

“AUC is an ideal home for CASA. It is the institution with the longest tradition of teaching Arabic as a foreign language in the region and is the only institution in the world that has been offering a high-quality master’s program in teaching Arabic as a foreign language for decades.”

Nevenka Korica (MA '99)

CASA Director, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University



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Hill House, Room 103, AUC Tahrir Square  
tel 20.2.2797.5301 • [casacasa@aucegypt.edu](mailto:casacasa@aucegypt.edu)





## WORLD'S PREMIER ARABIC PROGRAM

Established in 1967, the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) provides intensive advanced Arabic-language training at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Since its inception, CASA has trained more than 1,700 upper-level undergraduates, graduates and professors, who complete the program gaining a greater understanding of Egypt and the Arab world. With the exception of several semesters following events in Egypt in the summer of 2013, the CASA program has continued to function at AUC since the 1960s without interruption. The program is widely recognized as the world's premier, full-immersion Arabic-language program.

Today, CASA alumni occupy senior academic positions around the world, pursue careers at the U.S. Department of State and hold leading roles in international nongovernmental organizations. They have defined U.S.-Middle East relations for the last half century through their work in the U.S. Department of State, academic institutions and the private sector.



More than **5,400**  
international students  
studied **ARABIC** at AUC  
(CASA, Arabic Language Institute,  
Arabic Language Unit and  
other programs)

More than **1,500**  
**CASA** students  
studied at AUC

**20-100**  
CASA students study  
at AUC **EACH YEAR**



**NICHOLAS  
KRISTOF (ALU '84)**

Op-Ed Columnist, *The New York Times*; Best-Selling Author;  
Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner

“Being at AUC helped my career in two ways. First, studying Arabic helped me get hired by *The New York Times*. It also made me feel more comfortable in countries where the language is spoken, such as Tunisia, Iraq, Libya and Sudan.”

## CASA CONSORTIUM

A consortium of 27 universities and colleges in the United States oversees the various academic, financial and administrative aspects of the CASA program. At any given time, one member of the consortium acts as the U.S. administrative base. Currently, Harvard University is the U.S. administrative base for the CASA program. The management and government of the affairs of this association is entrusted to the Governing Council, which consists of representatives of six member universities on a rotating basis every three years. The council meets annually with the CASA directorship at the Middle East Studies Association convention. Funding for CASA has historically depended on an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as two endowments established at AUC from the Mellon Foundation and the Ford Foundation to support the program.



Arizona State University  
Brigham Young University  
Brown University  
City University of New York  
Columbia University  
Emory University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
Middlebury College  
New York University  
The Ohio State University  
Princeton University  
Stanford University  
Swarthmore College  
University of Arkansas  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
The University of Chicago  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
The University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Southern California  
The University of Texas at Austin

# ARABIC STUDIES NOTABLE ALUMNI

## STEPHEN KALIN (CASA '12)

Journalist; Iraq Correspondent, Reuters



## MARGARET LITVIN (CASA '11)

Associate Chair, Department of World Languages and Literatures; Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature, Boston University



## TODD MOSTAK (CASA '10)

CEO and Founder, MapD



## NICHOLAS KRISTOF (ALU '84)

Op-Ed Columnist, *The New York Times*; Best-Selling Author; Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner



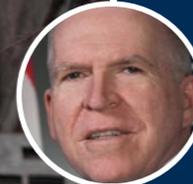
## BEN WEDEMAN (YAB '81)

Senior International Correspondent, CNN



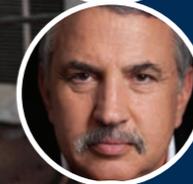
## JUAN COLE (MA '78)

Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, University of Michigan; Award-Winning Blogger



## JOHN O. BRENNAN (SAB '75)

Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency (2013 - 2017)



## THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN (ALU '74)

Op-Ed Columnist, *The New York Times*; Best-Selling Author; Three-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner



## EVELYN A. EARLY (CASA '71)

Policy and Development Consultant; Former Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Rabat; Former Senior State Department Adviser, Air University



## YURIKO KOIKE (ALU '71)

First Female Governor of Tokyo; Former Minister of Defense and Former Minister of the Environment, Japan



## LAWRENCE WRIGHT (MA '71)

Screenwriter; Playwright; Staff Writer, *The New Yorker*; Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author



## EDWARD "SKIP" GNEHM, JR. (YAB '67)

Former U.S. Ambassador; Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs and Director of the Middle East Policy Forum, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University



## DAVID BONDERMAN (CASA '69)

Businessman; Philanthropist; Chairman and Founding Partner, TPG



**LAWRENCE WRIGHT  
(MA '71)**

Screenwriter; Playwright;  
Staff Writer, *The New Yorker*;  
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author

“ This exposure to Egyptian people, culture and politics made an impression on me that developed my interest in the region...I became fascinated by this part of the world and gained a lot of affection for the Middle East. Those two years [at AUC] left me with a great love for Egypt and an abiding respect for the University. ”

**HIGHLY SELECTIVE FOR TOP STUDENTS**

The CASA program’s goal, from its inception and until today, is to give advanced U.S. students of the Middle East and Arab world the opportunity to bring their Arabic-language skills to the point of near-native fluency. They apply their language fluency to academic and research endeavors, enabling them to function effectively in the living-language environment of the Arab world. CASA adopts a content-based instruction curriculum that promotes integration of four language skills. In doing so, students use and interact with different language varieties in their appropriate contexts and as used in the real world by native speakers. The curriculum also provides an opportunity for community engagement, allowing students to immerse themselves in Egyptian society and practice their Arabic. CASA classes are student-centered and include discussions, essay assignments and interactions outside of class.

CASA faculty members come from the Department of Arabic Language Instruction, which offers some of

AUC’s oldest and most prominent Arabic programs. CASA instructors are innovative and highly qualified, with decades of experience in teaching Arabic at advanced levels.

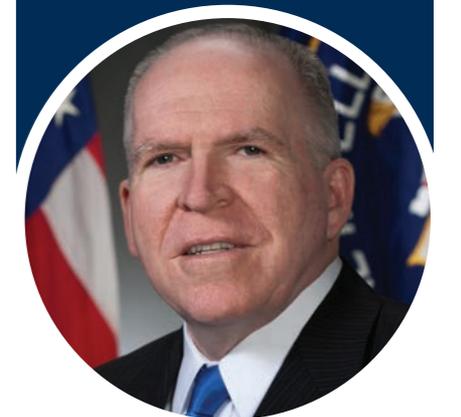
Every year, a group ranging in size from 20 to as many as 100 students, depending upon available funding, participates in CASA’s full-year flagship program in Cairo. Application to the program is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents and is for advanced students of Arabic only. As a result, admission is extremely competitive, and it is rare that a student who has not completed at least three years of formal instruction in Arabic succeeds in meeting the program’s qualification standards. Preference in the selection process has always been given to graduate students actively pursuing academic degrees in any discipline within fields related directly to the Middle East.

The CASA program provides most of its students with fellowships that cover tuition, support for living expenses and international air travel.

“ My time at The American University Cairo got me interested in the Middle East. Time spent with classmates from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and from around the world taught me that whatever our differences of nationality or race or religion or language, there are certain aspirations that we all share. ”

**JOHN O.  
BRENNAN (SAB '75)**

Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency (2013 - 2017)





**BEN WEDEMAN  
(YAB '81)**

Senior International  
Correspondent, CNN

“ For people in the Middle East, and Egypt in particular, being friendly and polite is taken for granted. ... You walk down the street here and exchange more niceties in a morning than you do in a year in other places. ”



## THE FUTURE

Today, the role the CASA program plays is as essential as ever. The need has never been greater for American academics, diplomats, journalists and business leaders who have full mastery of the Arabic language and in-depth understanding of the Arab world. The CASA program at AUC and in Egypt — the heart of the Arab world — makes this kind of cultural connection possible. By providing fully funded fellowships to top American students seeking to understand Arab culture in a way only possible by living and learning in Cairo, the CASA program ensures that highly talented and committed students are able to pursue their studies. Through the program, they build the bridges needed to connect our world.

To support the CASA program, contact:

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+20.2.2615.2492

[www.aucegypt.edu/giving](http://www.aucegypt.edu/giving)



**COLETTE GHUNIM  
(YAB '13)**

Documentary Filmmaker; Digital  
Media Associate, Skill Scout

“ I immersed myself, absorbing Arabic and the Egyptian culture. ... Not only was I able to meet some of my best friends and become proficient in Arabic, but my own core beliefs in life’s purpose dramatically transformed. ”

A woman with a colorful headband and jewelry is shown in profile, writing in a notebook. She is wearing a patterned top and a black bracelet. The background is a plain wall.

**“CASA’s curriculum was **DESIGNED, DEFINED** and **REFINED AT AUC**. The program’s fame and reputation were forged at AUC by its teachers’ quality of instruction and the institutional support that **CASA** enjoys.”**

Nevenka Korica (MA '99)  
CASA Director, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

**1919**  
The American University in Cairo founded

**1921**  
School of Oriental Studies established at AUC

**1956**  
School of Oriental Studies became Center for Arabic Studies

**1967**  
Center for Arabic Study Abroad opened