



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation



American-European/ASEAN Summer School for Religious Diplomacy & Global Leadership

Madrid, Toledo, Cordoba & Granada, Spain

October 22 – 27, 2024



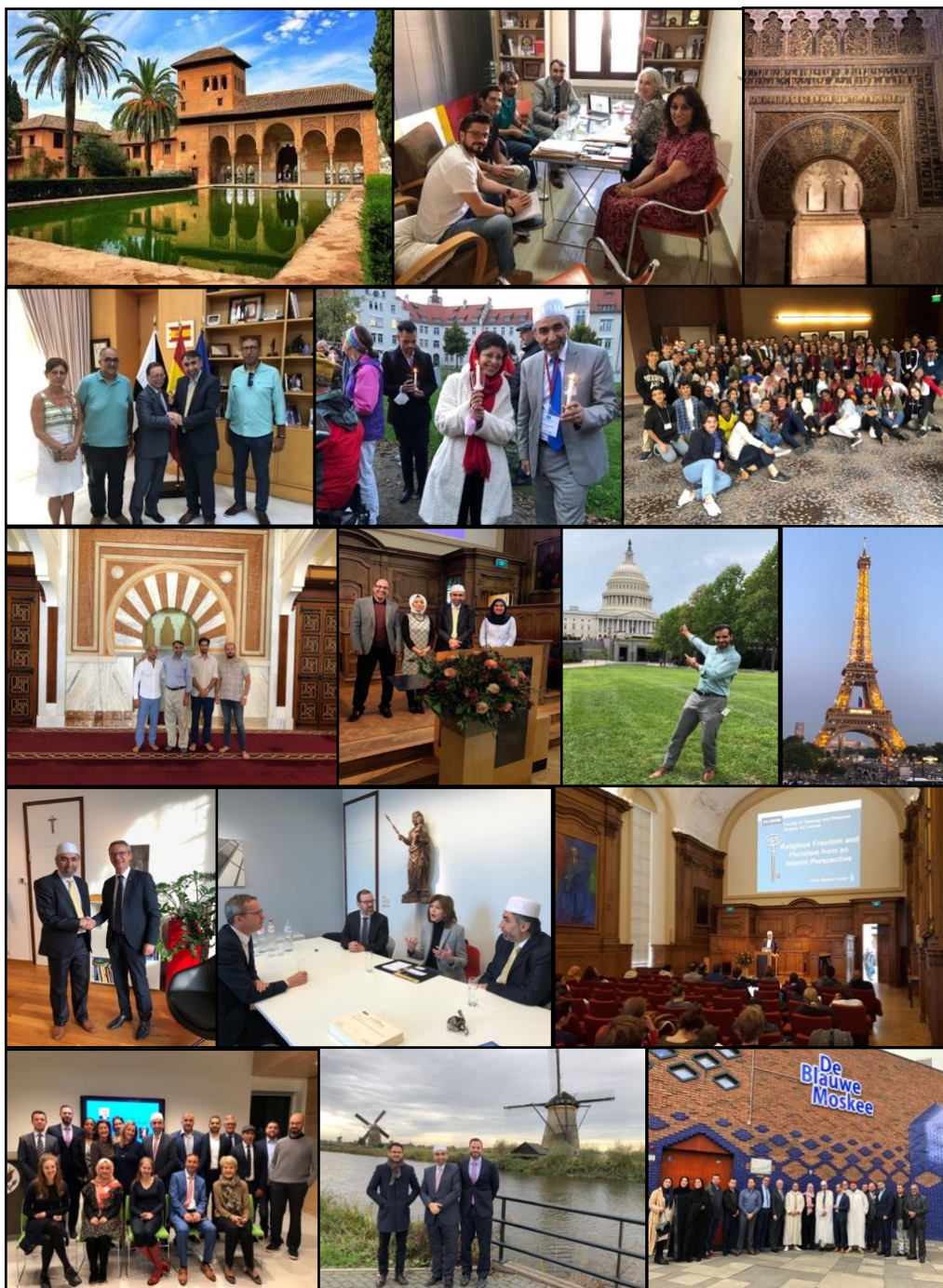
The **American-European / ASEAN Summer School for Religious Diplomacy & Global Leadership** is an academic program offered in Spain, other European countries, ASEAN countries, and in the U.S. by *Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)*. Our faculty from America, Europe and ASEAN will provide delegations from around the world the opportunity to participate in training and exchange experiences. The 6-day program is open for American, European, and ASEAN religious and community leaders, professionals, educators and intercultural practitioners. It will provide an opportunity to conduct joint training in Europe with religious and community leaders, teachers, women, and youth hosted, in partnership with several European, American, and ASEAN universities, embassies, religious schools, organizations and thinks tanks.

OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthening relationships between ASEAN and Europe through exchange and cooperation!
2. Comparing contributions of Islamic civilization to the European renaissance vs. the situation of Islam & Europe today
3. Bolstering peacebuilding, conflict reconciliation and transformation, and peaceful disputes
4. Promoting support for women and youth empowerment, and leadership development
5. Exploring best practices to counter extremism, xenophobia, and fanaticism
6. Understanding the complex situations of Muslim immigrants and refugees in Europe today
7. Understanding America and Europe's Perspectives on Economic Partnerships with the ASEAN Region

<https://nl.usembassy.gov/imam-mohamad-bashar-arafat-visits-the-netherlands/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, email CECF at info@cecf-net.org or message +1 202-230-3984.



ASEAN SUMMER SCHOOL FACULTY SHORT BIOS**IMAM MOHAMAD BASHAR ARAFAT (MARYLAND – USA)****CECF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, AL BASHEER SEMINARY FOUNDER AND DEAN**

"The most important thing about Ramadan in America is that it's becoming a month where the community gets together." Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat. <http://goo.gl/7Cpme>



Born and raised in Damascus, Syria, Imam Arafat attended Damascus University and graduated with a degree in Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in 1987 and a degree in Islamic Law in 1988. From 1975 to 1989 under the guidance and mentorship of the late Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro, he studied Qur'anic interpretation, wisdom of the "Shari'ah" and the Islamic spiritual teachings. From 1989 to 1997, he accompanied the Grand Mufti to international programs and conferences.

He was Imam in Damascus from 1981 to 1989, when he migrated to the U.S to be the Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore. Since 1993, he has been serving the larger community in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. He taught courses on Islamic Studies at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University, University of Maryland in Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins University, Goucher College, Renaissance Institute, as well as Comparative Religions at Potomac College in DC. He is currently teaching at Notre Dame of Maryland University. He was Campus Imam at Johns Hopkins University from 1993 to 2003, Adjunct Chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 2000 to 2003, and Muslim Chaplain for Baltimore City Police Department from 1998 to 2006.

Since 1990, he has been heavily involved with interfaith work, nationally and internationally, promoting better understanding between people of all faith traditions. His interfaith activities include programs with churches, universities, and seminaries in America <https://bit.ly/2L7cPHn>

Imam Arafat is the Founder and President of **Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF)**. From 2004 to 2016, CECF provided religious & cultural training, consultation, and support through the U.S. Department of State to the YES Program exchange students and host families. The services were used by placement organizations that administer the U.S. Department of State's sponsored exchange programs. Imam Arafat is the convener of our annual high school youth leadership and interfaith conferences in the U.S. and around the world called **Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW)**. <https://bit.ly/2Vym7OR>

Since 2009, he has been conducting **BUBW International Conferences** regionally for university students and young professionals in the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan <https://bit.ly/2yKqJ2j>, Uganda, Kenya, and Germany.

From January 2005 until present, Imam Arafat began conducting **International Speaker Programs** on **"Muslim Life & Interfaith Diversity in America"** through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs in Ghana, Chad, Niger, Mauritania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, India, Maldives, Comoros, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Iceland, Belgium, and Holland <https://bit.ly/3pbEg3I>.

Imam Arafat is the Founder and Dean of **Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center & Institute** based in Columbia, Maryland. Through the **International Observer Program (IOP)**, Al Basheer & CECF offer two to three-week training programs for Imams, clergy, community leaders and educators in the U.S. and internationally on the Jurisprudence of Religious Diplomacy in Islam & Global Outreach. Since 2011, the IOP has welcomed delegations from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and South & Central Asia. <https://bit.ly/3q7BjCM>

THE REVEREND WILLIAM A. AU III, PH.D. (MARYLAND - USA)
INTERFAITH PARTNER, CECF FACULTY, AL BASHEER SEMINARY VICE DEAN

Fr. William A. Au, Ph.D. is a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was ordained in 1975 and is a graduate of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, where he received a BA. In Philosophy and an STM. in Theology. In 1983, he received a Ph.D. in Church History from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He has published a book and articles on the American Catholic debate on issues of war and peace.

He serves as pastor of The Shrine of the Sacred Heart Church in the Mt. Washington section of Baltimore. Prior to this he has served as associate pastor in two other Baltimore parishes and as Pastor of SS. Philip and James Church in Baltimore, and as Assistant Chancellor and Director of Public Relations for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also served on the Clergy Personnel Board and Priests Senate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has been very involved in ecumenical and interfaith work.

Since 2009, he has participated in interfaith international programs sponsored by the Civilization Exchange and Cooperation Foundation in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco. Following the program in Jordan, he authored a Christian response to The Amman Message and The Common Word statements by major Muslim leaders entitled A Common Effort, which seeks to provide a philosophical framework for ongoing Muslim-Christian efforts in Maryland and around the world. He has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF) since 2012 and a member of the Interfaith faculty of Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center, and Institute. He has been an active supporter of the *Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW)* youth conferences and the *International Observer Program (IOP)* since 2008.

DR. SUSAN DOUGLASS (WASHINGTON, DC - USA)
CECF & AL BASHEER SEMINARY FACULTY

Dr. Douglass received her PhD in history from George Mason University in 2016. She holds an M.A. in Arab Studies from the Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, and a B.A. in History from the University of Rochester. She conducts teacher workshops locally and nationwide for the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and the Alwaleed Center for Muslim Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, where she serves as K-14 Education Outreach Director.

She has served with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and was an Affiliated Scholar with the Council on Islamic Education for a decade, reviewing commercial textbooks in development, researching, and contributing to state curricula and standards, and developing instructional resources. Publications include *World Eras: Rise and Spread of Islam, 622-1500* (Thompson/Gale, 2002), teaching resources for the Council on Islamic Education and the National Center for History in the Schools, a children's book, *Ramadan* (Carolrhoda Books, 2002), and articles on pedagogical and policy.

She has contributed to online teaching resources for Unity Productions Foundation, including the website and teaching resources for the documentary film *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet, Cities of Light* (islamicspain.tv), *The Sultan and the Saint* (<http://sultanandthesaintfilm.com>), as well as print and online projects such as the Smithsonian Freer Gallery teaching guide *Arts of Islam, Children and Youth in History* (<http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh>) at the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, and the San Diego State University curriculum project *World History for Us All* (<http://worldhistoryforusall.ss.ucla.edu/>). She designed and developed the online resource *The Indian Ocean in World History* (<http://indianoceanhistory.org/>).

As researcher and author of the study *Teaching About Religion in National and State Social Studies Standards* (Freedom Forum First Amendment Center and Council on Islamic Education, 2000), she continues to follow changes in national and state standards. She teaches in the Bayan Islamic Graduate School at the Claremont School of Theology, and at the secondary level with Legacy International Online High School program, where she is on the curriculum development team. Dr. Douglass has been a faculty member of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF) and Al Basheer Seminary since 2017.

ROBERT H. STUCKY (MARYLAND - USA)
CECF AND AL BASHEER SEMINARY FACULTY


Rob Stucky earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, as well as a Master of Anglican Studies degree from Berkeley Episcopal Divinity School. He studied Indian Philosophy, Yoga, and Meditation intensively for nine and a half years, and served as an Episcopal priest for sixteen years. He left the priesthood in 2002 to dedicate himself to the promotion of trans-cultural spirituality and intercultural understanding.

For over fifteen years, he has collaborated with a devout Muslim friend and scholar, in promoting Faith in Diversity (FID). In 2016, at the invitation of Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Rob joined the faculty of Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center and Institute, and Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF), fostering mutual understanding between religions, and promoting the positive spiritual values and practices common to all traditions.

As a writer, he has authored several articles and books that challenge and explore our preconceptions and encourage us to embrace the divine presence in all of life. These include *Reductionism, Globalization, and Faith*; *- Why We Believe, What We Believe, and How It Can Change*.

Rob has also been an adjunct faculty member at Goucher College, The University of Maryland Baltimore County, Notre Dame University of Maryland, and an educator at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, (one of the world's premier medical facilities and teaching hospitals). He is multi-lingual- speaking English, Spanish, French, Italian, Catalan, and elementary Hindi.

A popular and dynamic speaker, he has lectured and run workshops and retreats on Comparative Religion and spiritual practices on five continents and in several languages, including at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona, Expo Ser (Latin America's largest Holistic Health Conference) in Mexico City, and the European Parliament in Brussels.

DR. SAHAR KHAMIS (MARYLAND - USA)
CECF & AL BASHEER SEMINARY FACULTY


Dr. Sahar Khamis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is an expert on Arab and Muslim media, and the former Head of the Mass Communication and Information Science Department in Qatar University. Dr. Khamis holds a Ph.D. in Mass Media and Cultural Studies from the University of Manchester in England. She is a former Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. She is the co-author of the books *"Islam Dot Com: Contemporary Islamic Discourses in Cyberspace"* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *"Egyptian Revolution 2.0: Political Blogging, Civic Engagement and Citizen Journalism"* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and the co-editor

of the book: *"Arab Women's Activism and Socio-Political Transformation: Unfinished Gendered Revolutions"* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Additionally, she authored and co-authored numerous book chapters, journal articles and conference papers, regionally and internationally, in both English and Arabic. She is the recipient of a number of prestigious academic and professional awards, as well as a member of the editorial boards of several journals in the field of communication, in general, and the field of Arab and Muslim media, in particular.

Dr. Khamis is a media commentator and analyst, a speaker, a human rights commissioner in the Human Rights Commission in Montgomery County, Maryland, and a radio host, who presents a monthly radio show on "U.S. Arab Radio" (the first Arab American radio station broadcasting in the U.S. and Canada). She has been a faculty member of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF) and Al Basheer Seminary since 2015.

CECF STAFF**KIMBERLY KING – (MARYLAND – USA)
CECF PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

Kimberly King, born and raised in Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Army and traveled during her 4 years of service throughout the United States and abroad. After completing her time in the service, she moved to Maryland to pursue her degree in Business Administration.

She has worked in various levels of management for the last 35 years, the most recent being **Programs Director** of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation since 2002. She has been working with high school youth from 81 countries, as well as university students, young professionals, religious and community leaders, and educators from more than 30 countries.

Since becoming Muslim in 1989, she also continued studying Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies in Islamic Centers throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia before traveling to Damascus, Syria to advance her studies. She coordinated and led a study circle for Muslim Women in the Washington, D.C. area and has been actively involved in interfaith efforts, as well as a speaker on Islam.

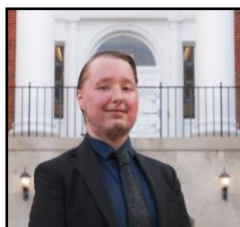
**LUCY ACHIENG WAGORO (NAIROBI – KENYA)
CECF INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR**

Lucy Wagoro is the Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation, International Program Coordinator. Her unwavering passion and vision are to create a peaceful world that embraces humanity's unique abilities, talents, and God-given gifts, without discrimination based on religion, belief, race, or tribe.

As the CECF International Program Coordinator, she has been responsible for coordinating hybrid meetings and programs in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the U.S.

Lucy is a certified Psychosocial advanced training specialist and has also obtained a certificate in child protection from PSS Finish Mission Kenya. She has been volunteering with the FMK for over 10 years, teaching churches and other organizations about the importance of life and raising up an all-round healthy individual.

Lucy holds a first-class honors degree in Computer Technology from the Technical University of Kenya and currently works as an ICT Educator. She is absolutely thrilled to take on the role of International Program Coordinator within this program.

**NICHOLAS ENOCH (MARYLAND – USA)
CECF PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Nick started his journey at CECF in 2022 as a Programs Intern. He has met and connected with delegates from Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and other countries. Nick also served as a Program Coordinator and facilitated both virtual and in-person Better Understanding for a Better World (BUBW) conferences in 2023 and 2024. In addition to his experience at CECF, he has worked in the federal government, serving as an intern for the U.S Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy. He has developed skills in social media marketing, public relations, graphic design, and policy and grant writing.

He graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Government and Politics-International Relations, with a specialization in Asia and Southeast Asia politics. While at the UMD, he served as the Vice President of the Muslim Student Association, VP of Marketing and Public Relations for the UMD Senior Council, a leader in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences as a College Ambassador, Peer Mentor, and representative on the Dean's Student Advisory Council. Nick received multiple leadership awards and accolades, such as being inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, a Prestigious National Leadership Honor Society, inducted into the National Political Science and Transfer Student Honor Societies, and recognized as a member of the 2024 Maryland Medallion Society for exemplary collegiate leadership on campus.

After graduating, he returned to CECF to continue coordinating, facilitating, and developing national and international programs. He plans to get a masters' degree in International Relations with a focus on Southeast

Asian politics, and he hopes to work as a Policy Analyst in the future focusing on Southeast Asian political and economic policies or work in the foreign service.