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Pittsburgh Middle East Institute Egypt Pilot Program Summer 2010

The Pittsburgh Middle East Institute (PMEI), in collaboration with its partner universities, is inaugurating a one month summer program (June 25th-July 30th 2010) in Cairo, which will provide linguistic training and cultural immersion for qualified graduate and undergraduate students. Under the supervision of PMEI's Georges Montillet, a Ph.D candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at Yale University with years of experience in the Middle East, students will receive Arabic language instruction at Cairo's renowned International Language Institute (ILI), team up with a selected group of Egyptian students for cultural programs and visits to Egypt's historic sites, and engage in special community service projects. Scholarship monies to cover most expenses will be offered to eligible students.

Cultural and Linguistic Immersion: The Pittsburgh Middle East Institute has designed a program that will provide university students with an in-depth program of learning in Cairo, Egypt that includes:

- 1) High-quality Arabic language classes to facilitate interaction with native speakers
- 2) A "buddy system" that pairs the students with young Egyptians to share perspectives
- 3) Planned visits to the most important sites of Egypt's heritage with "buddies"
- 4) Community service projects, including activities with refugee children from Iraq and Darfur
- 5) Scholarship funding

Partners in Egypt

1) Program Supervisor, George Montillet: Guiding the students in Egypt will be Georges Montillet, a Pittsburgh-based Ph.D. Candidate at Yale University. His in-depth language studies and service with the underprivileged over the years in Lebanon and Egypt have led him to a deeper understanding of Arab-Islamic society and culture, and to a lasting commitment to help American students gain first-hand knowledge and experience on the challenges of U.S. and Middle East relations. He has organized and directed several service programs and forums for Middle Eastern dialogue at the high school, college and graduate levels.

2) The International Language Institute (ILI), a well-established and internationally accredited institution, has agreed to be our partner in Cairo and has offered our students a 20 percent tuition discount.

- 4 weeks of Arabic language classes, 4 hours/day, 5 days/week = 80 hours total
(Multiple levels of Arabic instruction are available in Egyptian Colloquial Dialect and MSA.)
- In some cases, students may be able to transfer these hours into credits towards their degree

Website for ILI: www.arabicegypt.com/cms.php?id=landing_page

3) Mina Kamel, a native of Alexandria, Egypt and former director of the highly regarded "Arabic in Luxor" program, will act as our Egyptian director. He has years of experience with programs for foreigners in Egypt. In addition to Georges, Mina will be available to guide students and handle any practical issues or emergencies that may arise.

4) The service projects will be done in collaboration with SAWA workshops:

Website: www.thetownhousegallery.com/main7.html (under "outreach - SAWA workshops")

Application Process:

Applications for funding will be considered based on merit and need, aiming to give promising students the opportunity to travel who otherwise could not.* The application process will include:

- 1) Academic record and GPA
- 2) Resume
- 3) Teacher recommendation
- 4) One-page student essay (Should discuss student's interest in the Middle East, describe instances of the initiative and collaborative skills in working with a team in new and different environments, and what the applicant hopes to gain from volunteering in community service projects in Egypt)
- 5) Personal interview

**Self-paying participants are welcome, but must complete application process.*

Funding:

- Full funding will provide airfare, housing in Egypt, PMEI fees and ILI tuition*
Total = \$ 3,000
- Partial funding will provide housing in Egypt, PMEI fees and ILI tuition*
Total = \$ 1,500

** Out of pocket expenses will amount to approx. \$200*

Travel and Safety:

PMEI will offer an in-depth orientation on **May 14, 2010** to participants concerning all aspects of the program, practical details of travel, and instruction on respecting the social norms and customs of an Islamic country like Egypt. Students must have a valid passport. Visas to Egypt require a \$15 fee and two weeks to process, however, visas may also be obtained easily at the Cairo airport.

PMEI will rely on and fully comply with the liability policies of its partner universities. All students are required to have international health insurance.

Deadlines:

- April 2, 2010:** Applications must be emailed by this date to info@pittsburghmidwestinstitute.org.
 - April 11-13, 2010:** Personal Interviews at PMEI to be arranged.
 - April 16, 2010:** Notification of Scholarship Offers: full, partial and wait list.
 - May 3, 2010:** Deadline for students to accept or reject Scholarship offers.
 - May 14, 2010:** Orientation meeting at PMEI AND Payment deadline for self/partial funding
 - 24 June 2010:** Departure for Cairo from *Pittsburgh International Airport*.**
 - 2 August 2010:** Arrival from Cairo at *Pittsburgh International Airport*.**
- **Flight dates may change according to airfare rates****

Breakdown of funding:

Full Funding:

Tuition =	(1,740 Euros includes 20% discount)	238.00 USD
Housing =	(4,000 EGP = 2 flats)	73.00 USD
Airfare =	(Current Delta Price)	1,384.00 USD
Guides, organizational fees, outings, etc. =	(estimated)	1,250.00 USD
Total approx.		\$3,000.00 USD

Partial Funding: (Same as above without airfare):

Total approx. **\$1,500.00 USD**