

# CCAS NEWS

## Educational Exchange with the State of Qatar

Karmah S. Elmusa

Off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia, and just north of the United Arab Emirates can be found a small peninsula extending into the Persian Gulf. This peninsula, known as the State of Qatar since 1971, is home to just under a million people and is roughly half as large as New Jersey. Qatar's youth and size are not indicators, however, of the impact it seems ready to make on the Middle East and the world at large. Indeed, Qatar not only houses the headquarters of *Al Jazeera*, an immensely popular global Arabic satellite television network, but it also stands at the forefront of ground-breaking natural gas technology. Qatar is also pioneering in terms of education innovation. Since 2003, Georgetown University has established three different working relationships with the State of Qatar and its embassy here in Washington, DC. Most recent is the addition of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service to the Qatari development known as Education City. Two years ago, with generous funding from Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CCAS developed a post-doctoral fellowship. And finally, CCAS administers a program that sends students from the United States to study at the University of Qatar each year.

In the spring of 2005, Georgetown University officials announced the opening of a branch of the School of Foreign Service on the outskirts of the Qatari capital of Doha. This subdivision of SFS has now materialized as the latest addition to the aforementioned Education City, the brainchild of Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned. Sheikha Mozah is the Chair of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, a private nonprofit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest resource is its people. Sheikha Mozah welcomed Georgetown to the community, saying "the need for sound policy and diplomacy... is evident. In this regard, Georgetown was our best choice to assist in developing the potential diplomats of the future. This is fully consistent with our vision at the Qatar Foundation for realizing human potential and building bridges between people." The "city" itself, whose construction aimed to introduce a smattering of American universities into Qatar—thereby enhancing local educational opportunities—now includes departments from Cornell, Texas A&M, Carnegie Mellon and Virginia Commonwealth University. It is also home to a range of other educational, science and technology programs and offices. Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia commented that he is "excited about the opportunity to extend [SFS]'s international presence to an important region of the world."

Students at SFS-Qatar will be recruited largely from English-



Liberal Arts and Sciences Building at SFS-Qatar.

language international schools from the eastern Mediterranean to South Asia. In this start-up year, 12 of the incoming freshmen are Qatari; the other 13 are from the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Bosnia and the United States. Fifteen are women, 10 are men. The admissions team is headed by SFS-Qatar director of admissions and former

### INSIDE

center news

**2 (cont.) Educational Exchange with the State...**

**2-3 A Voice from the First Class of Exchange Students**

outreach news

**4-5 Seventh Annual Summer Workshop**

events

**6-7 List of Events (pull-out)**

academic news

**8 Alumni Profile**

**9-10 Alumni and Student News**

**11 Announcements**

**12 Letter from the Director**

**13 Faculty News**

CCAS staffer, Liz Kepferle. Dr. James Reardon-Anderson, Dean of SFS-Qatar, said that in the future the student body will grow to include about 100 students. The core curriculum will be modeled exactly after SFS-DC, with the exception that all students will major in International Politics. The curriculum requires that students take courses in government, political and social thought, as well as economics, and exhibit proficiency in a second language. This program of study is one that prepares students from around the world for positions of leadership in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Familiar faculty include Dr. Ibrahim Oweiss teaching Economics and Dr. Amira Sonbol, who will teach a history course on Middle East Civilization this year.

Prior to the launch of SFS-Qatar, in June 2003 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar decided to fund a new initiative at CCAS, the Qatar Post-Doctoral Fellowship on US-Arab Relations or Islamic Studies. This fellowship enables the Center to bring to Georgetown each year new academics who can offer fresh perspectives. The fellowship, now in its second year, supports recent PhDs for one year, allowing them to prepare their dissertation for publication. Recipient also conduct a seminar in the spring semester as well as deliver a lecture at CCAS about their research. The 2004 recipient of the fellowship was Kristin Smith, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies whose focus is Islamic finance. This year's fellowship was offered to Kenneth Garden, who was profiled in the May 2005 issue of *CCAS News*.

CCAS also has an agreement with the University of Qatar to administer a scholarship program that sends five students from the United States to study advanced Arabic at the University of Qatar for one year. CCAS advertises and conducts admissions for this program, the first of its kind to benefit US-based students. Sam Parker, a MAAS student, was in the first group of scholarship recipients. His experience studying in Qatar last year is included in this issue of *CCAS News*. The scholarship program gives MAAS students the rare opportunity to study Arabic in a Gulf country. CCAS is grateful for the support of outgoing Ambassador of Qatar to the US, Bader Omar Al Dafa, and looks forward to working with incoming Ambassador Nasser Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, former Ambassador of Qatar to the UK.

The Qatari embassy's webpage is hopeful that "rising from the sands of Qatar may be the answer to America's image problem in the Middle East." This remains to be seen, but at the very least, these educational initiatives will open the doors for more exchange and learning. As Qatar Foundation Senior Media Officer Geoff Kelly told *The Hoya*, "We want to become a hub for education and research in the region. We want to produce a new generation of critical thinkers who are comfortable in the international marketplace—which is one of the reasons that Georgetown is a natural fit for us here."

While these initiatives are still young, CCAS, Georgetown University and The Qatar Foundation are confident in their growth and ongoing success. To find out more about the Qatar Post-Doctoral Fellowship or the University of Qatar scholarship program, please contact CCAS Assistant Director Naila H. Sherman. For more information on Education City and/or SFS-Qatar, please visit the official Qatar Foundation website at <http://www.qf.edu.qa>. ●

## A Voice from the First Class of

Sam Parker

**A** Along with four other students, I spent the previous academic year studying Arabic at the University of Qatar in Doha on a full scholarship program. As the first American recipients of the scholarship, we accepted the offer with the understanding that we would be "trailblazers." I consider myself lucky to have been on this trail, as I learned a great deal of Arabic and had a cultural experience far more unusual than I had expected.

The University of Qatar offers four-year degrees in a broad range of disciplines to both men and women, most of whom are Qatari. The campus is divided into two parts, one for men and one for women, which are separated by a wall with a guardhouse for professors and administrators to pass through. The humanities classes, such as literature, history and the like, are taught in Arabic, while the science, computer and business classes are taught in English. The university is spacious, grassy, and very well-equipped, boasting an Olympic-sized swimming pool, purportedly the fastest internet connection in the Gulf, a well-stocked library, and more. Like Qatar as a whole, everything in the university seems new—new academic programs, new facilities, new students from around the world.

We American students took part in a pre-existing bridge program in Arabic language, literature, rhetoric and Islamic history designed for non-Arab Muslim students from around the world who hope to continue their studies at the University of Qatar. In our year, these students were from West Africa, South Asia, the Philippines, and Chechnya. Nearly all of them had had all of their formal education in Arabic and therefore initially knew a lot more Arabic than we Americans did. Almost none of them spoke English or any Arabic dialect, so our *lingua franca* in and out of class was textbook fusha, perhaps one of the only foreign language environments for which MAAS Arabic prepares you perfectly.

We stayed in student housing for foreigners, most of whom were Arabs from throughout the Arab world, with the rest comprising the students in our class and a surprisingly large portion of Balkan Muslims enrolled in the regular university. For me, living there was the best part of the program and I think it will continue to be so for future male students. We stayed up late playing foos-

## Exchange Students at the University of Qatar

bol, soccer, pool, talking about school, everything. We lived in a completely foreign environment, the only three non-Muslims in the dorm, forced to speak Arabic on a daily basis. There was no American-student-abroad bubble. The two American female participants in our program had a different experience, as they were moved to a University of Qatar guest house instead of the female dormitory. This gave them more opportunities to interact with Qatari nationals.

As is often the case with study abroad programs, much of the real value comes with the experience of living in another country, and our program at QU was no exception. In our

40 years, most of it in the past ten, as Qatar prepares to host the 2006 Asian Games.

Yet the reason that Qatar is such an interesting place to be right now is precisely because it is the very picture of globalization. On one level, it is like a modern-day Venice in that it is a city-state composed almost solely of people—be they American, European, from the developing world, or from Qatar itself—who are brought and held together not by common culture, history or religion, but by the potential for economic advancement. The rootless, hybrid “third culture” that this creates makes for some amusing juxtapositions, like a Qatari woman in a niqab ordering Cobb salad at Chili’s

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case, however, the so-called “cultural experience” was of a completely different ilk from what people usually imagine, and this stems from misconceptions that people who are not familiar with the Arab world have about the Gulf. For one thing, Qatar is not a particularly “Arab” country—less than one-fifth of the population is made up of Qatari nationals, since they have to import their manual labor and service industry jobs to support their growing economy. Outside of school and the dorm, we American students encountered very few Arabs in our day-to-day interactions, and therefore spoke very little Arabic. The language of the street is English, very bad English. Western culture is prevalent, despite the mosques and *kafiyas*. Doha boasts malls, SUVs, cell phones, American restaurants, etc. Almost the entire country has been developed in the past

in English to her Filipino waitress or a bunch of Bangladeshi construction workers climbing into a yellow school bus with “Clayton County Public Schools” written on the side.

But on a deeper level, Qatar’s experience of globalization is important because of its effort to shape its future, to make itself more than the mere product of global economic forces. Education City, the revamping of its primary and secondary education systems, and our own scholarship program are all evidence of Qatar’s desire both to import and export students and knowledge. Because of Qatar’s small size and unique economic and demographic composition, Qatar’s much-touted political reform may not be particularly relevant to the rest of the Arab world, but their emphasis on education is bound to have a real and lasting effect. It was truly a pleasure to be a part of it. ●

# Seventh Annual Summer Teacher Workshop

Zeina Azzam Seikaly



From top to bottom: Nadereh Chamlou, Senior Advisor in MENA region of World Bank; Faruk Iqbal, Lead Economist at the World Bank; and Kevin Martin, Assistant Professor of History at University of Memphis.

For the teacher outreach program, the highlight of each summer is the annual week-long workshop for teachers, “Approaches to Teaching the Middle East.” This year 28 educators from Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and New York attended the program, taking in a variety of disciplinary perspectives and networking with colleagues within and outside their school districts. The group included four pre-service teachers who benefited immensely from contact with seasoned educators in their fields. Held on campus from June 27 to July 1, the workshop was underwritten by funds from CCAS and from the US-Department of Education-funded National Resource Center on the Middle East at Georgetown.

The first sessions were devoted to examination of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. **Daniel Walsh**, a MAAS student who has been collecting posters on Israel and Palestine for decades, discussed using poster art as a window into the dynamics of the conflict. He showed slides of posters that illustrate the complexity of the issues and the competing narratives of both peoples. Mr. Walsh focused on “threshold terms” around which there is much controversy, such as Zionism, anti-Zionism, anti-Semitism, and Palestinian nationalism, and explained how the posters can lead to a healthy debate about these central concepts. **Marc Gopin**, the James H. Laue Professor of Religion, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, addressed peace and justice issues in Middle Eastern civilizations, emphasizing the importance of the role of religion and culture in conflict resolution. He said that building trust between people and leaders is key to change; he stressed the importance of developing relationships and injecting all negotiations with respect and honor. Although Dr. Gopin characterized the Israeli-Palestinian situation as “the conflict that has defied all conflict resolution,” his prescriptive remarks regarding the ethics and psychology of peacemaking framed the future in more humanistic,

and somewhat more optimistic, terms. **Mubarak Awad**, president and founder of Nonviolence International, analyzed the human tragedy of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. He offered a Palestinian perspective critical of Israel and discussed his experiences with nonviolent resistance involving Palestinians as well as Israelis who work together to end the occupation. He advocated a two-state solution that grants equality to all citizens.

Two speakers from the World Bank tackled issues of development and economics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). **Nadereh Chamlou**, Senior Advisor, MENA Region for Knowledge and Economic Sector Work, outlined the following areas as currently critical in the region: governance, management/the private sector, water, education, and gender. She said that deficits in freedom, knowledge, and women’s empowerment impede development efforts in the region. In terms of advancing women’s economic rights, Ms. Chamlou cited three fundamental pillars: increasing women’s access to public resources, expanding their opportunities in employment and benefits, and enhancing their ability to create their own assets. **Farukh Iqbal**, Lead Economist and Poverty Coordinator in MENA’s Social and Economic Development Department, described the Middle East and North Africa as a differentiated region in terms of economics and resources, contrary to a common perception that it has an oil-dominated economy. He illustrated the diversity in the area by examining the varying population size of countries, per capita incomes and GDP, exports, tourism, social development, and female labor force participation. During the period 1960-2000, he said, the MENA region did very well overall in terms of improving social indicators (such as education, infant mortality, and women’s work force participation), despite mediocre economic growth performance in the first part of that period. Although agriculture is important in many MENA countries, Dr. Iqbal continued, the region as a whole is a net food importer.

**Kevin Martin**, assistant professor of Middle East History at the University of Memphis, spoke on “Creating Failed and Rogue States: Modern Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon in World Historical Context.” He provided demographic data about each of the three countries, including religious and ethnic composition, and addressed the complex issues of identity and nationhood, Arab nationalism, colonialism, and domestic and regional politics. Dr. Martin also provided a rich list of resources for further study. **Sara Scalenghe**, a PhD candidate in Georgetown’s Department of History, explored women and gender in Middle Eastern history. She said that to westerners, the veil epitomizes the oppression of Muslim women; however, many Muslim women feel that it is a trivial issue and are baffled by the West’s intense focus on it. She suggested that studying the veil may therefore provide a good point of entry in the classroom for examining common myths and stereotypes about the Middle East and Islam. Ms. Scalenghe also discussed the history and structure of the Ottoman Empire; she explained why it was successful in growth and power, citing its careful political organization, efficient bureaucracy, use of gunpowder, and its adaptable, polyethnic composition.

“Arab Theater: Between Tradition and Modernity” was the title of the talk by **Dina Amin**, Visiting Assistant Professor at CCAS. She traced the roots of Arab theater to the traditional reciters of heroic poetry, storytellers, and street performers. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, she noted, Arab audiences were not used to going to the theater; rather, performances came to them, and they expected to participate in the dramatic presentations. The turning point, said Dr. Amin, came in the 1930s when Arab drama was accepted into the literary tradition. She had assigned two plays by Alfred Farag (Egypt) and Sa’ dallah Wannus (Syria) before the workshop, and led a spirited discussion about the plays with the teachers, exploring themes such as censorship, political satire, symbolism, and theater as a “democratized space.”

A “hands on” session on Middle Eastern geography actually involved feet—walking on very large maps of the region! **Paul Blank**, Associate Professor at the Department of Geography at Humboldt State University, brought dozens of large “tactical pilotage charts” (published by the US Defense Mapping Agency) that spanned most of Africa, the Middle East, central Asia, and much of Europe. He placed these laminated maps on the floor of Copley Formal Lounge and asked the teacher attendees to explore their geographical details and characteristics. Walking on and surveying these maps provided an intimate experience with the natural features, scale, and relationship of countries and regions to each other; it was an innovative approach to studying physical and cultural geography.

A session on Islam featured **Muhammad Eissa**, an independent scholar in Arabic literature and Islamic studies. With a goal of providing an understanding of Shari’a, or Islamic law, he began with a brief overview of Prophet Muhammad’s life and the

historical context in which he lived. Dr. Eissa discussed Shari’a as encompassing the rules that govern acts of worship and human transactions, playing a major role in Muslims’ social life in such areas as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and financial responsibility. He noted that interpretation of Islamic law varies and that Muslims must abide by civil laws as well.



Participants walking on maps.

The final session of the workshop introduced a nontraditional approach to learning about the Middle East. “The Role of the Arabs in the Formation of Mediterranean Gastronomy” was the title of the presentation by **Clifford Wright**, author of a number of cookbooks including the culinary history opus, *A Mediterranean Feast: The Story of the Birth of the Celebrated Cuisines of the Mediterranean from the Merchants of Venice to the Barbary Corsairs*. “What do they eat in the Arab world?” he asked, and described the types and uses of wheat and other grains, olives and olive oil, vegetables, spices, milk and its products (especially yogurt), dates, fruits, and baked sweets. Mr. Wright discussed the culinary regions of Turkey, the Levant, and North Africa and explained that the origin of Mediterranean cuisine was always the story of interactions of different peoples living in and migrating in and out of this vast area. Over time the Muslim community incorporated and contributed to many other culinary traditions, including those of the Jews, Persians, Chinese, Indians, Greeks, and others. He said that the Arabs’ great advances in agriculture and hydrology also made their way into Europe, where new food items arrived as a result of Arab trade and interactions among pilgrims and travelers.

The last session was devoted to presentations by the teachers themselves—those who had elected to take the workshop for GU credit and were developing a unit plan based on what they learned during the week. All the teachers received books for further study and were excited about integrating their new knowledge and resources into classroom instruction. Feedback from the evaluation forms was most laudatory, with many teachers indicating that they would like to attend the summer workshop again next year. ●

# September 2005

**Friday, September 9, 2005, 4:00 pm**

**Maps of Literature: A Conversation with Ahdaf Soueif**

Ahdaf Soueif, born in Cairo, Egypt, is the author of three collections of short stories: *Aisha*, a collection of stories that was runner-up for the Guardian Fiction Prize, *Sandpiper and Other Stories*, and a collection of stories in Arabic which won the Cairo Book Fair Award for Best Short Stories of the Year. She is also the author of two works of fiction, *In The Eye of the Sun*, and her most recent novel, *The Map of Love*, short listed for The Booker Prize in 1999 and has been published in 12 countries. She is one of the most widely read Arab fiction writers in English. She joined Georgetown students and faculty in a conversation on the subject of the writer in society as it relates to the emergence of the Anglo-Arab novel form. The discussion was led by Professor Andrew Rubin, of the English Department. Co-sponsored by CCAS, the English Department, the Marino Family International Writers' Workshop, and GU Lannan Programs.

**Monday, September 12, 2005, 12:00 pm**

**Egypt: A Post-Electoral Assessment**

Egyptians went to the polls September 7, 2005 in the country's first-ever contested presidential election. With President Hosni Mubarak widely expected to win, however, many observers still expect the parliamentary elections, scheduled for November, to provide a better measure of the progress toward political reform in Egypt. A panel of experts took a look at both of these historical elections, offering a post-election assessment of the presidential election and a look ahead at the upcoming parliamentary election. Invited panelists included: Michele Dunne, Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown University; Emad Shahin, Visiting Professor, Georgetown University; and Abdel Monem Said Aly, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. Co-sponsored with the US-Egypt Friendship Society (USEF).

**Tuesday, September 13, 2005, 12:00 pm**

**The Impact of US Policy on Democracy and Political Reform in Jordan**

Abdel Mahdi Alsoudi (PhD 1986 and MA 1984, Keele University UK) is a professor of political sociology in the Sociology Department, Jordan University; former professor at UAE University (2000-2002); and Princess Rahmeh University College (2002-2003); visiting scholar at ZAF Bonn University (Summer, 2004); and Georgetown University (2005-2006). He joined the Center for Strategic studies in Jordan as a senior researcher in 1986 and in 1988 joined the Sociology Department, where he lectures and supervises MA and PhD students. Professor Alsoudi is also active, along with Arab academics and parliamentarians in the field of democracy and political reform in the Arab world, in formulating policies for democracy and political reform.

**Thursday, September 22, 2005, 6:30 pm**

**Nathalie Handal: Poetry Reading from *The Lives of Rain***

Nathalie Handal is a Palestinian poet, playwright, writer and cultural and literary activist. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines, literary journals and anthologies worldwide, and she has been featured on *NPR*, *KPFK*, and *PBS Radio*. She has directed and is the author of numerous plays; and of *Traveling Rooms*, *The NeverField*, and *The Lives of Rain*. She is the editor of *The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology*, an Academy of American Poets bestseller and winner of the Pen Oakland/Josephine Miles award. Handal is presently working on two theatrical projects, finishing a short story book, and editing two anthologies. She read from her new volume of poetry, *The Lives of Rain*. Co-sponsored with the Palestine Center.

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

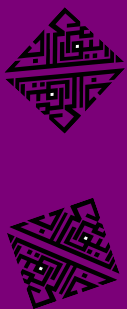
**HRH Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan**

HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan is a prominent figure in Jordan and on the international stage. He founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and regional institutes and committees and oversaw Jordan's first four development plans. On the international stage, Prince El Hassan has been active in promoting human rights and reducing religious conflict. Author of seven books and holder of 13 honorary degrees from noted universities, the Prince has been decorated by 20 nations. The Prince is fluent in Arabic, English and French, studied Biblical Hebrew as part of his degree course at Oxford University, and has a working knowledge of German, Spanish and Turkish.

**Thursday, September 29, 2005, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm**

**Seminar on Economic and Social Development in Oman**

In the last two decades, the Sultanate of Oman achieved significant gains in economic and social development. Along the way it has created an industrial and social infrastructure that is impressive for a country of its small size, including a health system that is recognized among the best in the developing world by the World Health Organization. It has accomplished all of this with oil reserves that are modest by Persian Gulf standards and has been among the best of the oil producing states to actively diversify its economy. Participants include: H.E Mohammed Nasser A-Khasibi, Secretary General, Ministry of National Economy; H.E. Dr. Thwaiba Al-Barawani, Member of State Council; Dr. Tarik Yousef, Shaykh al Sabah Chair in Arab Studies; Mr. Nabil AlGhassani, Head of Commercial Department, Oman Oil Company; and Mr. John Wakeman-Linn, Advisor, Middle East and Central Asia, International Monetary Fund and



## Upcoming 2005-06

**October 14 - 23, 2005**

### **Arabian Sights 2005: Contemporary Arab Cinema**

CCAS co-sponsored film series is presented by the Washington, DC International Film Festival. Films this year include: *Sabah, Bab El Web, The Best Times, Hush Hush Baby!, The Kitchen Conqueror, Kiss Me Not, The Liberace of Baghdad, The Prince, Reel Bad Arabs, Tenja, Viva Algeria*. For more information on this series call 202-724-5613 or visit [www.filmfestdc.org](http://www.filmfestdc.org).

**Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 pm**

### **Oriental Music Ensemble**

The Oriental Music Ensemble of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in the West Bank is an instrumental group that plays an interesting repertoire of classical and contemporary Arab music. The musicians are: Suhail Khoury—*nay* and clarinet; Ahmad Al-Khatib—*oud*; Ibrahim Atari—*qanoun*; Yousef Hbeish—percussion.

All four musicians are faculty at the Conservatory. Suhail Khoury is the Conservatory's General Director, as well as founder and President of the Forum of Arab Conservatories of Music. The Forum's member conservatories from ten Arab countries will meet for the third time this summer, building a network of music educators and developing teaching resources to be used across the Middle East. Based on a commitment of support from the Barenboim-Said Foundation in August 2003, the Conservatory has launched the Palestine Youth Orchestra, the first and only orchestra in Palestine. Working in close cooperation with Maestro Barenboim and his foundation, the project will take 3 years starting 2004-05 to include 3 intensive workshops, specialized training sessions and 3 Arab, European and international tours. Palestinian and Arab composers will be commissioned to compose for the Orchestra. By 2008, the major performance of the Orchestra is planned for Jerusalem. Co-sponsored with ANERA.

**Thursday, February 23, 2006, 6:00 pm**

### **Stephen Humphreys presenting the Kareema Khoury Annual Distinguished Lecture**

Kareema Khoury was born July 30, 1904. She grew up and was educated in Beirut, Lebanon. She was one of eight children, six of whom emigrated to the US. She had a brother serving in the Air Corps who died in action during WWII. Extremely generous to her family, she took on such responsibilities as sponsoring a nephew to come to the US and subsequently supporting him throughout his education. From 1948-67, she worked as a translator at the Library of Congress. Kareema Khoury passed away March 13, 1986.

Past speakers in the Kareema Khoury Annual Distinguished Lecture Series have included Edward Said, Albert Hourani, Janet Abu-Lughod, Walid Khalidi, Michael Gilsean, Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Hisham Sharabi, Patrick Gaffney, and Juan Cole. Topics have ranged from The Political Dimension of Islamic Philosophy to the historical formation of the Arab nation to the United States and the Palestinian people, to observations on the historical geography of the Middle East to orientalism.

**Thursday-Friday, March 23-24, 2006**

### **CCAS Symposium 2006: Education in the Arab World**

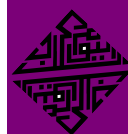
Topics will include historical perspective on education, education and Islam in the present, education and the post-colonial state, education and development, educational reform, and the politics of reform.

**April 11-12, 2006**

### **Lannan Symposium on Embargoed Literature**

"Embargoed Literature" focuses on poetic and literary voices that are part of what critics are increasingly describing as a "world literary system." By bringing together poets, novelists, and playwrights from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, the Symposium's aim and intention is to address the cultural implications of the system of world letters, the function of translation, the vicissitudes of cultural interdependency, the uneven and combined exchange of letters, and the migration of literary forms. Its focus is not simply to explore the author's relationship to their nation, but rather at the same the author's relation to an increasingly globalized culture and society. By positing that the development of the world of letters functions in relation to shifting global arrangements and conditions of reproduction and legitimation, the Symposium explores the transmission of cultural capital across and beyond the bounds of the nation, raising important questions about the changing relationship between the writer and global society in the early 21st century. Participants will include the two-time Nobel finalist Adonis, Ammiel Alcalay, Elias Khoury, Chris Abani, Antje Ravic Strubel, Jose Manuel Prieto, Rob Nixon, and Pascal Casanova.

*For more information about these events, please contact CCAS Public Affairs Coordinator Ms. Rania Kiblawi by phone at (202) 687-6215 or by email at [rk97@georgetown.edu](mailto:rk97@georgetown.edu). Or visit our web site at <http://ccas.georgetown.edu>.*



### [Profile of a MAAS Alumna: from Adila Laïdi-Hanieh (1992):]



For nearly nine years, I ran the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre in Ramallah, nurturing and showcasing artistic production and collective memory documentation and establishing cultural management practices. I left in February and am now applying for PhD programs in cultural studies, and scholarships. In the meantime, I will teach at Bir Zeit University in the spring 2006.

The Sakakini I left was a very different place from the Sakakini I took over three months after it was founded in May 1996. The most important step was initiating its transformation from a governmental entity into an NGO, to strengthen it legally and financially. The management side of my work entailed fundraising, as well as establishing boards, working on bylaws and internal systems, staffing, and even the repair of the building after Israeli army vandalization and looting in 2002.

My work consisted of defining the strategy of the Centre in three areas: the first focused on the visual arts through providing a dedicated exhibition space for artists, materially supporting young artists, and running an annual informal summer art school. These efforts resulted in the emergence of a new generation of young Palestinian artists, a renewal unseen since the 1970s. The second area was cultural identity, with the recording and dissemination of Palestinian narrative through innovative projects, such as the video taping of testimonies of survivors of the Nakba, the establishment of the first website on the Nakba, and the "100 Shaheed—100 Lives" touring memorial art exhibit which I curated in 2001. The last area was "arts for all"—launching the first Palestinian arts and culture website; providing a monthly program of multi-disciplinary arts and culture events for adults and children; providing a space for discussion; and transferring these activities to audiences that are not traditional consumers of culture in Arab countries, in refugee camps, orphanages, juvenile rehabilitation homes, and student dorms. Palestinian arts and culture have managed to thrive, despite the siege and war.

Our Georgetown connection was maintained when we hosted Dr. Hisham Sharabi during his last visit to Palestine and, sadly, when two memorial lecture/debates about Drs. Hanna Batatu and Sharabi were held.

I am now focusing on the study of the theoretical aspects of cultural practice, as well as on devoting more time to our daughter Shams, now entering second grade. ●

## 2005 CCAS Donors

CCAS is thankful for contributions from individuals and organizations, which help support the Center's operations, scholarships, prizes, and public affairs and publications activities. We are grateful for the generosity of those listed below, as well as those who have contributed to the Clovis and Hala Salaam Maksoud Chair campaign. If you wish to make a contribution to the activities of the Center, please contact Naila Sherman at (202) 687-5647. All donations are tax deductible.

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Roscoe Suddarth  
Ghiath Sukhtian  
HRH Alwaleed Bin Talal  
Patrick Theros  
Rami Turayhi, MAAS 2005  
Philip Vaughn, MAAS 1985

## [Alumni and Student News]

**John Wetter** (1983) is “back in DC after 3 years in Beirut and 3 years in Jerusalem with the World Bank.”

From the AUC website: AUC Librarian **Robin Dougherty** (1988) presented her paper “Music, Women, and Leisure: Piano Sheet Music and the Amateur Musician in Early Twentieth-century Egypt,” at the 27th annual conference of MELCOM International (the Middle East Libraries Committee), held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina from May 23-25, 2005. Robin also met with recent graduates and MAASers in Cairo this summer.

**Mia Bloom’s** (1991) book *Dying to Kill: the Allure of Suicide Terror* was published in May 2005 and sold out within two months; it is now going into a second printing. Dr. Bloom is also completing her next book on the strategic use of rape during ethnic conflicts, tentatively entitled: “Gendercide: Raping to Win.” This summer she was interviewed on *CNN*, the *Al Franken Show* and by Ted Koppel for *Nightline*. She is currently teaching at the University of Cincinnati. Best of all, she got married in July.

**Mohammed Malley** (1991) is completing his PhD at UT Austin while working as the principal of Austin Peace Academy.

**Judith Scholar** (1992) continues her work in UK with the Nottinghamshire County Council in the Regeneration Division, focusing on employment and labor market initiatives. “I’d love to be able to use my MAAS degree, but it’s tough in the middle of England; most of that work is in and around London. Caroline Barnes (1992) joined me on a short trip to Venice.”

**Christine Trigg** (1992) and her family have relocated to India for a three-year stint. “My husband Doug was transferred there with Microsoft and I hope to get back to working in international development. We are very excited to be living

abroad again and to give our children the opportunity to experience another way of life. Doug and I just celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary with a trip to Jordan and Syria. I remember fondly the wedding shower give to us by my MAAS classmates back in 1990. Greetings to everyone and an invitation to visit us in Delhi.”

**Karim Mezran** (1993) writes: “I am now the Director of the Center for American Studies in Rome as well as professor of Political Science at John Cabot University in Rome. This fall I will also be teaching a class on Political Islam at the Sais-Johns Hopkins University’s Bologna Center and I will be glad to meet any student or alumnus of the Center who passes through Rome.”

**Martha Cooper Bezzat** (1994), in Massachusetts, left MIT in February in order to start my teaching career. I’ll begin teaching “Women in the Arab Muslim World” at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education in Cambridge, MA in January. I’ll also continue to teach Arabic to adults at the Al-Huda Society in Everett this fall.

**Scott Lehmann** (1994), “I am still in Madrid but my company, Sybari Software, was acquired by Microsoft and I have now moved over to Microsoft as the Product and Solutions Marketing Manager for Security Products for Europe, Middle East and Africa.”

**Hibba Abugideiri** (1994) has left GWU to accept a tenure-track position in the History Department at Villanova University.

**Sabrina Joseph** (1995) successfully defended her Georgetown University history doctoral dissertation and has moved to Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, where she will be an Assistant Professor of History at Shippensburg University.

**Elke Kaschl Mohni** (1996) has recently accepted the position of director of the

Goethe Institute office in Abu Dhabi and will be traveling throughout the Gulf.

**John Willis** (1997) is starting a tenure-track position in the history department at University of Colorado, Boulder, this fall, teaching history of the modern Middle East.

**Sheng Yeu (Sean) Teng** (1997), President and CEO of AAC (Acquire Assets Corporation, a BVI based company for taxation and holding purposes), writes:

“In 1997, I established my own investment management company, AAC, in the Greater China region. The goal of AAC is to become a gateway for the Greater China market. Our focus industries are Telecom, Media, Financial Services, and IT solutions for government sector and corporate clients. The past eight years have passed quickly: instead of seeking outside investors, today China is also looking for investment target and business connections abroad. I will be more than happy to become our alumni’s bridge to this largest emerging market in the world. If MAASers have different industry focus from ours, AAC will still be able to provide its service in many ways.”

**Adam Shapiro** (1997) is currently in Kabul, Afghanistan, on a three-month position as country director for an NGO called Global Rights. Before leaving, he wrote, “I am quite excited about going to Afghanistan and seeing for myself a place that has largely been forgotten (again). I should be able to do some research for my PhD while there and also film for perhaps another documentary. The film on Darfur is almost complete and is being reviewed by HBO and Sundance. We are hoping to have a deal with a distributor shortly. Preview screenings have been met with very positive audience response.”

**Stacie Peden Pridotkas** (1997), whose son George was born in February, 2004, is still in the DC area and working hard.

**John Buzbee** (1997) headed to Cairo where his wife Sally is the AP's Chief of Middle East News. After a few glorious months of down time to catch up on reading and hanging out with daughters Emma and Meg, he starts work in the US Embassy Cultural Affairs section in August.

**Mary El-Zir** (1997) moved from Lebanon to Qatar in August, joining CDC (Construction and Development Company).

**Rebecca Ream** (1998) is currently working at the US Consulate in Dubai.

**Fares Ghneim** (1998) began work in early summer with BP in Abu Dhabi, where he is Communications Manager for BP Middle East and Pakistan.

**Hanan Kholoussy** (1999) writes that she will be teaching at NYU this fall while writing her dissertation. Her home base is now Tokyo, where her husband is working.

**Sarah Saleh** (1999) "finished my work with International Rescue Committee [IRC] in Sarajevo this summer and is now back in the Middle East, working with the Danish Refugee Council in Jordan. Though I am involved in managing DRC's program in Iraq, I am based in Amman for the time being, like many other humanitarian aid workers. Working on the Iraq program will certainly be challenging, but interesting."

**Sean Foley** (2000) taught a course on African Jihads as a Davis fellow at Georgetown in the spring semester, and successfully defended his dissertation in May (GU history). He started this fall as assistant professor at DePauw University teaching modern Middle East history, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and Islam and global terrorism.

**Kevin Martin** (2000) successfully defended his Georgetown University history doctoral dissertation—"Enter the Future! Exemplars of Bourgeois Modernity in Post-World War II Syria"—in August, after which he moved to Memphis, TN, where he has accepted a position as Assistant

Professor of Modern Middle East History at the University of Memphis.

**Julie Eadeh** (2002) spent the past year as a political officer in Riyadh covering human rights, political reform, first-ever elections, and women's issues. She returns to DC this fall for six months of French before heading off to Beirut for a year.

**Sean Lawson** (2002) writes, "I just finished up my coursework and comprehensive exams at RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic). Cynthia and I moved back to Baltimore in August, as she is starting her PhD in history of science and technology at Johns Hopkins. I am starting my dissertation research, which is related to the impacts of computer technology and nonlinear science on US military affairs."

**Ali Shaikley** (2002) is taking the current year to do a one-year MBA program at Oxford in the UK (the Said Business School). He will then return to complete his final year at GW Law School.

**Kelly Al-Dakkak** (2003) has been accepted to the M.St./ D.Phil program in Oriental Studies at Oxford University. She will begin her studies there in October 2005.

**Matthew Axelrod** (2003) left the US Embassy in Cairo in April and is now working at the Pentagon, as Country Director for Egypt and North Africa.

**Gary Boutz** (2004) spent the summer studying Lebanese dialect in Beirut at LAU; he is back this fall working on his PhD in Arabic at Georgetown.

Continuing student **Samuel Blatteis** (2007) has received a Fulbright award for 2005-6 and will be based out of Kuwait City for a year doing field research on Gulf Arab countries' expanding relations with China. He will be going up and down the Arab side of the Gulf interviewing oil experts and foreign ministry officials on regional approaches to China and tracking the trajectory of China's growing role

in the Middle East and what are different Gulf Arab perspectives on it. He welcomes people who are interested in discussing the topic to contact him. He would love to meet up with any former MAASers who will be in the area.

**Younes Mirza** (2005), **Thomas Patrick Truxes**, and **Katrien Vanpee** (2007) are three of five students who received full-year scholarships to study at the University of Qatar. They have both completed their first year of the MAAS program. Pat is concentrating on the political and economic aspects of the Arab-Persian Gulf. Katrien is co-author of an Arabic grammar handbook and is interested in Arabic language/literature in the United States.

**Brendan Geary** (2005) received a Fulbright award and will be based in Qatar.

**Alf Mabrouk**

**Maisoon Alarayed** (1996) had twins on April 18—Dana and Zaid. She writes, "they are adorable but a handful. Also, work is keeping me busy. Far from the academic track, my husband and I are still in the fashion business. We now have stores in Bahrain, Kuwait, Dubai, and Qatar. I recently connected with Raya Chabaan who is doing well in Lebanon: married, mommy, and working."

**Sarah Horton** (2001) whose son, Thomas William Barrientos, was born in May. The family has moved to Lisbon where Sarah will be working at the US Embassy.

**Roy and Cheryl Woody** (2002) McIntyre, were married in Baghdad and in the US last fall; they are now settled in College Station, Texas.

Zoe Rose Almassizadeh was born in May. Mother **Renee** (2002), Farshid, and Zoe are all doing well and Renee is really enjoying being a stay-at-home mom for now.

**Sam Parker** (2006) and **Kara Lloyd** (2004) were married in September 2005. ●

**2005 WILLARD G. OXTOBY PRIZE AWARD**

Ccas is pleased to announce this year's Willard G. Oxtoby prize was awarded to David DeBartolo (MAAS 2007) for his paper entitled, "A Chameleon of One Color: Yasser Arafat's Control by Legitimacy, Patronage and Repression", and to Ziad Munif Abu-Rish (MAAS 2006) for his paper on "Palestinian Hip-Hop: An Initial Engagement."

**2005 OMAN SCHOLARLY PRIZE AWARD**

CAS is pleased to announce that Dr. Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, of Northeastern University, has been selected as the awardee of the 2005 Sultanate of Oman Scholarly Paper Prize for her paper entitled "Theater and Radical Politics in Beirut, Cairo and Alexandria 1860-1914." Ilham Khuri-Makdisi is Assistant Professor in Middle East and World History at Northeastern University in Boston. She received her PhD from Harvard University in Middle Eastern History in December 2003. Her dissertation is entitled "Levantine Trajectories: the Formulation and Dissemination of Radical Ideas in and between Beirut, Cairo and Alexandria, 1860-1914." She is currently revising her dissertation for publication, and will be a fellow at the Working Group Modernity and Islam at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

**"The US and Yemen: A Half-Century of Engagement" by Edward Prados**

Newly published occasional paper, "The US and Yemen: A Half-Century of Engagement" is now available (\$5 a copy). Please contact publications office at (202) 687-6177 or visit our web site for more information.

**FACULTY AND STAFF CHANGES**

Farewell and thank you to Liz Kepferle, former Academic Coordinator for 12 years of dedicated service at the Center. Liz is now Admissions Director at SFS-Qatar.

Farewell and thank you to Ryan Leeson, former Grant Administrator who has gone on to the Department of Defense.

Welcome to new member of the CCAS staff, Joshua Grinnell, Grants Administrator. Josh is a MAAS Alumni (2005).

Welcome to new member of the CCAS staff, Jenna Beveridge, Academics Coordinator. She is pursuing an MA in Security Studies.

Welcome to Rochelle Davis, Assistant Professor at CCAS. Professor Davis earned a PhD in Arabic Literature and Anthropology both from the University of Michigan.

Left (from top to bottom):  
Liz Kepferle; Ryan Leeson.  
Right (from top to bottom):  
Jenna Beveridge; Joshua  
Grinnell; and Rochelle Davis.

## Taking Stock, Looking Forward

### Letter from the Director

Michael C. Hudson



My friend and distinguished colleague John Ruedy, Professor Emeritus of History, burst into my office the other day waving a letter he had just received from a Brigadier-General in the US Marine Corps. “The United States military is in need of your service,” it said, “Now is the time to put your unique language skills to the test as a member of the United States Marine Corps. Your command of the Arabic language will be invaluable among the elite few—where you’ll play a pivotal role in communicating with people from Arabic-speaking countries.” It went on: “As a Marine, the training you’ll receive is second to none. We’ll push your physical and mental limits beyond anything you’ve ever known....” Jack Ruedy jogs several miles every day and he is fit for his age, but he is, after all, 78. Then, it turned out that another of my esteemed colleagues at the Center, Dr. Barbara Stowasser, had also received the letter; and I too found one in my mailbox. We suppose that every Arabic-speaking academic in the country, regardless of age, may have received one.

If this recruitment letter gave rise to a few chuckles around the CCAS water cooler, it also got us to reflecting about how America got bogged down in Iraq and why the Bush Administration was so ignorant of the region that it has chosen for regime changes and democratic transformations. Virtually any professor here at the Center or among Middle East specialists in universities around the country could have anticipated the pitfalls of invading and occupying Iraq, the perils of ignoring an active, evenhanded approach to the Palestine problem, and the dangers of pursuing a war on “Islamist terrorism” that would be perceived by Muslims around the world as a war against Islam itself. We did not try to hide such expertise as we may have under a barrel. The Center organized a lengthy series of briefings, lectures, panel discussions and even a two-day symposium on the big issues of the post 9/11 period, and we developed a well-attended undergraduate course called “The US, the Middle East and the War on Terrorism.” And certainly some of our graduates (including military officers) became involved in Iraq and elsewhere, contributing what they could. (Indeed, one of them—Rick Hooper—sacrificed his life in the destruction of the UN compound in Baghdad.) I think that some of our intellectual output may have filtered into the middle levels of the Executive Branch, Congress, and the foreign affairs think-tank and media communities, but to my knowledge the academic community, here and elsewhere, was not brought into the policy debates at the higher levels. The Marine recruiters may have cast their net a bit too widely, but they at least recognize that the Middle East studies academy might help strengthen America’s eyes, ears, mouth and even brains as it tries to deal with this area, and that’s no joke.

Could we have done more to help guide American policy in a more positive direction? Some of the harshest critics of academic Middle East studies not only have condemned the content of our work but—adding insult to injury—have also accused the academics of shirking their public responsibilities by failing to play an important part in the Middle East policy debates. We do not like to hear these voices, and it is difficult not to suspect they are driven to some extent by ideological passions; but we take them seriously. That is why we have invited some of these critics to speak at the Center. We dispute the charges that we missed the boat on political Islam and that we served as apologists for authoritarian regimes, but I think we might reluctantly have to agree that we have not been particularly effective so far in the public debates on terrorism, Palestine-Israel, and Iraq. What should we be doing about this that is consistent with our primary obligations of university teaching and academic research?

At the end of August, the Center’s faculty and staff and the chairman of our Board of Advisors, Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth, held a two-day retreat in West Virginia to discuss the future development of CCAS. We will continue these discussions at the end of September when our Board of Advisors holds its annual meeting. I think that we reached a consensus that there is both a need and an opportunity to expand the Center’s activities, including the development of a more effective presence in the Washington policy debates. A louder voice, however, is of little use if you don’t have important things to say. A sound development strategy, therefore, requires more than just holding more events and publishing more research papers. It should also include enhancing the Center’s understanding of and connections with the Arab world. Should CCAS have a branch in an Arab country? How can it strengthen its interactions, both at the faculty and student levels, with academic counterparts and public intellectuals from Casablanca to Muscat, from Damascus to Khartoum? How can it further enhance its existing comparative advantage as a place where critical thinking about Arab world issues and US-Arab relations takes place, despite various well-known obstacles? I welcome comments and suggestions from our many friends on campus, in Washington, in the Arab countries, and around the world. ●

## [Faculty News]

### Rochelle Davis

an assistant professor at CCAS, received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant at the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. The grant funded a research project entitled "Palestinians in Jordan and Memories of Village Life Before 1948." This research of Palestinian memorial books and village histories, conducted between April and July of this year, focused on the composition of those histories as products of individual memory and collective history and narrative style. The research aims to understand how Palestinians are currently composing the history of the pre-1948 past.

### Irfan Shahid

recently published the third volume of his collected studies, entitled *Byzantium and the Arabs: Late Antiquity*. He has also taken part in two symposia, one at the University of Maryland (College Park) and one at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The papers he contributed to both symposia are now being published, and are entitled "The Peninsular Arab Presence in the Orient, *Bilad al-Sham*, in Byzantine and Umayyad Times," and "The Arab Background, Islamic and pre-Islamic, of Umayyad Urbanism in *Bilad al-Sham*." The articles by Dr. Shahid that have recently appeared in print include "The Martyresses of Najran in Aegyptus Christiana" in *Cahiers d'Orientalisme* (Geneva, 2005); "Islam and Byzantium in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century: the Baghdad-Constantinople Dialogue," in *The Research Center for Islamic History* (Istanbul, 2005); "The Last Sasanid-Byzantine Conflict in the

7<sup>th</sup> Century," by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* (Rome, 2005); and "Justinian and the Christianization of Palestine; the Neacclasia in Jerusalem," by *The University of Athens* (Athens, Greece). Dr. Shahid continues to work on the completion of the seventh volume of his series, *Byzantium and the Arabs*.

### John Ruedy

published the second edition of his book *Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation* in July 2005 (Indiana University Press). The book is a history of Algeria from Ottoman and colonial times to the present. The first edition concluded with the military coup of 1992 that voided parliamentary elections Islamists had just won. The current edition explores in greater depth the roots of Algerian Islamism, the insurgency that plagued Algeria through the 1990's and major political, economic and cultural changes that took place through 2004.

### Ibrahim Oweiss

a founding member of CCAS, will spend the year at SFS-Qatar as a professor of Economics.

### Faruk Tabak

edited a book entitled *Allies and Rivals: The US, Europe and Japan in a Changing World-System*, published by Paradigm Press in June 2005.

### Tarik Yousef

continued his active schedule of research, lecturing and policy advising on development issues in the Arab world. Recent conference presentations and speeches include the Arab Competitiveness Summit Organized by the World Economic Forum in Doha on April 1; Roundtable on Development in Yemen held in Sana'a on April 9; Annual Conference of the Center for Islam and Democracy in Washington on April 23; Youth Summit in Dubai on May 16; World Economic Forum Meetings in Amman on May 21; the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics in Amsterdam on May 23; NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Slovenia on May 28; World Affairs Council Summer Institute in Washington on June 20; and a Congressional Briefing on Democracy and Growth in the Middle East on July 18. As part of his work with the UN Millennium Project, he traveled to Sana'a on July 1-2 with the project's director Dr. Jeffrey Sachs to provide input on the country's Third Five-Year Development Plan. Dr. Yousef's most recent publications include "Structural Reforms, the Investment Climate and Private Sector Development in the Arab World." In A. Lopez-Claros, ed., *The Arab Competitiveness Report* (Switzerland: Palgrave, 2005); "Inflation and Inequality: Does Political Structure Matter?" in *Economics Letters* (May 2005); and "State-Society Relations and Labor Markets in the Gulf Economies," forthcoming in the *Journal of Social Affairs*. Dr. Yousef was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force that produced the recent report *In Support of Arab Democracy: Why and How*. ●

## RECENT EVENTS



"Maps of Literature: A Conversation with Adhaf Soueif" was held in CCAS Boardroom on September 9, 2005. The Egyptian novelist drew a large crowd filling CCAS boardroom to capacity.



Dr. Abdel Monem Said Aly, Director, al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, addressing a co-sponsored seminar on the first-ever contested presidential election in Egypt. To read a report on the seminar, please visit our website: <http://ccas.georgetown.edu>.

Please help us keep the CCAS database up to date. Fill out the form below with new contact information. Thank you!

### UPDATED INFORMATION

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## CCAS News

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