Who enrolls in Arabic and Islamic Studies at SBU?

**WARDIA HART**
Olean, N.Y.
Nontraditional Student

“My father was a Maronite Catholic who had great respect for Islam and the Muslim people. He would often read the Koran and was influenced by its positive teaching. This inclusiveness and respect for all men underpins the Franciscan approach to Arabic and Islamic Studies. The courses at SBU are a study of a remarkable people who share a rich language and many religions, nationalities, arts and customs, presented always with great respect and a Franciscan twinkle in the eye.”

**CHRIS HARRIS**
Ripley, N.Y.
2010 Graduate
Taught English in Egypt in Summer 2009

“Cross-cultural communication is a significant part of the courses at SBU, so living amongst Muslims in an Arabic speaking country will help me grow and understand their culture. Through these courses I have already been given a greater appreciation for the Arab world and Islamic culture. We might have a different language and culture, but all in all, we are very similar.”
Why study Arabic?

- Arabic is the fastest-growing language of study at U.S. colleges and universities.
- Arabic is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world and the principal language in 22 countries in Africa and the Middle East.
- Native Arabic speakers will outnumber native English speakers by the year 2050.
- Arabic is the language of Scripture and prayer for 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide including some 6 million in the U.S., and the language of Scripture and prayer for some 30 million Christians in Africa and the Middle East.
- Arabic is the mother tongue of some 3 million people of Arab origin living in the U.S.
- Diplomatic relations with the Arab world are an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy.

Pursuing a minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies at St. Bonaventure University is a great way to add cultural, linguistic and religious awareness to your academic major.

An 18-hour minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies combines a study of Arabic with courses in Islamic religion and culture.

You will develop proficiency in modern standard Arabic and Egyptian colloquial Arabic; learn about the religion and culture of Islam; study the history of the Middle East; explore past, present and future Christian-Muslim relations; study Islamic art and architecture; and survey the role of women in ancient and modern times.

It’s a career booster

Students who complete coursework in Arabic and Islamic Studies have many varied and exciting career paths available. Here’s a sampling of possible opportunities:

- **GOVERNMENT**: linguistics, diplomacy, civil service, foreign service, customs, immigration and naturalization, intelligence.
- **ARTS, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT**: advertising, journalism and broadcasting, publishing and editing, translation and interpretation, public relations.
- **INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**: banking/finance, sales, customer service, manufacturing, imports/exports, administrative services.
- **TRAVEL AND TOURISM**: airline services, management, translation and interpretation, booking and reservations, travel services and guidance.
- **INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION**: guide services, judiciary, translation, literature, medical.
- **SERVICE AND EDUCATION**: teaching, educational administration, civil service, social work, mission work, library science, health services.