

ON THE COVER:

Stretching as far as the pyramids on a clear day in January 2006, this view of Cairo is framed by a mashrabeya window at the Al-Azhar Park. Visible from the park is the dire living situation of much of Cairo, which is gradually improving due to social development programs that have worked to provide adequate housing and healthcare facilities for the grossly overpopulated city. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture created this lush 74-acre park in the center of Cairo as an urban renewal project. Cairo has one of the lowest ratios of green space to urban population in the world, roughly equivalent to one footprint per inhabitant. The Azhar Park Project has become a model of creative solutions for a spectrum of social, economic, and ecological problems that cities face today.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA ELMARZOUKY

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NIMEP INSIGHTS

NEW INITIATIVE FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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NIMEP is a non-polemical student think-tank and outreach initiative devoted to finding progressive solutions to historic conflicts in the Middle East. NIMEP provides a forum for productive dialogue, scholarship, and exploration of the region. The diverse group of individuals who spearhead this initiative are committed to contributing to future leadership and to inspiring others to realize the powerful results such a model of thinking and action can produce.

The contents of this journal are the work of NIMEP members and academics. *NIMEP Insights* is the culmination of months of research and preparation, thousands of miles of travel, and immense dedication on behalf of our members and supporters.

NIMEP Insights was compiled, edited, and
produced by the following NIMEP members:

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Welcome back to *NIMEP Insights*. We continue to live in interesting times—this journal is an effort to contribute to an innovative, constructive, and humane dialogue that hopes to lend a framework of possibility to a world besieged by dissonance and complexity.

This issue incorporates research from our latest fact-finding missions to Turkey and Egypt as well as individual research trips to Belgium, Iran, Israel and the West Bank, and the United Arab Emirates. NIMEP is proud to present a journal that is representative of our diverse makeup. Contributors to this journal come from Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Israel, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States. We proudly welcome the contribution of Mouin Rabbani, Tufts University alumnus from 1986 and a friend of the Institute for Global Leadership for over twenty years. Mr. Rabbani is a model alumnus of this institution: a global citizen, a leading voice from the field, and a first-class scholar.

In our on-going effort to reach out to scholars, students, practitioners and individuals throughout the world, we hope that this journal will inspire engagement and further research on the complex issues related to the Middle East. We welcome all feedback and responses to the contents of this year's publication.

Medford, Massachusetts
Spring 2006

DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY TO

BORYANA “BORY” DAMYANOVA
(1983-2005)

Bory was an entrepreneur, a woman of great intellect and passion, and a dear friend who tragically passed away this fall. Her life and memory continue to inspire us to live up to her exemplary dedication to global leadership.

A native of Bulgaria, Bory was a lively, compassionate, and engaging individual, who challenged herself both academically and personally. She was willing to confront difficult issues, immersing herself fully and embracing the challenges of our complex modern world. In 2004, as a sophomore at Tufts, Bory traveled to Dubai with her fellow classmate and friend, Thomas Singer, to conduct research on the marketing strategies of multinational companies in the Middle East, as part of her studies at the Tufts Institute for Global Leadership. They interviewed various executives, professionals and citizens of Dubai on the nexus between globalization and corporate responsibility. We are honored to share a small glimpse of the work she and Thomas did in this year's journal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We would especially like to thank two indispensable members of the Institute's Executive Board, Howard Finkelstein and Rick Wayne, for their continued support.

Finally, we thank our parents, friends, and colleagues, for supporting NIMEP; for encouraging us to pursue our dreams; and for being patient with us through our long nights at 96 Packard Ave.

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