

EDITOR'S NOTE

Like most demanding intellectual projects, *Bildhaan* is never easy to produce. Every issue requires serious investment in labor time and material commitment from the members of the editorial board as well as Macalester and Wellesley Colleges. On the first account, I salute Professors Lidwien Kapteijns and Lee Cassanelli for their invaluable editorial work. We have been partners for the past six years and look forward to many more years of sustaining *Bildhaan* as a site for the dissemination of writings in Somali Studies.

In this regard, I want to acknowledge the devotion of Margaret Beegle of Macalester College and the new Institute for Global Citizenship to the overall production of the Journal. Margaret is one precious asset! This year she had the splendid help of Ms. Erin Gullikson '07. Macalester and Wellesley Colleges have been the institutional bedrock of *Bildhaan*. Both are places at once committed to high standards and cognizant of civic obligations. Because *Bildhaan* appealed to both of these characteristics of the two colleges, they have stood with us, from the maiden volume, with exceptional and continuing magnanimity. On behalf of the Journal, I say to both, bless you!

Three important announcements: the next volume of the Journal will be a *special* one devoted to a set of commissioned essays on the current Somali transitional time. These papers will cover the themes of security and reconciliation, economic reconstruction, health, governance and leadership, and education. We hope to have the volume out by January 2007. We are excited about this project, which is accompanied by the production of four video/DVD-recorded discussions, in the Somali language, that address the themes. These recordings have been done in high quality audio and video, and will be available by the time this issue hits the post office, for circulation among Somali and Somalist communities—including within the country and the Horn of Africa. Our regular volume for 2007 will include: a rich interview with President Ismail Omer Gaileh of the Republic of Djibouti; and a touching poem (in original Somali and translation into English) by the highly respected Ali Elmi Afyareh in which he paid tribute to the great nationalist poet Abdillahi Sultan, Timacade, in the wake of his death more than thirty years ago.

I am delighted to announce two new members of the International Advisory Board. Dr. Ali Moussa Iye is currently the Chief of History and Culture Section, UNESCO, Paris. He is the author, among others, of a pioneering work on the aspects of democratic traditions among Somalis: *Le verdict de L'Arbre. Etude du Xeer Issa, Djibouti, 1990*. Dr. Nasir Warfa is a lecturer and coordinator of the Masters Program at the Center for Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventative Medicine, Queen Mary University, London, United Kingdom. A member of the academic board of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, he is the co-editor of *Culture and Mental Health of African Refugees* (forthcoming, 2006).

Finally, I urge our readers not only to spread the word on the Journal, but also to submit articles for consideration for publication. The editorial board welcomes articles of important relevance to Somali society, and across all academic traditions.