

## Cairo Full Year Fellows 2010-2011

**Kristine Anderson** graduated from The University of Arizona in 2008 with a degree in Near Eastern Studies and Spanish, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Arabic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Her academic interests include Arabic linguistics and modern Arabic literature.

**Rachel Antonsen** has completed her junior year at Stanford University, where she studies Middle East history. She is working on an honors thesis concerning the residents of Geziret ad-Dahab/Qursaya. Interests include contentious collective action in the Middle East, Muslim immigrants in Europe and the United States, and classical and modern Arabic literature and linguistics. After completing CASA, she will return to Stanford to write her thesis, after which she plans to pursue projects related to immigrants as well as graduate work in Middle Eastern studies.

**Kirsten Beck** is pursuing her PhD in Arabic Literature at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her MA in Religious Studies from Columbia and her BA in Mathematics and South Asian Studies from Barnard College.

**Gretchen Belnap** graduated in April with a BA in Middle East Studies/Arabic from Brigham Young University. She has studied Arabic in Jordan (summer 2006, 2008) and in Egypt (summer 2009). Her interests include modern Arabic literature and poetry as well as contemporary Arabic media. After completing CASA, she plans to pursue an MA in either Arabic language or ethnomusicology.

**Alexandra Blackman** received her BA in May 2010 from Tufts University, where she majored in International Relations and minored in Arabic. She has also studied Arabic at Alexandria University, the French Institute in Damascus, and Middlebury College. Her interests include comparative politics and political reform in the Middle East.

**Erin Collins** has studied Arabic in France, Germany, Morocco, and Pennsylvania. Directly after completing CASA, she plans to finish the BA and MA programs at Penn State University.

**Maryah Converse** served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Jordan before completing an MA in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University. She returned to Jordan on a Critical Language Scholarship in 2008, and has been living there since. After CASA, she intends to pursue a PhD in Applied Linguistics with a concentration in Arabic language acquisition.

**Emily Drumsta** earned an AB in Comparative Literature from Brown University in 2006. She is currently working on a PhD in Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley, with a focus on literature in Arabic and French. Her academic interests include Arabic poetics (classical and modern), religion and aesthetics, Maghrebi literature, and literary translation. She has lived and studied in Tunis (Bourguiba School) and Tangier (Critical

Language Scholarship Program), as well as in Paris (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris VIII-Saint-Denis).

**Jonathan Endelman** graduated this year from Emory University with highest honors and a BA in Middle Eastern Studies. He has spent a semester studying abroad at AUC as well as a summer studying Arabic in Amman on a CLS scholarship from the US State Department. He is interested in politics, wants to get a PhD in IR focused on the Middle East after completing CASA, and hopes to work either for State or a think tank in Washington.

**Nicholas Richard Garcia-Mason** graduated from The University of California, Berkeley with a BA in history. He is currently a Master's Degree candidate at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies where he concentrates in Arab Politics. Nicholas worked with a San Francisco health and human services non-profit prior to attending Georgetown. He studied Arabic through The University of Wisconsin, Madison's Arabic immersion program and in Rabat, Morocco. After finishing CASA, he will return to Georgetown University and hopes to work on US foreign policy issues in the Middle East upon graduation.

**Anna Jozwik** set off on a life of adventure after obtaining her BA in political science from Northwestern University. She studied languages and conducted independent research in Poland, the UAE, and Syria where she became interested in working with refugee populations and dabbled in journalism. Following CASA, she plans to pursue an MA in Middle Eastern studies and a JD in international law, in sha allah.

**Evan Langenhahn** has a BA in International Studies from Emory University and will complete his MA in Middle Eastern Studies from The University of Chicago this summer. He is particularly interested in the comparative intellectual, political, and social evolution of Islam/Islamicate and Christianity/Christendom since the Middle Period and plans to apply for his doctorate in History of Religion this fall.

**Sarah Layton** graduated this year from Columbia University with a BA in Comparative Literature and Society. Her academic interests include contemporary Arabic literature, the long tradition of Arabic travelogues, and literary translation. Eventually she hopes to pursue a PhD in Comparative Literature with Arabic as one of her primary languages.

**Yasmeen Mekawy** graduated from New York University in 2007 with an interdisciplinary BA entitled "Orientalism: The Politics of Identity." In New York she worked for ArteEast, a nonprofit that promotes Middle Eastern art and film. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Political Science at The University of Chicago. Her interests include authoritarian rule, nationalism and collective identity, and media and internet technology. She has also previously studied Arabic in Cairo.

**Emilie Minnick** spent the last year working for the International Rescue Committee in Iraq implementing a protection program for displaced Iraqis in Baghdad and other Central governorates. She obtained her MA in Migration and Refugee Studies at AUC in

2009. While in Cairo, she also worked as Director of an educational outreach program for refugees, as a researcher at the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, and on the Iraqi resettlement program run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She has also worked at a law firm in New York City specializing in immigration and refugee law. Emilie has studied Arabic in Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Egypt. After CASA, she plans to return to Iraq or move to Yemen to continue her work on IDP and refugee issues.

**Emma Moros**, a native of Vermont, graduated from Middlebury College this year with a BA in English and American Literatures, and a minor in Arabic. As an undergraduate, Emma studied as much Arabic as English, and after completing CASA, she hopes to combine both areas of study through graduate work in Comparative Literature. Her eventual plan is to work as a literary translator.

**Tom Osann** graduated this year from New York University with a BA in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Academically, he is particularly interested in Arabic to English translation. After completing CASA, he hopes to work for a company or consultancy in the Middle East, and then to pursue a Masters in Environmental Management.

**Brian Powell** graduated with a BA in English from Boston University in 2006. After living in France and Italy, he returned to the US to pursue an MA in Near Eastern Studies at The University of Arizona. His research interests include classical Arabic and Persian literature, Islamic mysticism, and Islam in South Asia.

**Schadi Semnani** has just finished her first year of the MA in Arab Studies at Georgetown University. Before that, she spent two years in Syria studying Arabic, translating for an online Syrian magazine, and working with Iraqi refugees. She is particularly interested in Arab media.

**Andrew Simon** graduated from Duke University last year with a BA in Arabic, Middle Eastern Studies, and Islamic Studies. He studied Arabic in Sana'a while interning at a children's rights NGO, and later enrolled in Arabic classes in Cairo as a Boren Scholar. Most recently, he completed a senior honors thesis on intertwining narratives regarding Coptic-Muslim relations. After CASA, he plans to pursue a PhD in Modern Middle Eastern Studies.

**Macey Stapleton** is an MA candidate in Arab Studies at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Prior to her graduate work, Macey worked in the Department of English Literature and Linguistics at Qatar University. She has previously studied Arabic in Morocco (SIT, Center for Cross Cultural Learning), Qatar (Qatar University), and at Duke University. Her academic and professional interests lie primarily in education and development in the Middle East.

**Heather Sweetser** graduated from The Ohio State University in March 2008 with 3 BAs in Arabic, Islamic Studies, and International Studies. She is currently working on her MA

in Arabic with a focus on classical Arabic literature and recently returned to the US after spending a year in Yemen.

**Levi Thompson** is a 2009 graduate of The University of Pennsylvania with a Masters in Arabic and Islamic Studies. He holds a BA in History and Government from The College of William and Mary. His research interests include Arabic literature, particularly the character of the rogue, authorial identity, and autobiography. Following CASA, he will enroll in UCLA's NELC PhD program.

**Cosette Wong** graduated this year from Duke University with a double major in Mathematics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Arabic concentration. (In a sense, she graduated with a double major in two languages.) She has studied Arabic in Egypt and Syria.

**Anna Ziajka** graduated from Georgetown University in 2007 with BAs in Arabic and English. Since then she has lived between Cairo and Abu Dhabi while working in various outlets of the Arab publishing industry, most recently as cultural program manager at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. After CASA, she hopes to study Arabic fiction with a focus on bringing more of this literature to the English-language book market.

#### Summer Only Fellows

**Stephen Bush** is currently an MA student in Middle Eastern Studies at The University of Texas at Austin where he concentrates on modern Middle East history. He received a BA in Political Science from Westmont College in 2004. Previously, he taught in Egypt and the Palestinian Territories.

**Ilaria Giglioli** has recently graduated with a Masters in Geography from The University of Toronto, where her research investigated the relationship between water, infrastructure and territory in Palestine. After completing CASA, she plans to continue her studies with a PhD in Geography at UC Berkeley, focusing on colonial urbanism in the Mediterranean Basin.

**Sarah Mishkin** graduated in 2009 with BA in History from Yale College. Since April 2009, she has lived in Cairo working as a research fellow with AUC's Economic and Business History Research Center and as a reporter with the magazine Business Today Egypt. Her academic interests include comparative Islamic/Western law and Arabic-English translation.

**Brian Torro** is currently pursuing an MA in Near Eastern Studies at New York University. He has studied Arabic in Cairo (AUC-ALI) and in Amman (University of Jordan). He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2009 with degrees in economics and Arabic. His research interests at NYU focus on the political economy of oil in modern Iraq.