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AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter (Issue 2)

Greetings from AMIDEAST! Whether studying abroad in the Arab world, returning to your home institution, or venturing into life after graduation, we hope you had a wonderful Fall 2011! This issue of the AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter features additional career and internship resources, information on the expanding Alumni Association website, and exciting new programs from AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs in the Arab World.

With this second edition of the AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter, we welcome your feedback with additional resources or suggestions for future newsletters. Created as a means to help our former students, the AMIDEAST Alumni Association wishes to include any information you think would be helpful. Have a wonderful spring semester!

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Alumni Resources

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please check out [the Alumni Association Website](#), which is updated weekly with new resources such as job opportunities, Middle Eastern activities, cultural events, and Arabic language resources. Since our last issue, we have been hard at work and much content has been added to website!

- A new alumni profile highlights the experiences of Jeremy Booth during his programs in Egypt and Jordan during the 2010-2011 academic year
- "Taste of the Middle East" has updated recipes and information on Arab film and cultural festivals
- And, our "Work in the Middle East" page has been extensively updated, featuring new internship, scholarship, and job search opportunities

COLLABORATIVE BLOG

[Mosaic](#), AMIDEAST's collaborative student blog project, is showcasing new blog posts from previous and current students. Be sure to read our most recent submission from [Siobhan O'Grady](#) about her Fall 2011 semester in Rabat, Morocco! Here is an excerpt from her blog post :

Where Did We Come From and How Did We Get Here?

"It started with just one monkey. He seemed friendly enough, and we trusted him when we followed him down the dirt roads of Azrou's Mount Rachidia in Morocco's mid-Atlas mountains. But then we realized he was not alone. We were walking through a colony of monkeys. Big monkeys. They stepped out slowly, but were soon surrounding us, becoming defensive of their territory. We were nine, and they were dozens. Five of our group got past the first pack of them, but the other four (myself included) turned and ran in the opposite direction.

"No but you didn't see the way that big one was looking at us!" I explained through tears on the phone to my friend who was on the other side of the monkeys, just a few minutes walk down the road. "If you guys don't get past them you'll never see the panoramic view we've been looking for all morning," he explained. It was at this point that I couldn't help but laugh. I was lost in the mountains, in the heart of Morocco, with a pack of wild and vicious monkeys blocking my way to the view I had traveled five hours by train and grand-taxi to see. "What is my life?" I thought. After discussing it with my three friends who had come the same

direction as me, we decided we just did not have the courage to venture back down the monkeys' road. We took the road less traveled, without much hope we would find anything nearly as interesting as what we were sure our friends would find on the other side of the mountain. Angry and jealous of those five who were on their way to a comfortable picnic with a scenic view, we slowly trudged along the steep mountain road, unsure of what would lie ahead..."

We are eager to hear your reflections from your time in the Arab World. Not only are your experiences an adventure to read, but they also serve as an important resource for current and prospective students.

Please consider submitting an article, reflection, old blog post, photos, or other artwork about your experience abroad to edabroad@amideast.org.

Career Resources

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES:

A [new section](#) on the AMIDEAST Alumni Association web page features information on continuing your education in the Middle East and North Africa. Links to language schools, scholarship and fellowship opportunities, and graduate schools are provided. For example, we encourage our alumni to apply for Boren Awards to return to the Middle East with us. We also link to scholarships for study abroad institutes in other Arab countries, such as the Qatar Scholarship Program.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES:

Below you can find some great websites to search for jobs in all fields in the Middle East. For more suggestions visit our website.

1. [Reliefweb.com](#) - Site dedicated to providing humanitarian information and analysis. Relief Web also lists internships, jobs, and volunteer opportunities from many international organizations and NGOs. Contains a very large number of opportunities around the globe.
2. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) - Regularly updated job postings for the Carnegie think tank in D.C. and abroad, including Beirut, Lebanon. There are limited internships and entry-level positions, so check frequently.
3. [NAFSA](#) - Job postings, fair amount of entry level positions, related to international education.

TEACH ENGLISH WITH AMIDEAST:

In our last issue, we highlighted [AMIDEAST's new Professional Certificate in English Language Teaching \(PCELT\)](#). If you already have experience teaching English or just

received your certification, there are opportunities to teach English in AMIDEAST field offices. General qualification and specific requirements for each field office can be found on the Alumni Website page: [Teach English with AMIDEAST](#).

CURRENT INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

1. [The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations](#) is currently accepting applications for summer internships. From May 28th - August 3rd, the National Council offers undergraduate and graduate students a ten-week professional, academic, and career opportunity internship in the nation's capital. The program features a demanding mix of professional involvement, intellectual challenge, career exploration, and cultural encounters designed to provide interns with a rich and varied experience during their time in Washington. Application material and additional information can be found at [this link](#). Applications are due March 12, 2012.

2. [AMIDEAST Headquarters in Washington DC](#) is accepting applications for Education Abroad Interns for both the summer and fall of 2012 terms. Education Abroad interns have important functions at HQ, assisting Education Abroad staff directly, coordinating online social networking outreach, and providing pre-departure support for incoming AMIDEAST students. Applications for the summer internships are due April 1, 2012, and fall internship applications are due July 15, 2012. Please submit a resume and cover letter to syoshen@amideast.org and clane@amideast.org with "Education Abroad Internship - Summer/Fall" in the subject line.

3. [The Middle East Institute](#) is also accepting applications for summer 2012 interns. Internships at the Middle East Institute (MEI) are designed to provide undergraduates who have completed at least one year of school, recent graduates, and graduate students considering a career in a Middle East related field with hands-on experience in a Washington non-profit organization that focuses exclusively on the Middle East. Interns obtain guidance, experience, and exposure to the Washington policy and scholarly community while helping out with the everyday operations of the Middle East Institute. Positions are available on a full or part-time basis with a minimum of 20 hours a week. Although there is no financial compensation for interns, MEI does offer each intern one free language class, a one-year electronic subscription to The Middle East Journal, and reimbursement for local travel expenses. Please visit <http://www.mei.edu/jobs-and-internships> for more information. The deadline for applications is March 5, 2012.

Alumni Updates and Networking

Let AMIDEAST and your fellow alumni know where you are in the world! The Alumni Networking Forum is a place for previous students to discuss career goals or arrange to meet and network. As you can see on the Alumni Website, the Networking Forum marks where alumni are in the world, what their occupation is, and the duration of time they'll be there.

If you are interested in joining the [Alumni Association Networking Forum](#), please fill out

the AMIDEAST Alumni Membership Networking Form. Rest assured that AMIDEAST will not give your contact information to third parties, and e-mail addresses will only be provided to students who participated in an AMIDEAST program or prospective students who have questions about a particular program.

Lastly, be sure to check out our alumni in the spotlight for the months of November, December, and January - [Kathryn McNamara](#), [Alexandra Hartmann](#), and [Jeremy Booth](#). Discussing their experiences in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan, these three alumni share their favorite program stories and achievements since their program(s). Longer narratives about these students' experiences can be found on the new Education Abroad [Alumni Page](#). If you are interested in being featured on the Alumni Association and AMIDEAST Website, please fill out the [alumni survey here](#).

If you have suggestions of other alumni that we should consider featuring, please feel free to email us those thoughts as well!

What's New at AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs

Along with our new summer 2012 programs mentioned in the previous issue, AMIDEAST is developing several new semester programs in Morocco and Egypt. Education Abroad will be launching the inaugural semester of the Regional Studies in French program in Rabat, Morocco this coming Fall. Regional Studies will feature many of the same excursions and program attributes as the Area and Arabic Language Studies in Rabat, however classes will be taught exclusively in French. Additionally, in Egypt AMIDEAST is partnering with Cairo University to offer students an opportunity to study Civil Engineering in one of the most dynamic areas of the world.

If you would like to read more about these programs, we invite you to [visit our website](#).


AMIDEAST Education Abroad has also recently uploaded its programs to www.abroad101.com. This website is an important resource for students interested in studying abroad as it allows for former students to review our programs. As alumni, we would appreciate your feedback on your AMIDEAST program!

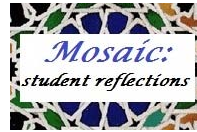


Gatherings and Events

As mentioned in the previous issue, the Alumni Association is interested in planning or assisting alumni in organizing periodic reunions, get-togethers, or other events for alumni in the Washington, DC metro area. This could range from a formal dinner event or something very casual like a group museum trip to the Freer & Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution.

We would appreciate feedback about your interest in this. Whether you live in the DC area or not, we would like your feedback to gauge the feasibility of planning future events. Please include your interest level and suggestions for events you might like to see, on [the Alumni Membership Networking Form](#).

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