

### CCAS Snapshot



On January 26, Margaret Braswell (MAAS '86) and her husband, William Jordan, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, hosted a reception at their residence in honor of Algerian high school students selected by the Embassy's Office of Public Diplomacy to participate in the Model United Nations Conference at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service in Qatar. Hailing from different parts of Algeria, the students met for the first time in their country's capital for a full day of training with Public Diplomacy staff before departing for the conference, where they represented the UAE and Singapore. The photo features Margaret (third on the right), her husband William (third on the left), U.S. Embassy-Algiers Public Diplomacy staff, and Algerian students and teachers.

### Faculty News

**Fida Adely** attended a workshop in Beirut in January convened by the Social Science Research Council on "University Governance and Autonomy in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education in the Arab World." She presented a paper entitled "The Situation of Student Rights and Autonomy in Jordanian Higher Education: The Case of the National Campaign for Defending Students' Rights: Thabahtoon." Dr. Adely also presented a paper on Women and Education in the Middle East and North Africa in March at Kutztown University's annual International Studies Conference. In April, she presented a paper at Swarthmore College entitled "Competing Visions of Desirable Womanhood: Royal Women, TV Personas, Feminists and Good Muslims."

**John Duke Anthony** attended the Annual GCC Ministerial and Heads of State Summit in Kuwait on December 14 and 15 and provided C-SPAN an hour and a half briefing on the result of the summit a week later. Over the past few months, he has also given many lectures: "The Changing Nature of American Interests in the Middle East: Implications for U.S. Policies" at

Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia (November 6); "The United States and the Islamic World: Going Where?" at the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs, after which the lecture was aired three times on Maryland Public Television (January 27); "Arabian Peninsula in Regional and International Affairs" to American armed forces defense attachés and U.S. Central Command personnel (January 29); "The Gulf Cooperation Council" to the Advanced Arabian Peninsula Studies Seminar at the U.S. Department of State (March 9); "Oman: Dynamics of History and Evolution" and "Oman and Regional Dynamics: Points of Convergence and Divergence" to a delegation of U.S. Central Command officers en route to Oman (March 10 and 11); "Leadership Development and the World of Foreign Affairs Practitioners: The Skills Required" to the National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University (March 28); "The Coming U.S. Force Null in Iraq: Concerns of Iraq's Arab Neighbors" at the RAND Corporation (April 2); "Yemen: Current Realities and Future Prospects" at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service's Middle East and North Africa Forum

(April 15); "The United Arab Emirates: The Dynamics of State Formation" to a delegation of U.S. Military Academy cadets and faculty (April 16); and "The Dynamics of Saudi Arabia's Bilateral, Regional, and Global Positions and Roles" to members of the Middle East Class of 2010 at the National War College (May 5). Dr. Anthony also presided over many meetings and conferences, including at a session in the Rayburn Office Building of the U.S. House of Representatives on "Yemen Headlined: Contemporary Myths and Empirical Realities" for Members of Congress, congressional staff, the international diplomatic corps, media representatives, and the broader foreign affairs community (December 13), and at "A Conversation with Jordanian Ambassador Zeid Radd Zeid Al Hussein, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Ambassador to the United States," at the Ronald Reagan Building that was aired by C-SPAN (March 31). Dr. Anthony briefed U.S. Major General Hank Morrow (USAF), the U.S. Defense Department Representative to the UAE, on the topic of "The United Arab Emirates: Its Founding, Evolution, and Role in Regional and International Affairs" (January 4). Additionally, he was

interviewed on "The Iranian Dispute and Arab-Israeli Developments" for Saudi Arabian Television Channel Two's "Political Agenda" program (January 13). Dr. Anthony also published essays on "Oman" and "Qatar" for the annual edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in January 2010, among other activities.

**Rodney Collins** was the recipient of the Jeanne Jeffers Mrad Memorial Award presented by the American Institute for Maghrib Studies in the fall of 2009. He delivered papers on his current research in several venues over the course of the fall semester: In October, he was invited to present a paper entitled "City-as-Citizen: Commodities, Coffehouses, and the 'Common Man' in Contemporary Tunis" at the Library of Congress in the John W. Kluge Center. In November, he presented a paper entitled "Making Air & Killing Time: Transfiguration and the Socio-spatial Imagination in Tunisia" at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meetings in Boston. He also gave a public lecture at Georgetown University on November 11 titled "From Coffee to Manhood: An Anthropological Inquiry into Tunisia's Social Economy." In December, he presented a paper entitled "Changing Rhythms: The Transfigurative Imagination in Urban Tunis" at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association

in Philadelphia. In addition, he chaired the Gender & Sexuality Public Advisory Board for the *Journal of Cultural Anthropology*, bringing together scholars of the Middle East, Pakistan, India, and East Asia for a roundtable to discuss the latest challenges to collaborative scholarship. He is also coordinating the "Cities & Urbanism Initiative" at the *Journal of Cultural Anthropology* in collaboration with scholars from Georgetown University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Stanford University. In Spring 2010, Dr. Collins piloted a seminar at Georgetown University titled "The Politics of North African Masculinities." In conjunction with this course, he curated a weekly public film series entitled "Al-Rujulah: Mediating Masculinities of North Africa."

**Rochelle Davis's** book, *Palestinian Village Histories: Geographies of the Displaced*, has been accepted for publication by Stanford University Press and is forthcoming in November 2010. Dr. Davis received a GU Graduate School Summer Grant to continue her work on the U.S. military's conception of culture, and how U.S. servicemen and women and Iraqis interpret, understand, and react to the conception of cultural knowledge and its importance in the war in Iraq. A book chapter she authored with MAAS graduates Dahlia Elzein and Dena Takturri on this topic

appeared in *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency* (University of Chicago Press, 2010) in March. During the spring semester, she taught two classes: "Refugees in the Arab World," which focused on refugees from and displaced populations in Sudan, Somalia, Western Sahara, Palestine, and Iraq; and "Anthropology of War," which explored how people normalize war and its impact on lives.

**Bassam Haddad** was in Beirut for the spring semester, doing research on Egypt with the Carnegie Endowment as a Visiting Scholar and teaching a graduate seminar at the American University of Beirut. Stanford University Press will publish his book on Syria's political economy in 2011, so he is also using the time to make revisions. He writes: "Lots of work between Egypt trips, research, and writing, but what better place than Beirut to do all this from! And my wife Noura [Erakat] found a fantastic job here and is loving the city."

**Jean-François Seznec** gave a number of lectures in the fall and spring semesters, including two presentations on the UAE at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business for its Executive MBA Programs on November 6 and November 20; a paper on GCC sovereign wealth funds at the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) in Doha, Qatar in January; a talk on the Dubai financial crisis at the Middle East Seminar at Columbia University on January 20; a lecture on the GCC's energy future at Chatham House in London on February 2; a presentation to the National Union of Kuwaiti Students visiting Washington, D.C. on February 5; and a lecture entitled "Industrial Diversification in Saudi Arabia" at the RAND Corporation on March 26. He also traveled to the Gulf to advise a large U.S. company on a major industrial project in Saudi Arabia in December 2009. During the spring semester, Dr. Seznec taught a class on "Project Finance in the Gulf" and continued as Interim Director for the Master of Arts in Arab Studies (MAAS) program in Dr. Judith Tucker's absence. In this role, he served on the admissions



CCAS's Dr. Fida Adely formulates her argument at a recent Center event.