

Cairo Full Year Fellows 2009-2010

Zoe Baer graduated from Duke University in 2008 with a BA in Arabic and Cultural Anthropology. Her interests in Arabic range from calligraphy, second language acquisition to interpretation as a basis of cultural exchange and understanding. She studied Arabic in Syria and Jordan during her undergraduate career and has spent this past year living in Cairo teaching English to primary school students.

Pinchas Balsam is an undergraduate at Princeton University (class of '12). He is majoring in Near Eastern Studies, with a focus on the politics of the Arab World. He has also studied Arabic at Middlebury College.

Carolyn Barnett graduated this year from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, earning a BSFS in Culture and Politics and a certificate in International Development. She also studied Arabic at Georgetown and spent a semester abroad at AUC. She is particularly interested in contemporary women's rights activism in the Arab world, women's participation in Islamist movements, and the relationship between gender equality and democracy. In the future, she plans to pursue a PhD in political science.

Elliott Bazzano is a PhD student in Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He received his MA in the same field from Duke. His research interests include Sufism, Qur'anic Studies, Pluralism, Islam in America, Ethics, Mysticism, Identity, Pedagogy, Narratives, Arabic and Persian. He plans to work as a professor upon completing his doctorate.

Thalia Beaty graduated from Brown University last year with a BA in Middle East Studies. She has studied Arabic in Cairo and at Middlebury previously, and has most recently worked in Washington D.C. for the Center for American Progress. Academically, she has focused on contemporary Arabic literature and has an interest in translation.

Kevin Blankinship holds a B.A. from Brigham Young University and an M.A. from UNC Chapel Hill, both in Comparative Literature. He studied Arabic at both of these institutions, as well as the Middlebury College Summer 2008 Arabic School. He loves pre-modern Arabic literature, especially 'Abbasid belles-lettres and verse, and hopes to pursue a doctorate in Near Eastern Studies with a focus on classical Arabic and Persian poetry.

Scott Cole graduated this year from the University of Virginia with a major in Middle Eastern Studies and a minor in Physics. When he returns to the United States after having completed CASA, he will begin attending Georgetown University in the fall of 2010 to complete a master's degree in Arab Studies. His future plans include completing a doctorate in a discipline related to Middle Eastern Studies, and working in and with the Middle East in the field of business. In addition to his work with Arabic and the Arab World, an integral component of his career plans is the refinement of his Persian language skills and the continuation of his study of Iran.

Andrew Dilbert received his B.A. in International Comparative Studies from Duke University, with a concentration in Eastern Europe. He is currently an M.A. TEFL candidate at the American University in Cairo, and his thesis is a comparative study on the intonation of Syrian Arabic and American English. He has studied in both Egypt (AUC) and Syria (Damascus University; IFPO-Session annuelle 2008-2009). He is interested in working with civil society in the future.

Gerard Dolan holds a B.A. in Biology from Johns Hopkins University and has worked previously in the Middle East. His interests include U.S. foreign policy and development in the Middle East and North Africa. After CASA I, he plans to pursue a Masters in Middle East Regional Studies.

Omar Foda graduated from Dartmouth College in 2007 with a BA in Modern Middle Eastern History. He is a PhD student in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department at the University of Pennsylvania. His academic focus is on Late Ottoman and Early Modern Egyptian history.

Andrew Helms graduated this year from Georgetown University with a MA in Arab Studies from the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He has studied Arabic in Egypt through the Middle East Studies Program in Agouza, as well as through local Arabic centers. His research interests include Islamist parties, the intersection of new media and contentious politics in the Middle East and theories of authoritarian rule. Following the CASA program, Andrew plans to work for a media and public relations consulting company in the region before pursuing a Ph.D.

Michele Henjum received an MA in Comparative Literature from the CUNY Grad Center in 2007. She's interested in Arabic literature and literary translation, and has studied Arabic in Morocco (ALIF) and Syria (Damascus University, Dalalah Institute).

Rebecca Hopkins is currently pursuing dual-Masters degrees in Middle Eastern Studies and Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. She is particularly interested in political economy of the Middle East, oil politics, and political relations between the US and the Arab world. She has previously studied Arabic in Cairo (at AUC), Amman (at the Qasid Institute), and Emory University.

Anita Husen is an MA in Candidate of Arabic Studies at the University of Texas Austin. Her academic interests are pedagogy, contemporary literature and the relationship between language and culture/sociolinguistics. Prior to her graduate work, Anita served in the Peace Corps in Morocco where she was a health volunteer at a rural Tamazigh clinic. She holds a BA in Middle East Studies from Emory University. Anita studied Arabic at Middlebury in 2005 and 2008.

Nancy Linthicum is a first-year student in the Arabic Language and Literature PhD program in the University of Michigan's Near Eastern Studies department. She is interested in postcolonial North African literature, particularly the short story, and the use of dialect and other native languages, such as Berber, in fiction. Nancy received her B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University in Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures and English Literature.

Karol W. Malik graduated this year from Harvard University with a B.A. in Human Evolutionary Biology and a Language Citation in Arabic. His current academic interests focus on the role that poetic traditions across various cultures -- especially in Eastern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East -- play in informing the tone of public discourse.

Kevin Mazur is currently pursuing an MA at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He has previously studied Arabic in Syria (Damascus University) and Egypt (AUC) and worked as a volunteer in the Damascus branch of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Kevin's academic interests center around the political economy of the Arab world.

Nathaniel Miller graduated with a BA in English from St. Olaf College in 2002. In 2005 he completed his MA in English from Indiana University, where he also studied Arabic language and literature with a FLAS. He began a PhD focusing on 18th century Orientalism, but decided to focus exclusively on Arabic instead, moving to Egypt in 2007, where he's been ever since. He's interested in the relationship between Jahiliyya poetry and the advent of Islam. He hopes to pursue a PhD in Arabic literature.

Olivia Moseley received her BA in History and German Studies from Vassar College (2004) and lived in Cairo for 3 years (2004-2007), studying Arabic at ALI-AUC and working as a freelance editor and writer. She is currently in the joint MA-PhD program in Arab Studies (MA 2009) and History at Georgetown University. She focuses on women and gender in the colonial and post-colonial Middle East, with a special interest in Egyptian feminist movements.

Todd Mostak graduated in December 2006 from the University of North Carolina with a BA in Economics and Anthropology. He then taught English for a year in Syria, where he made his first foray into Arabic. After completing CASA, he plans on entering the MA program in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard, where he hopes to study competing notions of nationalism in Lebanon.

Andrea Richardson graduated this year from Brown University with a B.A. in Middle East Studies. In addition to her Arabic studies at Brown University, Andrea has studied Arabic at Middlebury's Summer Arabic Language School and at Middlebury's Arabic School Abroad in Alexandria, Egypt where she completed a four month home-stay with an Egyptian family. In particular, Andrea is interested in recording female narratives of forced migration and community building in the Middle East. In the future, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Modern Middle Eastern History.

Johanna Sellman is currently a doctoral student in the department of Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. She holds a BA in French literature (2001) and an MA in Middle Eastern Studies (2006). She has studied and lived in Morocco previously and she completed the CASA Egypt summer program in 2008. Johanna is currently embarking on a dissertation project on Iraqi exile literature in Europe and the Middle East.

Dustin John Stephenson-Reynolds graduated this year from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in French Literature. He has studied Arabic at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, as well as the American Language Institute in Fes, Morocco. He is interested in contemporary Arabic literature, as well as linguistics. After completing CASA, he plans on pursuing graduate studies in the field of Arabic language and literature.

Nathan Tek graduated in 2009 from Yale University with a BA in Political Science and International Studies. Academically, he is particularly interested in US foreign policy in the Maghreb. After completing CASA, he will pursue an advanced degree in international relations and hopes to work for the US federal government in the future.

Summer Only Fellows

Rachel Antonsen just completed her sophomore year at Stanford University, where she is working on a BA in Middle East History. She has studied Arabic at UC Berkeley's summer program in 2007 and at the Middlebury Arabic School in 2008. One of her primary interests is in comparative study of Arab and Muslim immigrants in Europe and the United States. She wants to pursue Arabic language and literature at the graduate level, and hopes to teach Arabic to a variety of age groups and translate Arabic poetry.

Hannah Barker received her BA in medieval history and physics from the University of Chicago in 2005 and is now a graduate student in medieval history at Columbia University. Her research focuses on the fourteenth-century slave trade in the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

Gretchen Belnap is a senior at Brigham Young University completing her B.A. in Middle East Studies/Arabic. She has studied Arabic in Amman, Jordan during the summer of 2006 and 2008. Her interests include Modern Arabic Literature, particularly poetry. She intends to pursue an M.A. in Arabic or Language Acquisition.

Joakim Parslow holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in Turkish Studies from the University of Oslo. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington, focusing on Turkish and Arab nation building and state-society relations during and after the last years of the Ottoman Empire. He is planning on pursuing a career in academia.

Emily Selove is a third-year PhD student in UCLA's department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, where she studies Classical Arabic literature. She is currently researching at Oxford University for her dissertation on an 11th-century Arabic text, about a party and a party-crasher. She hopes to become a professor and translator of Arabic literature.