We look forward to welcoming you on Monday, March 23, for the first major Columbia alumni initiative in the Middle East. This partnership between the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) and the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) connects Columbia’s alumni and friends with star faculty, distinguished speakers, networking opportunities, and most importantly, draws on the strengthening Columbia network in the Middle East. We are pleased you can take part in this historic occasion.

Below you will find the day’s schedule, shuttle bus information, directions, and more. Please note that new to the schedule is a dinner at 8 p.m. Monday evening hosted by Reem and Ramzi Muna ’81SEAS at their home. If you would like to attend the dinner but have not registered for this, please RSVP to ebm23@columbia.edu by the morning of Thursday, March 19.

Contents:
- Traveling to and staying in Amman
- Shuttle bus services
- Directions to and from the Center (Symposium) and Muna home (Dinner)
- Symposium program & schedule
- Petra trip March 24th (for registered guests only)
- About the CAA and CUMERC, resources for alumni
Traveling to and staying in Amman:

If you are traveling from outside of Amman and have not yet made hotel reservations, please remember that there is a special Columbia University rate at the Hyatt, Intercontinental, and Four Seasons hotels.

If you are staying in one of the below hotels, please e-mail ebm23@columbia.edu with your location and arrival date so we can be sure to leave a welcome packet for your arrival.

Four Seasons: Reservations.Amm@fourseasons.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Room</td>
<td>125 JD = $176</td>
<td>145 JD = $205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Club</td>
<td>175 JD = $247</td>
<td>195 JD = $280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Suite</td>
<td>275 JD = $388</td>
<td>295 JD = $416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hyatt: Reservations.Ammgh@hyattintl.com

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intercontinental: Haidar.Dabaeen@icjordan.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superior Room</td>
<td>125 JD = $176</td>
<td>135 JD = $190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room</td>
<td>145 JD = $205</td>
<td>155 JD = $219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Floor room</td>
<td>165 JD = $233</td>
<td>175 JD = $247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Airport transportation

Each hotel offers airport transportation services at the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four Seasons</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyatt</td>
<td>35 JD = $50 Each Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercontinental</td>
<td>35 JD = $50 Pickup and 25 JD = $35 Drop-off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Travel Information about Amman

Climate: The climate in Jordan is Mediterranean and mild. In March, the temperature in Amman averages 15 degrees Celsius during the day. Please note that the temperature drops at night.

Electricity: The electrical power in Jordan is 220 volts.

Currency: The country’s monetary unit is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). It is divided into 100 piastres or 1000 fils. Currency may be exchanged at any bank and at most hotels. The approximate exchange rate against the US dollar is 0.71 JD = $1 USD. Major credit cards are widely used in Jordan.
Shuttle Bus Service

Shuttle buses to and from the three hotels (Four Seasons, Intercontinental, Hyatt) will be provided before and after the Symposium and to the alumni dinner. If you will be making your own transportation arrangements via car, directions to the CUMERC are below.

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

**Morning Shuttles**
- 10:45 a.m. Guests board shuttles at the hotels (Four Seasons, Intercontinental, Hyatt)
- 11:00 a.m. Shuttles depart the hotels for the CUMERC

**Afternoon/Evening Shuttles**
- 5:00 p.m. Shuttle buses will be departing the front entrance of the CUMERC and return to the hotels approximately every 30 minutes (NB: the jazz performance and reception will be occurring from 5-7:30 p.m.)
- 7:30 p.m. A shuttle bus will depart the CUMERC at the close of the reception and go directly to the Muna home for dinner. *Please note there will be no shuttle service from the hotels to the dinner.*
- 10:15 p.m. A shuttle will depart the Muna home and return to the hotels.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24 (PETRA)**

A shuttle bus will depart from the Intercontinental at 8:15, the Hyatt at 8:25, and take guests to the Four Seasons hotel.

The bus for Amman will depart from the front entrance of the *Four Seasons* at 9 sharp – please arrive by 8:45 at the latest if you will be arranging your own transportation that morning.
Directions to the CUMERC

_Columbia University Middle East Research Center_
5 Moh’d Al Sa'd Al-Batayneh Street
King Hussein Park
Amman 11814 – Jordan

Proceed North on King Abdullah Street toward Sweileh. Pass King Hussein Medical City, which should be on your left hand side. Continue until the end of King Hussein Park until you reach the Khalada roundabout (Thoukan Hindawin intersection). Turn left at the roundabout toward Dabouq. At the light make a u-turn and at the fourth traffic light take a right. The Center will be directly in front of you.
Directions to the Muna home (8 p.m. dinner)

*Home of Reem and Ramzi Al-Muna ‘81 SEAS*
No. 8 Yousef Shwehat Street

In case of emergency or if you have trouble locating the Al-Muna home, you can reach Ramzi Muna on his mobile at +962-777-544232.

If you would like to attend the dinner but have not registered for this, please RSVP to [ebm23@columbia.edu](mailto:ebm23@columbia.edu). Please note any dietary preferences (e.g. vegetarian, kosher).
Middle East Alumni Symposium
Program and Schedule

11:30 a.m. | Registration

12 p.m. | Welcome, Global Center Comments
Safwan Masri | Director, Columbia University Middle East Research Center

12:20 p.m. | Changing Media Perspectives on the Middle East
Ethan Bronner ’80SIPA, ’80JRN | Jerusalem Bureau Chief, New York Times
Ipek Cem Taha ’93SIPA, ’93BUS | Producer and Host of Global Leaders on NTV Networks
John Coatsworth | Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs
Hassan Fattah ’00JRN | Deputy Editor of The National
Rashid Khalidi | Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies

1:30 p.m. | Luncheon

2:30 p.m. | Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Resources in the Middle East
Lee C. Bollinger ’71LAW | President, Columbia University in the City of New York
Jeffrey D. Sachs | Director of the Earth Institute

3:30 p.m. | Break

3:45 p.m. | "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall," Islam in the 21st Century
Peter J. Awn | Dean, School of General Studies and Director, Middle East Institute
Naif Al-Mutawa ’03BUS | Creator of THE 99

4:20 p.m. | Art and Architecture in Motion
Carol Becker | Dean, School of the Arts
Mark Wigley | Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

5 p.m. | Alumni reception
Featuring the Columbia University Jazz Ensemble performance with Omar Sakeeyer
CUMERC open house

8 p.m. | Alumni and guest dinner
Hosted by Reem and Ramzi Muna ’81SEAS
Day Trip to Petra – Tuesday, March 24

Please note, alumni and guests who would like to visit Petra must register in advance with a credit card ($100 per person) at alumni.columbia.edu/globalcenters.

UNESCO named Petra "one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage." Petra is renowned for its rock-cut architecture and is one of the new wonders of the world.

Schedule:

8:15 a.m.
Shuttle bus departs the Hyatt hotel

8:25 a.m.
Shuttle bus departs the Intercontinental hotel

9 a.m.
Bus transportation will depart from the front entrance of the Four Seasons at exactly 9 a.m. If you are arranging your own transportation that morning, please arrive at the Four Seasons no later than 8:45 a.m.

12 p.m.
Arrive for the tour of Petra. English-speaking guides will give a full tour of the archeological site. Lunch will be provided.

4 p.m.
Depart from Petra, returning to Amman at approximately 7 p.m.

Emergency Contact:
Cell phone contacts during the day can be used if necessary:
Jolie Nabi at +962-88-3355 (Jordan number)
Emily Morris at +1-917-488-6273 (US number)
Columbia Alumni Association (CAA)

Established in 2005, CAA is a partnership between the University and her alumni that strengthens the connections between Columbians of all schools, worldwide.

- There are 270,000-plus living Columbia alumni around the world
- There are over 80 alumni clubs, including in Israel, Egypt, and the UAE – visit alumni.columbia.edu/clubs for a complete list.

Upcoming Alumni Events
March 27 | Launch of the Columbia University Club of the U.A.E. at The Address in Dubai. alumniclubs.columbia.edu/uae
April 2 | Inaugural dinner of the Columbia University Club of Egypt at the Marriott Hotel in Zamalek, Cairo. alumniclubs.columbia.edu/egypt
June 5-7 | CAA at the Venice Biennale: exclusive tours, artists visits, and Venice like you’ve never seen it before. Email CAAInternational@columbia.edu for more information.

CAA Resources
If you are an alumnum of Columbia University, you have access to our many online resources. Visit alumni.columbia.edu to access the below CAA highlights and more:
- Alumni Directory: update your contact information, search for fellow alumni
- Library e-resources
- Columbia Connections networking portal

Columbia University Middle East Research Center
One of the first in a network of global centers Columbia is launching around the world, the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) provides a regional base for scholarly activities in Jordan and throughout the Middle East. It will strengthen Columbia’s academic partnerships and programs in the region and offer opportunities for on-site research to faculty, for firsthand experience to students, for engagement with regional alumni and prospective students, and for sharing Columbia’s academic resources with other initiatives and efforts in Jordan and beyond.

The Center is directed by Dr. Safwan Masri.

Take a virtual tour of the Center's facilities and architecture at alumni.columbia.edu/globalcenters