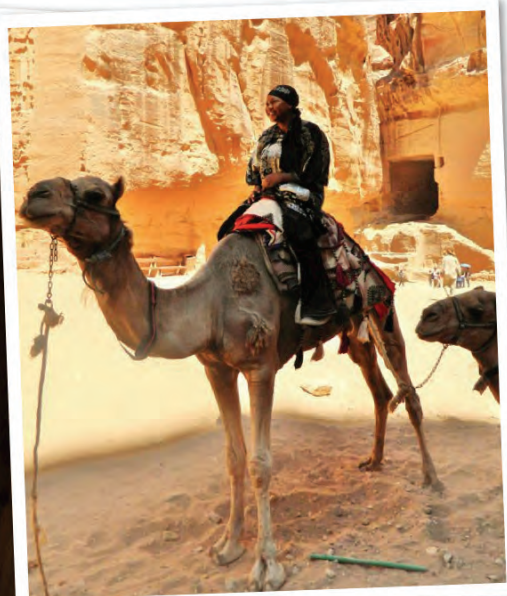
I was overcome with a huge love for the language, culture, and people. From then on, I have a passion to help the Arabic speaking community in any way possible. After that quarter, I declared myself an Arabic major and made it my mission to master the Arabic language as best I could. I instantly submerged myself into my studies and the culture. I made it a habit to try to learn Arabic recipes, Arab proverbs, do my makeup and dress more "Arab-like." I can honestly say that I am bananas for Arabic and everything that comes with it! I study Arabic because I want to help others in any way possible and I plan to use my Arabic degree in the future in helping others in the medical field by translating or possibly in the government, Inshallah!



As I recollect on my learning experience I have to say that my favorite part about learning Arabic is everything! However I will choose the fondest memory I have in regard to it which is when I called Ustadha Ebtisam everyday and left her a message in Arabic. At that point I felt like I could actually do this -- pick up the phone and have an actual conversation with another Arabic speaker and do well. After I graduate I will miss the moments where Ustadha Ebtisam went over my messages and told me how to improve. Another great memory is where Ustadh Ayman brought the class Arab poetry and we learned how to break down a poem and learned so much from it! I believe the most important thing I have learned is to simply be passionate about what you do and you will prosper. It feels weird to say that I have learned more about myself in this program than anything else. I not only learned Arabic, its literature, poetry, and proverbs, but I also learned about myself as an individual and where I stand in this society. I am a Mexican who loves Arabic and has made it a part of my life. At home my name is Leila not Luisana. Arabic has invaded my life and I am forever grateful it has. My life has truly changed because of it and I am all too eager to see what more awaits in the future.

However, let me recognize the people who made my accomplishments in Arabic possible. First of all, I want to thank GOD for helping me through everything. Secondly, I have to thank Dr. Dany for he is my mentor. I truly aspire with my heart to have a heart like his-filled with so much passion for helping others. I can honestly say I am a better person just by meeting Dr. Dany and I consider him like another father. He has always encouraged me and made time for my breakdowns in regards to my learning and is so willingly to help me progress in Arabic that I believe him to be the best teacher I have ever had! Thirdly, I want to recognize my daughter, Ana Isabella, for giving me the

Monica Mills, B.A. in Arabic, CSUSB



My major is Arabic Language, Literature and Culture. My home campus is CSUSB! I'm not sure when I'm graduating, because I am also working towards a minor in Japanese. I started to study Arabic because it is my dream to work in a Middle Eastern Bakery. However, I have recently discovered that I would like to get a master's degree in Arabic. If I do this, then I will be eligible to work as an interpreter for the United Nations.

I have learned that it is necessary to saturate my ears with as much Arabic as possible. This means listening to a lot of Arabic music (I already do that), watching the news in Arabic, listening to the news in Arabic (Podcasts), reading the newspaper in Arabic and reading books in Arabic. Essentially, become obsessed with Arabic and it will help you learn the language.

I would like to thank anyone who has taught me at least a single letter of the Arabic alphabet, those who have improved my cultural knowledge, and those who had the patience to sit with me during my times of misunderstandings. I also thank the wonderful people who struggle with me in the quest to understand this beautiful language. May we continue to struggle together!

Anthony Muller,

B.A. in Criminal Justice 2013, Arizona State University



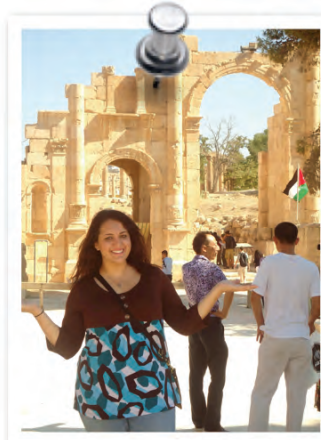
My name is Anthony Muller, or *انثني* as they call me in Arabic. I am attending Arizona State University to achieve a B.A. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Arabic and Military Leadership. I am expecting to graduate at the beginning of the 2013 year.

I want to study Arabic because it will greatly help me later in life in my career as an Army officer. My favorite and most important thing that I have learned during my journey learning Arabic was actually meeting the Arab people that I have been studying to speak with and being immersed in their culture. I feel that I gained invaluable information and experiences from my time studying abroad in Jordan. I would like to thank all the students from CSUSB for making my time in Jordan eventful and all the teachers and staff for accepting me to participate in the program. I have learned a lot!



Soheila Naghedi Baradaran Hajjar,

B.A. in Arabic 2012, CSUSB



Marhaba!! This has been a journey of a lifetime and the experiences I've had will forever be treasured. My name is Soheila Hajjar both in real life and for the Arabic Program. The story of my journey through the Arabic Language first started when learning Arabic in elementary school at City of Knowledge Islamic School until I was in fourth grade. When I got to California State University, San Bernardino, I heard about the amazing Arabic Program offered and I wanted to start again. Little did I know that starting Arabic again would shape my life and ignite the passion I have for languages.

I am currently majoring in Arabic Language and Culture with a minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies; I am graduating in 2012, inshaAllah. I find the Arabic language to be beautiful and the culture enriched with history and warm hospitality. I wanted to learn Arabic first and foremost to read the Quran, also because of the similarities to Farsi, all the friends I have that speak Arabic, and because of the incredible amount of history. I am hoping to travel more in the Middle East and will therefore need my Arabic to communicate; where the wind

takes me after that is still unknown.

My favorite part of this program was being able to grow closer to the people in SLI and while we all had different experiences we all felt connected and together in this journey. Also through our project I was able to look a little more in depth about the culture here in Jordan and to see a different side than that which is portrayed in the United States. I was able to make connections with people here through language and that left me with fond memories of Jordan.

I would like to share my deepest thanks to Dr. Dany for supporting me and pushing me even in times

that I did not believe I could. He is truly an amazing teacher and will never be forgotten in his endless efforts for this program. I also want to thank my parents, Tobi and Mahmoud, for their unconditional love and support, I hope that I have made you proud and continue to surprise you with my adventurous spirit. Also to my sisters, Fariba and Nadia, thank you for always being there and skyping when I needed to vent or to share a good experience, I love you both very much. Lastly, thank you to all my fellow SLI friends for sharing this experience with me.



Wendy Ortiz, B.A. in International Studies 2011, CSULB B.A. in Arabic 2011, CSUSB

I started learning Arabic because I like languages. Arabic is the fifth language that I have studied, and probably the most difficult one. I am happy to know that I have many career options with this language and do not plan on limiting myself to only one.

My favorite part was building friendships with both peers and professors at school. Also, outside of class it was easy to talk to the people despite our languages presenting a few barriers sometimes. This was a motivation to keep learning, so that no miscommunication or cutting of the conversation could occur because of not finding a word. In Jordan, everyone was friendly to us and treated us with kindness and respect. Everywhere we went we were welcomed. This made it easy to build friendships outside of class as well.

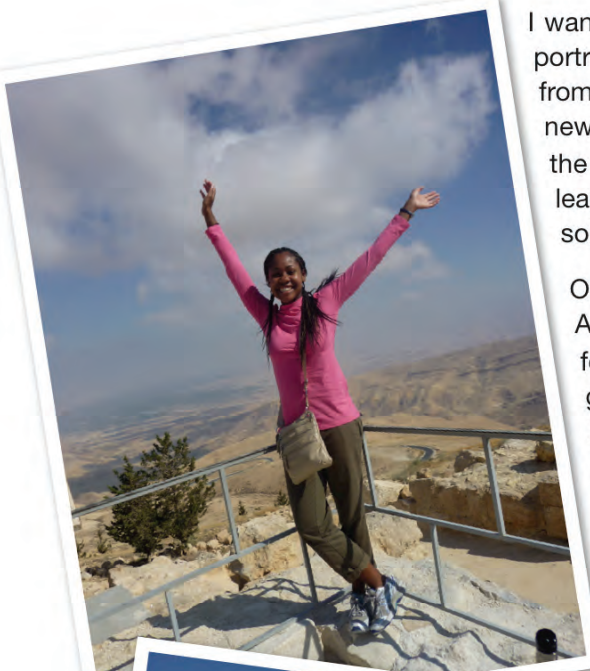
Since the beginning of my journey learning Arabic, I soon was able to recognize the flawed stereotypes that Arabs carry. Then, when I went to Jordan I felt at home. I felt comfortable and never experienced culture shock. All the Arabs that I have met in my life have been hospitable, friendly, and welcoming. Another important thing that I learned about is alienation. I did not ever feel this; rather I felt that they are just like us. We may reside in different and far parts of the world but they smile, laugh, cry, face problems, have dreams, help others, care for their communities, want to work, want an education, have friends, have families, clean their homes, have dialects, and participate in daily activities just like us. Arabs were not strange, they just have different customs. They are just like us.

All my professors and tutors have been important for my success. I never thought I would actually make it this far, but they were key players in my journey of learning the language and culture.



Jessica Page,

B.A. in Arabic & International Area Studies 2013, Washington University, St Louis



I wanted to learn Arabic so I could learn for myself about people who were portrayed negatively in the news. I wanted to learn about the Middle East from the people living there, and in their language, rather than an English news station in America. In the future I hope to improve U.S. relations with the Middle East, and I think the first step to doing that is taking time to learn about the culture, language and people first which will give me a solid foundation for communicating with future leaders.

One of the most rewarding things has been learning how beautiful the Arabic language is. In the United States the teaching of Arabic is focused on politics, yet since my time in Jordan I have begun to get a glimpse of the daily lives of the people and see them through a broader lens. I have been exposed to the art, literature and traditions of the people – which has been very beautiful. There is so much to learn about Arabic besides the language – like hospitality, greetings, poetry, colloquial, religion and music. I realized that I have to be patient, and it will take time for me to learn all that I want to learn.



I would like to thank Dr. Dany for allowing me to be a part of this program, as it has changed the way I think and learn the Arabic language and culture. I would like to thank my family for supporting me as I am far from home. And of course all praise be to God from whom all good things come.



Song Tran, B.A. in History & Arabic 2011, CSUSB

Here I am again, Amman, Jordan. It feels like I never left. The dusty pedestrian sidewalks have remained and the city streets are as clogged up as ever with cars. The melodic calls to prayer still sound off at the same time each and every single day. The taxicabs are still staffed with the same curious drivers all initially assuming that I am either from Japan, China, or Korea, never once throwing Vietnam into the hodgepodge of other East Asian countries. As always I tell them I am American, of Vietnamese ethnicity.

Has anything worthwhile changed about Jordan this year? Of course. Now that the shock and awe of this place has waned since last summer, I've had a greater chance to dig deeper into the culture, traditions, and other nuances about this country. I've encountered hospitality beyond what I had experienced last year.

Everyday I'd find myself at someone's home for a hearty traditional Arab meal with a handful of friends. I'd find myself surrounded by endless food and hospitality. What else could anyone ask for?

Never would I think Arabic would take me to Amman, Jordan for a second time, let alone the first time last year. The Arabic language, to be quite honest, has unexpectedly taken a backseat to an even

bigger picture and that is the exposure and understanding of the Arab culture specifically here in Amman, Jordan. Arabic has become an avenue where one can see the world in a whole new dynamic. Aside from being a powerful instrument in facilitating dialogue, conversation, and a promising future (inshallah), Arabic has been the key to unlocking a greater understanding of diverse peoples from different cultures of different regions, an invaluable resource in the game of life.



Food tastes better, the air is more aromatic, and sounds around me are more melodic now, not just because I am halfway across the world but because I see the beauty of language and its ability to open one's mind to everything I've taken for granted up till now.

I give thanks to all those I've encountered thus far on this long journey of Arabic acquisition. Although I still have a long way to go before I can out debate the taxi



driver on regional politics, I am grateful for all that I have learned thus far. I thank Dr. Dany for being that constant bridge that leads me to new opportunities in life. I thank Nada for handing me that key to all the experiences I've encountered thus far in the Arab world. I thank Huda for reminding me what it is that I love so much about Arab culture. I give thanks to Georgia for keeping the heart of this program beating. I thank Dr. Nelson for her constant support and encouragement of the Arabic program. My love and thanks go out to the countless others that have had such a profound influence in my journey so far.



2011 SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAMS



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