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AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter (Issue 3)

Ahlan wa sahlam from all of us at AMIDEAST! Whether you've returned to the Arab World or have stayed at home, we hope the summer has not been too hot!

This issue of the AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter features additional career and internship resources, information on AMIDEAST's first Photo Contest, and exciting new programs and scholarships from AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs in the Arab World.

With this third 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 safe, relaxing summer!

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AMIDEAST Photo Contests

AMIDEAST Summer 2012 Photo Contest Winner

Congratulations to Allegra Skurka, a Spring 2011 program participant in Cairo and Jordan, for her winning submission of Wadi Rum, Jordan.



Students at Wadi Rum, Jordan - submitted by Allegra Skurka

AMIDEAST plans to hold photo contests at the end of each semester. The more participation, the bigger the prize! Submit a photo (or more) from your semester abroad for the next contest.

Fall 2012 Photo Contest Guidelines

Guidelines:

1. Photo submissions must be images taken during the time of the contestant's AMIDEAST Education Abroad Program and within the host country (i.e. a picture from a spring break trip to Turkey will not be accepted).
2. Each contestant may submit up to three photos.
3. Photos should represent meaningful and unique moments that occurred during the contestant's education abroad experience with AMIDEAST.
4. Photos should fall into one of the following categories:

Adventure: Photos could show AMIDEAST students on program excursions throughout the host country or visits to notable sites in the AMIDEAST host city. Adventure photos demonstrate the off-the-beaten-path aspect of education abroad in the Arab world. These photos do not necessarily have to include students, but can instead focus on a work of art, architecture, ruin, or other striking aspect of the host country.

Culture: Photos should show AMIDEAST students interacting with their local community, host families, or new friends from the host country. Alternatively, culture photos could

show traditions, rituals, rites, food, or cultural activities unique to the host culture.

Challenge: These photos show AMIDEAST students in unfamiliar environments or situations such as learning and using the Arabic language, interning with refugees, bargaining for goods, navigating a city, or rolling the perfect couscous balls.

Winning Photos:

1. AMIDEAST staff in Washington D.C. will select a group of semi-finalists from the submitted photos. The semi-finalist photos will be posted on the AMIDEAST Facebook page (Study Abroad in the Arab World) for two weeks. The photo which receives the most 'Likes' will be selected as the 2012 AMIDEAST Fall Photo Contest Winner.

2. The winning photo will be:

- awarded a VISA gift card for \$75 (first place) and \$25 (semi-finalists)
- featured on the AMIDEAST Study Abroad in the Arab World Facebook Page as the cover photo.
- framed and hung in the AMIDEAST Washington D.C. Office.
- featured in the 2013 AMIDEAST catalog

Timeline:

Deadline for Submission October 19, 2012

Voting October 24-November 9, 2012

Winner Announced November 12, 2012

For more information on how to enter, please visit [our website](#).

Call for Alumni Updates for Newsletter

*Have you started a new job? Finished a degree? Started a family?
Had an amazing travel experience? Received a fellowship?*

AMIDEAST Alumni are always out exploring the world, working hard on graduate degrees, and working in unique careers. We are hoping that you will share some of the changes in your life with the AMIDEAST Alumni Network. Let us know where life has taken you and we'll include updates on the path of AMIDEAST Alumni in future newsletters. Email us with any updates at DocsEdAbroad@amideast.org.

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 activities. Since our last issue, we have been hard at work and much content has been added to website!

- A new page describes the guidelines and process of our photo contests
- "Taste of the Middle East" has updated information on Middle Eastern cultural centers and festivals throughout the United States
- New Arabic language practice resources have been added to the Resource Room page

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 Ben Delikat about his summer 2012 Intensive Arabic program in Amman, Jordan! Here is an excerpt from his blog post :

Cuisine at the Crossroads

"Mealtime here is something I look forward to every day. You never quite know what's coming so it's always a surprise, but so far I haven't tasted a dish I didn't like.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner are the three main meals of the day. Like in Spain and several other European countries, lunch is the largest and most elaborate, usually eaten between 1pm-4pm with the family coming home from work to share some time together. I am in class until 2pm and usually hit the gym right afterwards unless I'm doing homework, so except for weekends I typically miss eating lunch with my host family. All of the food has been excellent (many thanks to my host family, the Zreiqats, and their skillful command of the kitchen), and some highlights from the last two weeks include lamb with rice and yogurt, cabbage, zucchini, and eggplant stuffed with rice, meat, and chick peas, Asian-style pasta with vegetables, and grilled chicken with basmati rice."



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.

FLICKR

Recently, Education Abroad created a new Flickr group - [AMIDEAST Abroad](#). We encourage you to join and add photos to our group pool! Not only can you connect with other alumni, but you can also help give prospective students a feel for what it is like to live in the Arab world.

TWITTER

Education Abroad now tweets! Follow us @AMIDEAST_Abroad, as we regularly tweet updates on our programs, interesting articles on study abroad and higher education, Arabic studying resources, and job opportunities.

Career Resources

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES:

AMIDEAST is excited to announce the development of a new scholarship opportunity for semester and academic year students. Gaining travel writing experience and a scholarship for their program, selected students from the Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco programs will blog bi-weekly about their experiences. Updates can be found on Mosaic, so be sure to follow their adventures!

A [newer 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. [Indeed.com](#) - Create an account to receive weekly e-mail updates on personalized position opening in your area and throughout the world.
2. [Jobs in the Middle East](#) - Sign up for this listserv to receive weekly e-mails with a variety of job postings in the Middle East.
3. [U.S. Department of State](#) - Explore employment opportunities and career paths with the Department of State.

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 Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC is currently seeking a Middle East Studies Intern to assist with writing, research, and program planning for the Fall 2012 semester. Full position description can be found [here](#).

2. [AMIDEAST Headquarters in Washington DC](#) is accepting applications for Education Abroad Interns for the spring of 2013. 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 spring internship are due October 15, 2012. Please submit a resume and cover letter to syoshen@amideast.org and clane@amideast.org with "Education Abroad Internship - Spring" in the subject line.

3. AMIDEAST Headquarters is also seeking applications for a Fulbright Intern. Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program awards scholarships to students from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for graduate study in the United States. AMIDEAST is seeking an intern based in Washington, DC to assist with application and placement administration starting in the fall. This internship may be of particular interest to students involved in international education and/or MENA. To Apply, visit the [AMIDEAST Career Webpage](#).

Share your AMIDEAST Story

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.

Be sure to check out our most recent featured alumni, [Branwen Francis](#) and [Gwen Schaefer](#).

Branwen studied on the Area & Arabic Studies program in Rabat, Morocco during the fall 2009 semester and recently received a Fulbright Teaching Grant for Cyprus for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Gwen participated in the summer 2011 Intensive Arabic program and fall 2011 Area & Arabic Language Studies program in Amman, Jordan. Most recently, Gwen received a research grant from the University of Kentucky to conduct research on the political identity of Iraqi refugees in Amman, Jordan during the summer of 2012.

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 your nomination!

What's New at AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs

We are now accepting applications for the Spring 2013 semester! Feel free to participate in another AMIDEAST program, or direct any interested friends to our website.

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 Area and Arabic Language Studies in Rabat, however classes will be taught exclusively in French.

Additionally, we encourage engineering students to apply for the Civil Engineering program in Cairo, Egypt which will be launched in spring 2013. 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.

Lastly, we are proud to announce the development of a Learn & Serve 6-week summer program in Oman. Set to begin in the summer of 2013, this program offers students the chance to earn 6-credits in two 3-credit courses: Omani Cultural Anthropology in Context and Omani Colloquial Arabic while also volunteering with Omani students at Sohar University.

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



Tell Potential Students your Opinion

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!



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