Welcome to our very first newsletter. MENA Languages offers courses in four of the most commonly spoken languages in the MENA region: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Although we teach four distinct languages, the Program strives to bring our language learners and faculty together to explore the cultures of the region as a whole.

The Program's Website is live!
Explore our new website and find everything from the Program's Mission Statement, to a summary of Study-Abroad Opportunities, to an overview of Language Proficiency Goals, to a description of our Award-Winning Faculty.

We're busy this Fall
Almost 100 students are taking a MENA Languages course this quarter. The Program has hosted a dozen Language Tables, two Movie Nights, and a Study-Abroad Information Session. Interested in joining us? Check out our winter courses.

Studying Languages at NU
Relish the experience of learning a new language. Of the more than 20 foreign languages which WCAS offers, the MENA Languages Program offers four of them. See Northwestern's Council on Language Instruction's helpful guide to studying languages at NU, or contact the Program for more information on how to start or continue your MENA Languages journey. We teach and evaluate our students according to the ACTFL scale which has five proficiency levels, and more details can be found here.

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Our new Faculty Member in Persian
We also welcome Maziyar Faridi to our
**Our new Faculty Member in Arabic**

Please welcome Dr. Rana Raddawi (left) to our program. Dr. Raddawi has 17 years of teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate level. She holds a Ph.D. in translation studies from Sorbonne University, Paris, in Arabic, English, and French. She is fluent in English, Arabic, French, Portuguese and Turkish; a professional trainer for teachers and interpreters; and a certified interpreter and translator. Her research interests relate to second language acquisition and pedagogy, cross-cultural studies, and translation and interpretation. Dr. Raddawi is teaching first- and second-year Arabic for us this year.

**Award for supporting Turkish**

Dr. Oya Topçuoğlu received a monetary award for her professional development from the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern. The award is in recognition of her tireless efforts on campus as an instructor and advocate for Turkish language and culture. Congratulations, Oya.

**Our new Program Assistant**

Our program is in excellent hands with our new program assistant Charlene Mitchell. She has been with us for only a few weeks and has already taken over most of our administrative duties. Welcome and thank you from all of us!

**NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM**

**Interactive Learning Opportunity**

Students in Dr. Hanna Tzuker Seltzer's third-year Hebrew class had a chance to speak in Hebrew to artist Yonatan Blumenfeld and ask questions about living in Jerusalem as part of Dr. Seltzer's course on Jerusalem. Yonatan Blumenfeld, an Israeli musician, screenwriter, theater director, and famous *slam poet*, talked about the challenges of growing up in Jerusalem and his work in civil and human rights. Interested in meeting Yonatan

**Study Abroad Experiences**

Together with the Global Learning Office, our Program hosted a study abroad information session. Many of our students spoke about their experiences abroad: Dominic Balestrieri-Fox (Turkey); Mara Kelly (Jordan); Hannah Ni’shullleabshain (Turkey); Moses Lee (Morocco); Carter Rothman (Jordan); and Jojo (Joanna) Levy, Seth Bernstein, and Oliver Loshitzer (Israel). Their presentations made clear that total immersion turbocharges language learning,
Blumenfeld in person this spring? Stay tuned.

And finally, a Snapshot of some of our Language Tables

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