



BOSTON COLLEGE MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC STUDIES ALUMNI NETWORK

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Useful Links

Welcome new alumni! To learn about the ICS class of 13, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

For a list of ICS Senior Theses, [click here](#).

ICS Faculty News

Giving to ICS

Al-Noor Journal

Welcome to MEISAN



The Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Alumni Network was created to bring together members of the Boston College Community with an interest in the broader Middle East and Islam while supporting Boston College as it continues to emerge as a global university.

Our goals are as follows:

- To promote the sense of community fostered at Boston College amongst alumni who study the Middle East and Islam.
- To build a foundation of support for the study of the Middle East and its myriad cultures at Boston College.
- To create a professional network and foster connections for members of the Boston College community who work and live in the broader Middle East, along with those who work with issues pertaining to the region around the world.

Giving to Boston College's Islamic Civilizations and Societies Department quick and easy via our new online giving link!

For more information about MEISAN, please feel free to contact Eva Maynard at 617-552-4757 or maynarde@bc.edu.

Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Alex Guittard '11, we held our second annual MEISAN Networking Reception at the Army-Navy Club in Washington DC, on December 13.

Alumni graduates from a wide range of graduating years gathered to spend some time with Professor Kathleen Bailey and hear all about the new developments at the Islamic Civilization and Societies Program at Boston College.

Our Alumni's Scholarly Contributions



Ryan Folio
Fulbright to Jordan
Security Studies
Georgetown Alumni of 2012

Ryan Folio is a Fulbright Scholar who recently returned from Jordan to pursue a Masters in Security Studies at Georgetown University. He graduated from Boston College in 2012 with a degree in political science and Islamic civilizations and societies.

In 2010, following the indictment of several Hezbollah members for the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Roger Cohen of *The New York Times* surmised in an opinion piece that a fever was sweeping the Arab world. This was not mere agitation of the sort that resulted in "the Arab Spring," but an actual epidemic infiltrating what Cohen called "the Arab mind." For Cohen, the Arab mind in our modern era fixates firmly on the question: *Cui bono?* From Hariri's demise to shark attacks on the coast of Egypt, we are told that Arabs are making sense of what occurs around them by setting off on a conspiracy-obsessed search for "who benefits."

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Jessica Sobrino
Communications Coordinator
Brookings Doha Center

Jessica Sobrino is communications coordinator for the Brookings Doha Center (BDC), where she is responsible

for the think tank's communications and media strategies. She also continues to consult for the ICS Program's Kuwait Summer Seminar. Prior, Sobrino worked in research for the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC and as research and publications associate for Egypt's International Economic Forum in Cairo, Egypt.

Mid-day on September 1, I turned on my phone from Arusha, Tanzania for the first time in seven days after completing a trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro via the Machame route. My inbox was flooded. Syria: Obama had announced the United States would engage in a strike on Syria. And then that military action would depend on Congressional vote. In an equivalent vote in the United Kingdom, Parliament narrowly rejected Cameron's request for approval to take limited military action...

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Brooke Loughrin

From March 2nd-9th, the first-ever U.S. Youth Observer to the United Nations, Brooke Loughrin '14, traveled to the U.S. Permanent Mission in Geneva to work with the 2013 Internet Freedom Fellows. Loughrin also had the opportunity to attend the UN Human Rights Council and parallel side-events, and to engage alongside U.S. officials with human rights defenders and civil society activists.

On March 6, U.S. Ambassador to the UNHRC Eileen Donahoe addressed the Center for Democracy and Technology, stating that: "Freedom of expression – that most basic human right – necessarily entails the right to seek and receive information, as well as the right to communicate about it. In an increasingly technologically reliant world, ensuring that individuals have the same rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly online as they are entitled to offline is one of the greatest human rights challenges of the 21st century..."

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Kuwait; Politics and Oil in The Gulf



"Kuwait: Politics and Oil in the Gulf" is one of 30 courses offered each year through the Summer Study Abroad Program, Office of International Programs at Boston College. These are unique opportunities for students to study intensely in a foreign country with BC faculty as their intellectual guides. The Kuwait course has been offered for the past six years, and I have had the pleasure of bringing more than 100 students on the adventure of a lifetime.

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