ARABIC FLAGSHIP PROGRAM
Written by Arabic Flagship Students, Edited by Arabic Flagship Ambassadors Morgan Hoffman and Kaiden Ketchum

Volume 1: Fall 2018

HERE’S WHAT’S NEW IN FALL 2018:
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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

We would like to welcome you to the first issue of the Arabic Flagship Newsletter. This bi-annual newsletter will highlight the achievements of our students and the accomplishments of our faculty. It will also include news from the Flagship Program and articles and testimonials from our students. The Arabic Flagship Program at Indiana University, which started in Fall 2016, has experienced great success over the past two and half years. This success has manifested itself in the steady increase in enrollment, reaching almost 70 students in Spring 2019, in the increase in the number of students who qualify for the summer and Capstone programs in Morocco, and the outstanding performance of our students in their Arabic classes and benchmark tests.

In addition to enrolling in our rigorous Arabic Program, our Flagship students participate on a weekly basis in one hour of one-on-one tutoring and one hour of one-on-one conversation, each with a different instructor. They also participate in at least one other weekly activity including the Arabic Dialect Tables (Egyptian, Levantine, Moroccan), Arabic Workshops (Grammar, Writing, Pronunciation), and Arabic Clubs (Dance, Cooking, Calligraphy, Journalism). The Arabic Flagship Program also offers a number of activities and events, including the Arabic Film Series, Arabic Lecture Series, Navigating Morocco Series, Flagship Forward Series, Arabic Dinner Night, Arabic Poetry Night, Arabic Music Night, and Arabic Talent Show. Additional activities for Spring 2019 include Arabic Writing Competition, Arabic Photo Contest, Arabic Photo Exhibit, Arabic Fashion Show, and Arabic Calligraphy Workshop. The Arabic Flagship Program also continues to expand its class offerings with two new fifth-year-level classes: Minorities in the Middle East taught by Prof. Attia Youseif (Spring 2019), and Arab Women taught by Prof. Iman Alramadan (Fall 2019). Also, we are offering a Moroccan dialect class starting Spring 2020.

The success of the Arabic Flagship Program was only possible because of the hard work and dedication of our Arabic faculty and staff, including our lecturers, Als, GAs, Conversation Hour instructors, tutors, and Student Ambassadors. This success would not have been possible without the outstanding work of our Assistant Director, Ms. Brea Bailey, and Program Coordinator, Ms. Addie Block, as well as the support of our leadership in NELC and HLS. Most importantly, this success would not have been possible without the dedication, diligence, and perseverance of our talented Flagship students. To all our Flagship students, we are proud of you! Keep up the excellent work!

Prof. Salman Alani, Program Director, and Prof. Nader Morkus, Academic Director
The Arabic Flagship Kick-Off was a really cool event where I got to meet new students in the program, catch up with friends and instructors, enjoy some really good food and learn valuable information for the Fall 2018 semester and year. Overall, I enjoyed myself the entire evening (even when doing the icebreaker activities). I was able to catch up with fellow friends in the program over a meal and ask about their summers and their experiences in the Summer Language Workshop or their experiences abroad. I enjoyed getting to meet new students in the program or have conversations with other people in the Flagship I hadn’t gotten the opportunity to meet or get to know before. Both Brea and Addie, and all of the Flagship faculty, created a really fun event to start off the semester and really encapsulate what the Flagship family is all about!

Jessica McClintock, 2nd Year Arabic
The Navigating Morocco events this fall have been amazing resources for preparing to go abroad for both the summer and the Capstone year. The program is completely unique because it deals with all aspects of studying in Morocco, from the application process to integration into the community in Meknes, to learning how to highlight all of the skills you learned during the Capstone year on your résumé. Listening to the student panel gave me the opportunity to hear from students who had just returned from Morocco, and it was incredibly helpful to hear each student’s experiences dealing with the cultural differences they faced while abroad, as well as their advice about how to best deal with tough topics like religion, race, gender, or dietary restrictions while living in Morocco. I really enjoyed hearing their descriptions of their day-to-day experiences, such as attending classes at AALIM, shopping in the market with their conversation partners, and playing Moroccan games with their host siblings.

The session called Demystifying Capstone was incredibly helpful as it explained the logistics of the year and provided a ton of essential information about the many scholarships and other financial assistance opportunities available to Flagship students. I also learned a lot about the content courses and potential internships in Meknes, trips and cultural activities we will get to experience, living in an apartment during the second half of the year, and many more things that I feel I need to know to be ready for my Capstone year. Having the opportunity to attend these extremely informative events has been invaluable in helping me to prepare socially, culturally and financially for Morocco, and has left me with a much better understanding of what life will be like in Meknes. I definitely feel more confident about going abroad because of what I was able to learn in these presentations.

Halle Ostoyich, 3rd Year Arabic
Ms. Nesrin Omer’s presentation, entitled “Sudanese Women’s Roles and Rights in Society from Past to Present,” provided an engaging opportunity for Arabic students to engage in discussions in Arabic and question their preconceptions of Sudanese women and culture. In her touching presentation, Nesrin walked the students through historic events in Sudanese history that expanded the role and rights of Sudanese women. Nesrin emphasized the importance of events such as the establishment of the first girls’ schools in the country, women’s suffrage, and women’s rights legislation. In her presentation, Nesrin also introduced the students to important female figures in Sudanese history, from Queen Amanirenas to women who advanced in fields such as law, medicine, and sports during the 20th century, to highlight the strength of Sudanese women, despite the hardships of gender inequality. Today in the United States, the common view is that Sudanese women are overlooked or dismissed. Nesrin’s presentation refuted these preconceptions for Arabic students, affirming the strength and importance of women in Sudanese society, and bringing to light their critical roles throughout history and today.

Stuart Sones, 3rd Year Arabic

Other presentations included in this semester’s lecture series:

- “LGBTQ+ and Women’s Issues in Morocco” by Ashley Cox, Morgan Farrell, and Emily Reeg
- “A Journey to Yemeni Culture” by Ebrahim Bamanger and Amani Gashan
- “Arabic Language Ideologies on Twitter” by Addie Block

ARABIC FILM SERIES

One of the films that I attended this semester was “Horses of God”, a fictional, yet haunting, account of the 2003 Casablanca bombings. Filled with moments of happiness, innocence, hope, and despair, the film is captivating from the beginning until its jarring final moments, portraying the dismal prospects of those living in Sidi Moumen and the ways in which such conditions can shape an individual. “Horses of God” was a heart-wrenching movie to watch, yet an important one to see as an Arabic Flagship student who will be traveling to Morocco. Overall, the Arabic Film Series is a wonderful way to engage with others in the Flagship community and learn more about the various cultures comprising the Arab World.

Mackenzie Shah, 2nd Year Arabic

Other showings included in this semester’s film series:

- “Molasses” (Egypt)
- “Barakah Meets Barakah” (Saudi Arabia)
- “The Idol” (Palestine)
- “Where Do We Go Now?” (Lebanon)
- “Teer Enta” (Egypt)
FLAGSHIP FORWARD SERIES

The Flagship Forward Series was new to Flagship this year. These events were sponsored by the Flagship and included meetings and discussions with people in the real world who use Arabic in their jobs. An Arabic Flagship alumna, Ms. Natalie Bernstien, even talked to us about what she is doing now as a Fulbright researcher in Morocco via Skype. There was also an event on being hired by the NSA, and a discussion with a State Department employee. This series was very helpful to many Flagship students who want to start thinking about what they will do after they graduate. This series aims to provide students with professional development opportunities and connect students with alumni in order to encourage students to start thinking about their future careers early.

Kaiden Ketchum, 4th Year Arabic

A full list of the professional development opportunities offered this semester include:

- Information session with NSA Arabic Hiring Manager Kristin Streeter
- Alumni virtual networking session with Nadeen Abou-Hossa and Kathryn Klokker
- Opportunities in the State Department with an Arabic Studies Background with Dr. Peter Mandaville; co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
- Alumni virtual networking session with Natalie Bernstien

CLUBS, DIALECT TABLES, AND WORKSHOPS

This semester, every Friday morning I attended the Grammar Workshop at 10 AM. My workshop leader happened to also be my Tutoring Instructor Duaa Mahajna. During the one-hour sessions, we often worked on reviewing concepts covered in class and the mistakes that I had made in my weekly writings. I really enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the Grammar Workshop. I felt like I was really able to have all my questions answered and improve upon my basic Arabic grammar skills.

Morgan Hoffman, 1st Year Arabic

A full list of the weekly clubs, dialect tables, and workshops offered this semester include:

- Calligraphy Club
- Cooking Club
- Dance Club
- Journalism Club
- Egyptian Dialect Table
- Levantine Dialect Table
- Moroccan Dialect Table
- Grammar Workshop
- Pronunciation Workshop
- Writing Workshop
ARABIC DINNER

I attended the Arabic Dinner last year when I was just a freshman and in NELC A-100. I can honestly say that although I did not know many people, both faculty and students, at the time, I felt incredibly comfortable at the event. The energy in the room was delightful and the atmosphere was so welcoming. I remember feeling that I made a great choice choosing Arabic and that this was something I was excited to pursue at IU. I would describe it as finding my niche and I attribute that to the positive attitudes of the people and how familial it felt.

This year as a second-year student and now an Arabic Flagship student, I was sincerely looking forward to the dinner. I was looking forward to seeing my friends in Arabic, who by now are actually some of my closest friends and other students that I do not have class with. I was excited to seeing Flagship faculty and other teachers and once again feeling like I had found my niche and my IU family. The Arabic Dinner this year did not disappoint! My friend Jessica and I made a lentil soup and everyone was adamant about how it was good, which was very nice. I got to socialize with friends and my teacher from last year, Lamia. I loved seeing people in their best dress, as I love to experience the culture in all its forms, which was also why I was so excited for the dinner.

The food was good of course, as I particularly enjoy Middle Eastern food. I had so much fun talking to my friends, my Tutoring Instructor Afnan, and Addie, and my favorite part was coming up with an idea for an Arabic Fashion Show which we had many laughs about. It was just so much fun being in a non-academic setting with great people because at events like the dinner, we get to connect on a different level and establish friendships. I personally feel much closer to my tutor after the dinner and that makes me very happy! It definitely translates into tutoring as we both are even more comfortable with each other.

Overall, I really have found my passion and IU family in Arabic and Flagship, and I definitely attribute that to the Arabic Dinner, as that is where I first started to feel this.

Margaret VanSchaik, 2nd Year Arabic
ARABIC MUSIC NIGHT

Attending Arabic Music Night was very culturally beneficial for me. One of the most exciting parts about being a member of the Arabic Flagship is the amazing cultural opportunities that are open to me! I played percussion in high school, but I played mallet percussion only, and so I had no previous experience with the kind of drumming that Karim Nagi taught us. Because of my background in percussion, I was able to keep up with the rhythms that he was teaching us, but I was learning a new form of drumming, just like everyone else in the room.

Along with teaching us the actual drum beats, Karim shared the Arabic names for certain sequences of beats, telling us what the name meant, and why that particular beat had that name. We learned happy and sad beats, that are culturally played during joyous or somber events. We also learned how culturally drummers would perform their beats by using specific movements or facial expressions with which you are supposed to perform. I thought that it was wonderful to learn different types of beats as well as playing on different kinds of drums. He taught the similarities and the differences between performing on the two different kinds of drums, as well as shared the cultural situations in which you would play each drum and its respective beats. He listened to us play individually, helping us so that we would truly learn the correct technique, and then he had us play as a group so that we could see what it would sound like in a performance with differently pitched drums.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t stay for his performance, but just from participating in the workshop, I learned the cultural differences in percussion, music, and overall performance-included events!

Natalia Lange, 1st Year Arabic
ARABIC POETRY NIGHT

The Arabic Poetry Night is an event that happens each year where Arabic students, regardless of whether or not they are in Flagship, come together and read poems in Arabic. The poems can be written by authors or composed by the students themselves. It was my first Poetry Night this year and I really enjoyed it. I loved seeing all the students read their poems. I read a poem that I wrote about my hometown, Jacksonville, Florida. It was great to feel the support from my fellow students, teachers, and tutors as I read my poem. There was also delicious pizza served and everyone who read a poem got an extra credit point. All in all, it was a great night!

Kaiden Ketchum, 4th Year Arabic

ARABIC FLAGSHIP LIBRARY

I checked out two books from the Flagship Library, “A Thousand and One Arabian Nights” and “Sinbad”. I really enjoyed reading them. The style of writing was different from what I had been exposed to before, but it was also simple and easy to understand. I found the passive consumption of Arabic through reading literature to be very beneficial. I would definitely recommend all Arabic students to make use of the library and to expose themselves to the language.

Mikal Ahmed, 5th Year Arabic
TCI MEET-AND-GREET

The Tutoring and Conversation Instructor (TCI) Meet-and-Greet for the Arabic Flagship Program here at Indiana University is something that proves to be very beneficial to both the students and the instructors. It is an opportunity that allows for new students admitted to the program to feel welcomed into the Flagship family, as well as to familiarize ourselves with our instructors beforehand. Because of this we are able to feel more comfortable with communicating and approaching them if we have any questions, doubts, or fears throughout the program. This event is always something to look forward to at the beginning of each semester because we are able to interact with friends as well as eat dinner with them!

What is more exciting now is that upper-level students are now serving as Tutoring and Conversation Instructors for lower-level students, which is something neat because we are able to see how much we have grown in our own language ability and how we are now able to help other students who are sharing a similar experience that we once had. Since we change Tutoring and Conversation Instructors every semester, the TCI Meet-and-Greet allows me to catch up with my previous instructors that I have grown close to. The TCI Meet-and-Greet is another way that the Flagship shows its support for the students.

Madison Brown, 4th Year Arabic

TUTORING AND CONVERSATION HOURS

The Tutoring and Conversation Hours are an integral part of the Arabic Flagship Program at Indiana University. At the beginning of each semester, students are paired with one Tutoring Instructor and one Conversation Instructor to meet with once a week for one-hour sessions. All instructors are either native speakers or upper-level Arabic students. In Tutoring Hour, students can ask about grammatical concepts or topics they are struggling with, such as vocabulary memorization or writing. In Conversation Hour, students can discuss any subject they choose, so long as the conversation is in Arabic! The instructors are there to increase fluency in speaking and correct mistakes as they happen. Students often say that they form strong bonds with their instructors, contributing to the overall community aspect of our program, while at the same time improving their Arabic skills outside of class time. I grew especially close with my Tutoring Instructor Amani Gashan and Conversation Instructor May Alani and enjoyed my time with them each week.

Kaiden Ketchum, 4th Year Arabic
GET TO KNOW OUR STUDENTS

In Fall 2018, the Arabic Flagship has once again exceeded its benchmark goals for students enrolled and the diversity of majors represented in the program. Especially exciting, the Flagship achieved records for having the most students enrolled and diversity of majors ever represented since our program’s launch in Fall 2016.

Total Students Enrolled

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<td>First-Year Arabic</td>
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Total Majors Represented

Accounting
Art History
Asymmetrical Security Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
English
Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Exercise Science
Finance
French
History
Human Biology
Informatics
International Business
International Studies
Jewish Studies
Journalism
Law and Public Policy
Linguistic Anthropology
Linguistics
Marketing
Music Performance
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Non-Profit Management and Leadership
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Spanish

5
ARMY AND AIR FORCE
ROTC STUDENTS

29%
STUDENTS DOUBLE OR TRIPLE MAJORING

11
CAPSTONE APPLICANTS FOR 2019-20

7
SUMMER IN MOROCCO
APPLICANTS FOR 2019