

الكلية اليمنية لدراسات الشرق الأوسط
Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies



Summer 2007

Newsletter

RECORD ENROLLMENT IN OUR SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAM

Term 7 Students

- ❖ **112 Total Students**
 - 2 German
 - 3 Italian
 - 2 Dutch
 - 1 Swiss
 - 2 Irish
 - 2 Canadian
 - 1 Norwegian
 - 1 Japanese
 - 1 British
 - 97 Americans

Due in large part to our very successful university tours in the winter of 2007 we are happy to welcome record numbers of students to our special summer program this year. In particular, we are pleased to see unprecedented numbers of American students signing up for the summer terms. In anticipation of our largest summer season to date, the YLC hired several new instructors this last spring and conducted a month of special teacher training sessions lead by YLC director Dr. Hammoud and YCMES President Sabri Saleem. Our new teachers, all of whom have backgrounds in language instruction, have received intensive training tailored to our program and the particular needs of the YLC students. The YLC extends a warm welcome to our new students and staff. Thank you for making this summer season so exciting.



Term 8 Students

- ❖ **167 Total Students**
 - 4 Swiss
 - 2 British
 - 23 Italians
 - 9 Germans
 - 2 Polish
 - 7 French
 - 6 Spanish
 - 3 Belgians
 - 1 Mexican
 - 1 Austrian
 - 1 Czech
 - 1 Dutch
 - 107 Americans

REVISED AND IMPROVED ARABIC PROGRAM

The administrative staff of the YLC Arabic program has gone to great pains this past winter to revise, update and improve our program syllabi to meet the

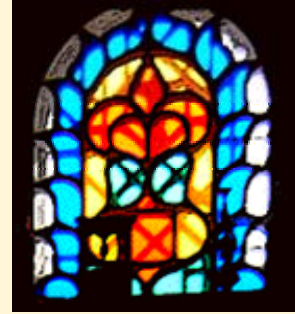


needs of our current students and the upcoming transition into the Yemen Collage of Middle Eastern Studies. Writing, research and class presentation requirements have been augmented and additional testing has been added to better gauge student progress.

An increased emphasis has been made on cross-cultural activities that correlate with what students are learning inside the classroom. In class field trips are one of our well-received additions to our established Arabic program. Overall the response to the changes in our program have been positive, As one student who studied with us through this transition observed “ I am doing more work then before, but I am learning a lot faster and am very engaged in my assignments.”-SB

YCMES NEWS: BREAKING GROUND

As many readers may already be aware, the Yemen Language Center is in the process of transitioning into the Yemen Collage of Middle-Eastern Studies (YCMES). The YCMES was recently fully accredited by the Yemen Ministry of Higher Education, making it the first and only accredited Arabic and Middle East Studies program in Yemen. We are fortunate to have Harvard professor Steve Caton as the dean and Sabri Saleem, director of the YLC, will be taking the position of president of the YCMES. A highly qualified teaching staff to consist of both Yemeni professors and guest professors from Western institutions will be teaching history, politics, anthropology and religious studies of the modern Middle-East to study abroad students. The YLC will become the Arabic department for the new college. We are very excited to participate in the founding of this unique institution that will be an asset to both to our students and to Yemen.



YEMENI HEADLINES

SOCOTRA POSSIBLE UNESCO HERITAGE SITE



A delegation from UNISCO will visit Yemen by the end of the current year in preparation for declaring Socotra a world heritage site. If selected, Socotra will be the third Unesco World Heritage Site in Yemen, joining Sana'a al-Qadeema and Shebam Hadramawt.

NEW NEWS CRAWLER

Keeping up with the - advances in Internet technology and the opportunities it opens for Yemeni research and media , the first multi-source news crawling and search engine, YemenPortal.net, has been launched in order to create a one-stop news source for all Yemeni and related news from several internet news sites in Arabic and English.



CHILDREN STAGE SIT IN



Hundreds of children staged a sit-in before the Cabinet building after marching from Al-Tahrir Square. The event was organized by the Democratic School (the General Secretariat of Children Parliament) and UNCIF organization. The sit-in was aimed at increasing the allowances allocated for children within the state's budget as well as international community organizations' aids. Some of our students from the Duke Engage program were fortunate to be able to participate as part of their internship with the Democracy School.



INTERVIEW WITH A CURRENT YLC STUDENT

Margaret Maffai
Age 26
Law Student
UW-Madson

Q. Would you say that studying in Yemen has been beneficial to you.

A. Absolutely, I had heard that the Yemeni dialect was close to Fusha prior to deciding to come, but more importantly, I found the Yemeni people to be very patient and willing to speak with me. When

the locals say, "Welcome to Yemen" they really mean it.

Q. Do you feel you're your Arabic skills have improved?

A. Yes, especially in speaking and comprehension. You tend to progress very quickly when you are surrounded by the language that you are learning and have to use it in day to day tasks. You get over your fear of speaking pretty fast when you need to ask for food (laughs).

Q. Do you feel safe in Yemen?

A. Honestly, I feel just as safe, if not more safe, here then I do at home in Oregon. I feel like the Yemeni people are very invested in my safety, like they would pull me out of the way of a car if I were in its path. I was once abducted off the street . . .for tea and conversation . . . I was released unharmed (laughs).

Q. What has your most memorable moment so far?

A. Playing soccer with the children in Hajjarian on the student trip to Hadramawt. Soccer in those dusty, narrow streets just seems like a small piece of day-to-day life here and it was nice to be a part of that moment.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: SAHAR AS-SHARMANI

Sahar as-Sharmani has been an Arabic instructor at the YLC for more than 5 years. A moment's conversation with this affable young woman and you instantly discover why she is a student favorite. As-Sharmani speaks English very well, but students will not receive English instruction in her classroom, where she is known to be a serious but pleasant teacher. "I am very tough on my students," she jokes, "I make them learn!" As anyone who has had the pleasure of being a student of as-Sharmani knows, she is true to her word. After class hours as-Sharmani can often be found assisting with homework or just chatting up a student in Arabic. Miss as-Sharmani is a wonderful asset to the YLC and a valued member of our dedicated teaching staff.

- ❖ Age: 25
- ❖ Education: Graduate of Old Sana'a University
- ❖ Favorite Ice cream Flavor: Coffee

