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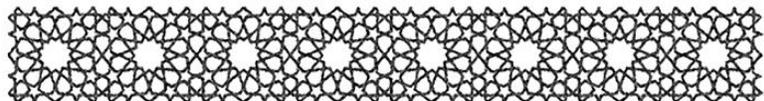
ANNUAL REPORT

**KING FAHD CENTER
FOR MIDDLE EAST & ISLAMIC STUDIES**

Interim Director Tom Paradise

Academic Year 2005 – 2006

King Fahd Center
for Middle East &
Islamic Studies



KING FAHD CENTER OVERVIEW

Although the original endowment for the creation of the King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies was \$20 million (1994-1996), the King Fahd endowment balance has increased to \$25 million (2005-2006) through astute investments and budgetary cuts within the Center. With the recently adjusted endowment principal payout at 4.5% (4.9% before 2005), this brings the Fahd Center's income to **\$922,413.70** for the fiscal year of 2005-2006 – an amount based on the original endowment amount of \$20 million (@4.5%) and not the increased endowment of \$25 million (\$1,140,000)

However, Fahd Center funding still remains very tight and „to the belt' due to two factors: the percentage of the endowment taken as income dropped from 4.9% to 4.5%, and faculty and staff salary raises, including raises for promotion, continually uses the extra income generated through thrift. This situation was predicted in the previous fiscal year's report (2004-2005). The Fahd Center continues to suffer from an over-commitment to salary subsidies inherited from previous administrations. Presently, the Center interest pays **\$619,541** in salary support for eleven faculty members and two staff. This is more than 50% of an income of **\$922,413**. When one adds to this figure graduate assistantship support of \$260,481 and undergraduate support of \$59,000, income and expenses remain balanced. To provide the necessary financial cushion as the Center moves into fiscal year 2005-2006 and beyond, it will be necessary for the Center to cut more graduate assistant support and/or for The Center to reduce its contribution to the Fulbright College budget. At the advice of the Provost last year, the Center took the first step in cutting its commitment to graduate assistant funding to 20 assistantships, from 26 in the previous years (and from more than 35 in past years and under prior administrations). Total graduate assistance funding was reduced by six assistantships (or approximately \$70,000) for fiscal year 2006-2007. Center affiliated faculty and chairs of affiliated departments were notified of this change in spring 2006.

However, because of prudent supervision of Center funds and expenses, the King Fahd Center continues to maintain a high level of scholarly activities and program initiatives. Not only was the Center also able to maintain last year's \$10,000.00 commitment to the Jordan Archaeological Field School, additional support was given for student participation in a new Syrian archaeological project supervised by Anthropology assistant professor Jesse Casana. The Jordan Archaeology Field School under the Chair of Anthropology, Jerry Rose ran its most successful and highly subscribed program ever during the summer of 2005. In fact, enrollments of trained excavators were so high that professor Rose is contemplating turning the Jordan excavation into a research project and moving the Field school under the direction of Dr. Casana. The Center was also able to commit \$6,000 to a workshop on popular culture organized by affiliated faculty members Ted Swedenburg in Anthropology and Joel Gordon in History. The Center maintained its \$20,000 annual commitment for the purchase of books on the Middle East and Islam for Mullins Library.

Also, the Fahd Center was successful in moving the *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture* (JILC) to the University of Arkansas with the assistance of affiliated faculty

member Steve Sheppard of the Leflar School of Law. This two-year pilot project is a partnership between the King Fahd Center and the Law School and promises to provide a model for similar partnerships between the Center, Fulbright College, and other colleges across campus. Early discussions between the Fahd Center and Routledge Publishers (London, UK) were held at the Middle East Studies Conference (MESA) in Washington DC in 2005 with Associate Director Paradise. Routledge, excited about the prospect of picking up an esteem journal then contacted past-Center Director Cornell about a possible joint publishing agreement. In spring 2006, Cornell and Law professor Steve Sheppard negotiated with Routledge to publish and distribute the Journal. Routledge is currently expressing a very strong interest in the journal and has stated that it fits well with its central publications.

In addition, Center-affiliated faculty member Adnan Haydar (FLAN) is currently negotiating with Syracuse University Press to publish the winner of the Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. The Center is also working with the Public Administration Program, the Department of Political Science, and Walton College of Business to extend the terms of the two State Department grants that currently fund projects in Tunisia. The Mahdia Institute of Management project, administered by Walton College, has been particularly successful and the PA project with University of Tunis I is now back on track with the appointment of a new dean of the school of management at that university. Fulbright College Dean Bobbitt, associate Dean Adams, and past Director Cornell visited Israel in summer 2005 to explore an academic partnership with Hebrew University, the premier university in Israel.

Also in summer 2005, the Fahd Center received a gift of Middle Eastern artifacts worth approximately \$100,000.00 from Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Rhea has worked as an amateur archaeologist for approximately 40 years and some artifacts from her collection are on display in the Saudi National Museum in Riyadh. She donated her artifacts to the Center in honor of King Fahd since most objects were excavated in eastern Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Finally, overall student enrollment in MEST or MEST-related classes is growing and related participation in MEST events is strong. Lectures, art exhibits, forums, and concerts sponsored by the Fahd Center are increasingly anticipated, and well-attended, while a new camaraderie amongst MEST majors, minors and graduate students is at a new high.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Undergraduates (9 scholarships @ \$59,000)

In academic year 2005-2006 the King Fahd Center supported 9 undergraduate MEST majors on full or partial scholarships totaling \$59,000. This represents a savings of \$26,000 compared with the previous year (\$85,000, 2004-2005). MEST-Fahd Center has reduced the amount spent on undergraduate support by a total of more than \$150,000 over the past five years. These savings resulted from increasing the standards used for the MEST scholarships, creating a more competitive environment for

only the best students, and limiting scholarship awards to declared majors with a 'proven track record' before their junior and senior years. The Center also granted an increased number of partial scholarships to MEST majors with high GPAs and a noted dedication to Middle East and North Africa Studies. Currently, there are 23 MEST double-majors (down from 28) and 11 MEST minors (up from 5). Ten MEST majors and four minors are Honors students as well. These numbers are expected to increase as fall semester 2006 begins. GPA levels of MEST majors and scholarship recipients remain among the highest on average across the University.

Graduate Students (26 Graduate Assistants @ \$260,481)

The total funding for graduate assistants was \$260,000, considerably less than in the previous year (\$300,000) due to prudent cutbacks in the number of assistantships granted, down by five (31 in 2004-2005). The demand for funding exceeded what was available, and with increased standards (GPA, SAT/ACT, GRE scores), several well-qualified students were turned down. Savings were instituted by granting several partial assistantships and more research-related funding. It is planned that this trend will be implemented in the upcoming year, when only 18-20 students are slated for assistantships with more proposal-based requests being granted (\$3-5000). These proposal-based funding opportunities have proven to be effective in stimulating both a personal investment in thesis research and fomenting a solid academic (and competitive) environment. Between 2004 and 2005, eight graduate proposals (5-12pp), costing an average amount of \$3200 each, all succeeded in supporting students to complete theses or dissertations at sites in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. With an individual assistantship costing \$12,000 versus \$4000 for a supported research proposal, it can represent a better investment with more 'bang for the buck', and students complete important international research, bringing notoriety to Arkansas and assistance to their country of study – an important role for the King Fahd Center. All students that have completed these proposal projects have gone on to Ph.D. programs, agency or private sectors jobs.

The King Fahd Center continues to maintain the same rigorous standards for graduate student performance that were established in previous years. The Center expects graduate committees to track student progress throughout the year and the length of funding strictly follows Graduate School guidelines. Last year, seven students were informed that their funding would end in spring 2005. Because the doctoral committees of two students pleaded special circumstances, the Graduate Awards Committee voted to fund these students for one extra semester only; their extraordinary funding finished in December 2005.

The Center will continue to adhere to Graduate School guidelines for funding, which stipulates 4 semesters for MA students and 6-8 semesters for Ph.D. students. Departmental directors of graduate studies and members of graduate committees are encouraged to make sure that MEST supported students in their departments move through their programs as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

Graduate Student News

Charles Argo (*HIST*) successfully defended and filed his dissertation in 2005 entitled, "*Ottoman Political Spectacle: Reconsidering the Devesirme in the Ottoman Balkans, 1400-1700*" and is currently Assistant Professor (tenure track) of History at Ball State University, Indiana. Dr. Argo was supported by full KFC assistantships over 3 years.

Farid as-Salim (*HIST*) is ABD and has accepted a teaching position in the Department of History at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. As-Salim has received full assistantship funding over fifteen semesters; this tenure no longer a part of KFC policy.

David Chadoir (*ANTH*) presented a paper at the conference "*Transnational Migration: Foreign Labor and Its Impact on the Gulf*," at the Rockefeller Foundation Center at Bellagio, Lake Como, Italy (Summer 2005). His paper, "*Mapping Work in the Gulf: Guest Workers in Qatar's Luxury Hotels*" will be published in the proceedings of the conference. In addition, The King Fahd Center funded him to attend lectures in advanced Arabic language in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Chadoir is currently supported by a full KFC assistantship.

Stephanie Kirkland (*GEOG*) successfully defended her MA thesis "Historic Preservation, National Policies and Tourism Revenues in Tunisia 19765-2005 under the auspices of the Tunisian Ministries of Tourism and Patrimony. She has since received a six-year scholarship (\$120,000) for her PhD research at York University, Toronto, Canada. Kirkland's research was supported through a KFC proposal-based funding.

Will Meyers (*PLSC*) presented a paper "External factors Influencing the Political Maturation of HAMAS" at the International Conference on European & International Political & Economic Affairs, Athens Greece (May 2006).

Mohammed Salem (*GEOS*) successfully completed his MA thesis, "Synoptic cartography techniques use in cultural heritage management in Petra, Jordan" and has since entered Arkansas' Environmental Dynamics Program (ENDY) for his Ph.D. Salem's research was supported through a KFC proposal-based funding.

Nadine Sinno (*COMPLIT*) presented a paper "The Power of Place & Space: Constructing Identity & Selfhood in Ahdaf Soueif's "Eye of the Sun", International symposium on Minorities & Minor Literatures (Summer 2006). Ms. Sinno was fully funded through the Fahd Center until she received a graduate assistantship in the English Department.

Maysoun Thawaba (*GEOS*) successfully defended her master thesis in the October, 2005 titled "*Comparative Analysis of Urban Growth in meso-scale Cities: A case study*"

from Fayetteville, Arkansas and Tulkarm, Palestine". She is currently working with the Urban Planning Authority in Palestine. Maysoun Thawaba's research was funded through a partial KFC assistantship.

Salem Abdulateef Thawaba (ENDY) successfully defended his dissertation in 2005 titled "*Integrating Perception Analysis and Geographic Information System (GIS) Technology in Urban Planning, Growth, and Modeling: A Case Study from Fayetteville, Arkansas*" and was hired as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the College of Architecture, Engineering and Urban Planning at Birzeit University, Palestine. Dr. Thawaba received a full KFC assistantship that was used for his fulltime teaching load in the Arkansas Arabic Program.

Study Abroad

The King Fahd Center was able to provide \$10,000 in funding support for the summer 2005 Archaeological Field School in Jordan, directed by affiliated faculty member Jerry Rose, who now combines his MEST responsibilities with the chairmanship of the department of Anthropology. 2006 will mark the tenth year of Professor Rose's involvement with Yarmouk University in Jordan and the Joint Bioarchaeological Field School, in which U.S. and Jordanian students work together on Tell Ya'mun, a major archaeological site in northern Jordan. In recognition of his work in Jordan, Rose also holds the title of Senior Researcher in the Department of Anthropology at Yarmouk University. In the summer of 2005, he received a special note of recognition from Pierre Bikai, director of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. This year's project expanded collaboration between the University of Arkansas and Yarmouk University to include the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Yarmouk. Because of his new demands as Chair of Anthropology, Dr. Rose is considering ending the Field School component of the Yarmouk Project. However, he will continue to use University of Arkansas and Yarmouk students as part of his ongoing research project at the Tell Ya'mun site. It is possible that the Syrian archaeological research project directed by Jesse Casana will eventually replace the Tell Ya'mun project as the site of the archaeological field school. The King Fahd Center will continue to support Professor Rose's projects to the best of its ability. Although the key to Center funding is student involvement and experience, it is recognized that such experience can come in different varieties, and that a field school is not the only way to provide it. By involving trained student researchers instead of opening participation to all interested, Dr. Rose can bring a greater level of expertise to the Tell Ya'mun project and can significantly improve results while not denying Arkansas students the opportunity to participate in significant archaeological research.

In summers of 2005 and 2006, University of Arkansas students participated in a second *Archaeological Research Project in Syria*, headed by MEST affiliated faculty member Jesse Casana. The majority of this project was funded by the American Schools for Oriental Research (ASOR), of which the Fahd Center is an institutional

member. The King Fahd Center contributed an additional \$4700 toward these 6-week projects, which involves excavations at the Tell Qarqur in western Syria. The Center contribution goes toward the purchase of equipment and supplies, transportation, and meals for student participants. With the transformation of Jerome Rose's Tell Ya'mun project from an Archaeological Field School to a research project, it is envisioned that this second project in Syria might develop into a field school along the lines of the Yarmouk project that has long been funded by MEST.

The Center was also able to provide \$10,500 of the summer funding for Arabic Language Study Abroad participation in Morocco, down from \$14,000 in summer 2005. This allowed MEST to partially support three students to study advanced Arabic at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. MEST was able to support these students by giving partial scholarships to cover tuition at AAIU. The SINARC program in Lebanon was not an option in 2005-2006 because of a U.S. State Department travel warning issued for Lebanon. At this point, it is not anticipated that the Center will increase funding for Arabic study abroad next year. The same amount will be budgeted for fiscal year 2006-2007, and only partial scholarships are likely to be granted. Students interested in Arabic study will continue to have a choice of three programs in which to participate, subject to the travel warning restriction mentioned above: Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco, SINARC in Lebanon, and the Bourguiba Institute in Tunisia. Eventually, a new option for summer study may be the Rothberg School of International Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This will depend on the signing of a cooperation agreement between the University of Arkansas and Hebrew University. Although the Center did not provide funding for the Rothberg Middle East Studies Program in summer 2006, several students have already expressed an interest in attending at their own expense in the next few years.

To take funding in a new direction at the Fahd Center, it will continue to provide as much funding as possible for study abroad, but will begin to prioritize funding according to the overall quality of their projects and cost-benefit return for funds spent. Starting in the fall 2006, all students applying for research or study abroad funding must submit a detailed and professional proposal with an accurate budget and justification before being considered. The Center is committed to continue funding the Jordan and Syrian field school and archaeological research projects, and study abroad opportunities in Arabic. The Center will still consider requests for special funding for graduate students on a case-by-case basis, however, with the newly required detailed proposal and budget.

CURRICULUM & FACULTY ASSESSMENT

Curriculum changes implemented in 2002-2003 are now in place and have been added to the 2005-2006 edition of the Catalog of Studies. The MEST gateway course, MEST 2013 "*Gateways to the Middle East*," is now a requirement for all MEST majors. This course will be offered on a regular basis in the fall semester. An introduction to Islam, MEST 2003 "*Islam in History, Practice, and Experience*" is also on the books and

has been added to the 2005-2006 Catalog of Studies. The final, simplified requirements for a MEST major are now as follows:

Requirements for the MEST Major (30 hours): MEST 2013, *Gateways to the Middle East* (3 hours) + MEST 4003 (*Middle East Studies Colloquium*, 3 hours) + 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement (ARAB 2013) + 9 hours in one MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies) + 9 hours in a second MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies)

Requirements for the MEST Minor (18 hours): MEST 4003 (*Middle East Studies Colloquium*, 3 hours) + 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement (ARAB 20013) + 9 hours of MEST courses in one or more disciplines

note: with the an increasing number of Francophone countries converting Islamic states or republics (i.e. Mali, Algeria), it seems realistic to consider French as an alternative or additional language for the MEST major or minor courses of study. This option will be evaluated in the upcoming year.

Intensive First-Year Arabic program, instituted on a trial basis in academic year 2004-2005, appears to be a success. Enrollments were up for fall 2005 over the previous year and students seem to be adjusting to the program well, despite the heavy demands of a 6-credit hour language class each semester. This intensive course could provide the basis for an eventual major in Arabic. With the departure of Rkia Cornell (Summer 2006), another Arabic instructor, Paula Haydar was hired to supplement the efforts of Professor Adnan Haydar.

First-Year Persian Course, developed in 2003-2004 to allow a Fulbright instructor from Iran to teach Persian (Farsi) at the University of Arkansas, this proposed course was cancelled in the Fall 2005 because the Department of Homeland Security refused to grant a visa to the Persian instructor selected by the Fulbright Commission. The Center and the Department of Foreign Languages are currently negotiating with Fulbright to see if another Persian instructor might be recruited.

Faculty Assessment procedures also are being standardized for academic year 2005-2006. This was done due to uneven commitments of time and effort by MEST affiliated faculty members and because of the need to clarify exactly what is expected for the retention of MEST benefits, such as development accounts, support for individual research projects, and salary supplements from the MEST endowment. The proposed Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment (see Appendix I) is based on the self-assessment form for faculty and administrators that is currently used by Fulbright College. The MEST faculty assessment differs from that of the College by changing the relative ranking of contributions as follows: (1) Teaching (2) Service to the King Fahd Center (3) Research. Affiliated faculty members whose salary is paid in full or in part by the KFC endowment will be required to teach MEST 2013 (*Gateways to the Middle East*) and MEST 4003 (*MEST Colloquium*) on a rotating basis. Affiliated faculty members are also required to serve as undergraduate student advisors and are expected to develop MEST-related courses in their departments. The new faculty assessments also put a strong emphasis on service to the King Fahd Center, including the expectation to give lectures, recruit visiting speakers, participate actively on MEST committees, and engage in extra-curricular activities such as outreach, the Fahd Center

Newsletter, and MEST-related university or college service activities. Besides publications, the Research component of the new faculty assessment also stresses grantsmanship, including grant proposals submitted and awarded both individually and with Fahd Center assistance or participation.

Besides helping to ensure fairness and consistency in the evaluation process, the assessment criteria are based on the understanding that the enjoyment of benefits from the King Fahd Center is a privilege and that such benefits should be earned through active, constructive, and collegial participation in MEST-Fahd programs and initiatives. The criteria are also designed to underscore the responsibility of the King Fahd Center, the MEST program, and the affiliated faculty members to raise the academic standards of Fulbright College and provide a learning environment that enriches the University of Arkansas community both intellectually, culturally and spiritually.

KING FAHD CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Ann Rhea Collection of Near Eastern Antiquities

In the summer of 2005, the Center was offered a large donation (worth approximately \$100,000.00) of Near Eastern antiquities from Mrs. Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia. The gift was formalized and the materials were handed over to University of Arkansas representatives in September. The collection includes dozens of whole ceramic vessels, thousands of potshards, and hundreds of ancient coins, as well as metal objects, glass fragments, stone tools, and jewelry, dating from the Paleolithic period (c. 18,000 BCE) through the Medieval Period. Mrs. Rhea lived in Saudi Arabia from 1960-1972, during where developed a deep interest in the archaeology and history of the region. Unlike most private collections of ancient artifacts, which usually come from the antiquities market, Ms. Rhea gathered these materials herself from archaeological projects on which she participated. These sites were in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bahrain, Jordan, and Lebanon, making the collection a significant and scientifically valuable assemblage. Mary Suter, Curator of the University Museum collections, is processing and cataloging the complete collection. The Center plans to publish an announcement of the acquisition once all accessions have been catalogued, making the artifacts available to students and scholars for analysis and publication.

Partnership with Hebrew University

During the summer of 2005 Fulbright College Dean Bobbitt, Associate Dean Adams and past Center Director Cornell traveled to Israel for talks with administrators of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the premier center of higher education in Israel. Officials of Fulbright College have long been interested in a partnership with an Israeli university as part of an ongoing Mediterranean focus for International Studies. Bobbitt, Adams and Cornell met with Steve Kaplan, Dean of Humanities at HU, Jaime

Kapitulnik, Provost of the Rothberg School of International Studies, and Haim Rabinowitch, Rector of Hebrew University. Plans are being made to invite the Dean of Humanities and Provost of the Rothberg School to the University of Arkansas. The developing UA-HU connection also promises to be valuable for study abroad. The Rothberg School, which conducts its classes in English, attracts students from over 70 countries and has fully developed semester abroad and summer programs, including a highly regarded program in Middle East Studies. Costs at HU are nearly equivalent to those at UA and Arkansas students would be able to spend a semester in Jerusalem for nearly the same cost as at Arkansas, except for airfare. Hebrew University also provides a diverse international educational environment.

Lebanese-American University of Science and Technology

In April 2006, Provost Bob Smith hosted President Hiam Sakr and Provost Nabeel Haidar from the American University of Science and Technology (AUST) in Beirut, Lebanon. Chancellor White and President Sakr signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step in exploring collaborative efforts to promote student and faculty exchange. President Sakr and Provost Haidar were later taken to lunch and a small reception by Associate Director Tom Paradise, hosted by the King Fahd Center to further discuss exchange-student needs and possible faculty opportunities. These potential relationships will be investigated as soon as US State Department travel restrictions on Lebanon are lifted.

American University of Beirut

In fall 2004, the King Fahd Center gave partial travel support (\$600.00) to Associate Professor James Davis (FLAN) to attend a conference on Language Education and Information Technology at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon (AUB). While at AUB, Professor Davis represented the King Fahd Center in meetings with International Studies administrators and these meetings resulted in contacts being initiated between AUB and the King Fahd Center, with a view to establishing closer relations between AUB and the University of Arkansas. As with AUST, these potential relationships will be investigated as soon as US State Department travel restrictions on Lebanon are lifted. AUB is a broad-based University in a unique country that will one day be available to our students in MEST and the Fulbright College.

KING FAHD CENTER PROJECTS

Development of Graduate Programs in Public Administration and Public Policy for the University of Tunis (\$190,514)

US State Department grant for a three-year project ending in Spring 2006 but petitioned and extended to 2007. Project Co-PIs are Todd Shields, Chair of Political

Science, Margaret Reid, and Donald Kelley, Director of the Fulbright Institute for International Relations. The Fahd Center facilitated all links between the Arkansas team and the Tunis team through its previous relationships with the Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Tunisia, Jamil Chaker.

An initial agreement was signed on May 1, 2004 by the Shields, Kelley and Cornell (past Center Director) and Dr. Abdelwahed Trabelsi, then director of the Institut Supérieur de Gestion (Higher Institute of Management), University of Tunis I. At that time, the teams from Political Science and Public Administration at UA committed themselves to the creation of three programs at the University of Tunis:

- *Masters in Emergency and Disaster Management (2004)*
- *Masters in E-Government and Information Technology (2005)*
- *Development of the NGO Management Program (2006)*

This original agreement fell into abeyance in early 2005 because of the dismissal of Dr. Trabelsi from his post and the appointment of a new director of ISG Tunis, Dr. Choukri Mamoghli. After being apprised of the proposed project, Dr. Mamoghli visited the University of Arkansas in Summer 2005 and signed a new agreement (aide-memoire) committing Tunis and Arkansas to the development of a Masters program in Emergency and Disaster Management and the incorporation of E-Government and Information Technology into this program. A member of the University of Arkansas team will ultimately go to Tunis to participate in start-up efforts for the development of the emergency management program. Up to four faculty members from ISG will be in residence at the University of Arkansas in 2006-2007, and up to four other ISG faculty will make four-week visits at the same time. In 2006-2007, four University of Arkansas faculty members will go to Tunisia to teach intensive seminars in topics appropriate for the development of the emergency management program.

note: the NGO management program was dropped from the project because of the inability of Tunisians to secure employment in non-governmental organizations.

Development of Strategic Partnership for the Development and Delivery of Executive Education Programs and Undergraduate Core Curriculum Revisions for the Central University (Université du Centre) of Tunisia at Sousse (\$100,000)

ALO-State Department grant for a two-year project ending in Spring 2005. This grant was won in partnership with the Walton School of Business; PI: Joseph Ziegler, Chair of Economics and Director of International Programs. This program received permission for a one-year extension from the Academic Liaison Office of the U.S. State Department, due to the reorganization of the University of the Center and its reestablishment as the University of Monastir, University of Sousse, and University of El Kairouane. The project has resumed under a new administration in both Monastir, which was not part of the original project, and the Institutes of Management Sciences in Mahdia and Sousse, which are now part of the University of Monastir and University of Sousse, respectively.

The new partnership with the University of Monastir focuses on the development of the enterprise approach to the undergraduate core curriculum in business and management. Two members of the faculty and two administrators of Walton College traveled to Tunisia in October 2004 in order to identify constraints and opportunities. UA faculty became familiar with UM pedagogical philosophy and substantive exchanges of information took place between the representatives of the two institutions. A new *license* (BBA degree) in International Business that would incorporate the enterprise-based business core as well as study abroad experience was drafted for submission to Tunisia's Ministry of Higher Education. The Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education approved the *license* (BBA) in May 2005. The approval of this degree program is key to the success of the University of Arkansas-University of Monastir project. Five members of the Tunisian faculty spent time on the UA campus during Spring 2005 for the exchange of information. Faculty identified cultural and academic issues and established the means of future communication.

The second partnership in the program, with the University of Sousse, focused on the development of an executive education program in business leadership. Two Arkansas faculty members traveled to Tunisia in November, 2004 to train faculty at the University of Sousse in the Emerging Leaders executive development program. Prior to the visit Arkansas faculty collaborated on customizing the program for the Tunisian business environment, as well as preparing and translating program materials into French. A key result of this process was learning that family-owned business is the predominant form of business in Tunisia, and the one that needs the most assistance in terms of leadership education and program content will be developed to reflect this emphasis. The Walton College of Business will collaborate with the University of Sousse to deliver these two programs:

- *“The training of trainers” Program to prepare US faculty to offer outreach programs for the public, and a leadership program to community leaders and public employees similar to the program delivered last year to private sector executives.*

Fulbright Persian Instructor

In fall 2003, Kay Pritchett, Chair of Foreign Languages and Fahd Center past-Director Cornell collaborated in writing a Fulbright grant application to secure an instructor in the Farsi (Persian) for 2004-2005. Fulbright cancelled this program to re-open it in 2005-2006. The University of Arkansas was selected once again as a recipient, and a Persian instructor from Tehran by the name of Babak Mahdavi was chosen to offer Persian at the university. Even though Mahdavi's application was accepted by the U.S. State Department, the Department of Homeland Security refused to issue him a visa for unexplained reasons. Consequently, the Persian course was cancelled once again. Current Interim Director Paradise, Dean Adams and FLAN Chair Turner are currently negotiating with Fulbright to see if a Persian instructor for 2007-2008 can be supplied by another foreign university (i.e. St. Petersburg State University in Russia) with which the University of Arkansas has a memorandum of understanding

(MOI). It is hoped that it will be easier for a Russian or Central Asian to obtain a visa (than for an Iranian).

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture (JILC)

In spring 2005, the University of Arkansas School of Law agreed to take on the Journal of Islamic Law & Culture (JILC) in partnership with the King Fahd Center in a two-year pilot project. The journal is presently published by De Paul University Press in Chicago. Past-Center Director Cornell and Law Professor Steve Sheppard are the designated associate journal editors and are presently negotiating with Routledge Press to take over publishing and distribution of the journal. A full proposal has been submitted to Routledge and initial reactions have been positive.

Dr. Aminah McCloud, Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Islamic World Studies Program at De Paul University in Chicago will continue as Editor-In-Chief. Law School students will comprise the editorial staff. The King Fahd Center has provided work space and equipment for the student editorial staff in 105 MAIN and on the third floor of ASUP. In addition, the Center has budgeted \$5,000.00 per year to pay any costs of the journal that are not covered by subscriptions. This amount may be raised up to a ceiling of \$10,000.00 in case of emergencies. The Editorial Board of the journal has also been revised and expanded to increase its international scope including Islamic and cultural specialists from countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Bosnia, United Kingdom, and France.

Friends of Nekhen

Since spring 2003, the Center has been the US home of the Friends of Nekhen – an organization that supports the Hierakonpolis Expedition, an archaeological project that is excavating the largest pre-dynastic site in Egypt. Nekhen is the ancient Egyptian name for Hierakonpolis. At no cost to the Center, except for the administrative time involved in maintaining a separate account for subscriptions and donations, the center's institutional support for this project partners the Center and the University of Arkansas with the Egyptian Studies Association, based at London's renown British Museum. The Friends of Nekhen publishes a newsletter called *Nekhen News*, which is edited by Renée Friedman of the British Museum, who is also the director of the Hierakonpolis Expedition. The Center continues to maintain a successful and amicable relationship with Dr Friedman and the Egyptian Studies Association.

Religious Studies Program (RLST)

During 2004-2005, The University of Arkansas Religious Studied Program was expanded through the assistance of the King Fahd Center. The King Fahd Center budgeted \$10,000.00 to cover expenses for RLST, including visiting speakers. Key faculty members include Lynda Coon (HIST), Beth Schweiger (HIST), Hugh Halman

(MEST) and Sidney Burris (ENG). Hugh Halman has continued to teach the class, *Religions of Asia*.

A special note should be made regarding Dr. Hugh Halman, who teaches both in the Middle East and Religious Studies programs. His background in Religious Studies from Duke University has made him indispensable for providing RLST courses on non-Western religions. His Islamic Studies background has allowed him to teach introductory courses on Islam and the Qur'an for the Center – a specialty that the University of Arkansas currently lacks. In addition, he has been used to teach the MEST gateway class required of for majors, *Gateways to the Middle East*. This course, which was developed at the suggestion of MEST-affiliated faculty Gordon (HIST) and Swedenburg (ANTH), was made a MEST major requirement by a consensus of the affiliated faculty, often finds itself an orphan because those who first created it currently show no interest in teaching it. Halman has volunteered to take on this course as an overload that required him to study such varied topics as anthropology and political science and not a part of his original training.

Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Tunisia

In September and October 2005, Dr. Jamil Chaker, Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Republic of Tunisia, spent two weeks on the University of Arkansas campus meeting with various faculty and officials, delivering six lectures and seminars to the French section of the Foreign Languages Program. Dr. Chaker, former chair of the French Department at University of Tunis, is the official liaison between the Tunisian government and the University of Arkansas, which maintains partnership agreements with four Tunisian universities. Jamil remains a good friend and a significant contact for the Center's associations with the various Tunisian ministries and agencies. His assistance and friendliness has gone beyond conventional ties – he has also helped with a number of graduate student projects across Tunisia (i.e. Stephanie Kirkland: MA Geography).

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES

Visiting Speakers and Special Events (Center sponsored)

In academic year 2005-2006 the following speakers and events were sponsored or supported by the King Fahd Center:

Fall 2005

- ♦ Ruth Roded, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, lecture "Projecting Female Muslim Role Models: Gender in Arab Films on the Life of the Prophet Muhammad"
- ♦ Jamil Chaker, Ministry of Education, Tunisia: taught six class sessions on French African Literature and the Literature of the French Renaissance
- ♦ Jamil Chaker, Ministry of Education, Tunisia: Lecture "Women's Rights in Tunisia"
- ♦ Marvin X: Poet and shaper of the Black Arts Movement, poetry reading and lecture in Muslim American Literature class
- ♦ Annabel Keeler, Wolfson College at the University of Cambridge, UK: lecture "Love & the Figure of Jacob in Sufi Commentaries on Surat Yusuf of the Qur'an"
- ♦ Tony James Wilkinson, Department of Archaeology, Edinburgh, Scotland: "Middle East Ancient Urban Landscapes"

Spring 2006

- ♦ Danielle Culpepper, University of Mary Washington: lecture "Serena, the Mad Turk: intrigue in Byzantine Venice and Istanbul"
- ♦ Aziz Maraka: Jordanian pianist & songwriter, concert "Bonds Across Borders", featuring razz music with our Department of Music
- ♦ "Iraq: What's to be Done?" student-faculty forum with MEST faculty facilitators, Ghadbian, Gordon, and Swedenburg.

Arkansas Arabic Translation Award

The 2005 winner of the Arkansas Arabic Translation Award was Leon Carl Brown, Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs Emeritus at Princeton University and a distinguished Middle East historian. Brown translated the *Muqaddima* or Introduction to a multi-volume historical work by Ahmad ibn Abi Diyaf, a Tunisian government official whose career spanned the 1820s to the 1860s. This work has long been known as an important history of 19th Century political life in Tunisia. The translation of the work, which will be published by University of Arkansas Press, is entitled, Consult Them in the Matter: a 19th Century Islamic Argument for Constitutional Government.

The Arkansas Arabic Translation Award carries a \$5,000.00 award for the translator, with an additional \$5,000.00 also awarded to a living original author. Submissions are solicited for significant works of 19th-21st Century Arabic literature, broadly defined to include fiction, non-fiction works in the literary tradition, and academic works of note.

The Ahmad ibn Abi Diyaf translation will be the last translation award winner published by University of Arkansas Press. In fall 2004, Center past-Director Vincent

Cornell attempted to renegotiate the terms of the agreement between the King Fahd Center (Cornell) and University of Arkansas Press (Director Larry Malley) for the publication of award winners. The original agreement governing publication costs had lapsed in 1998 and the Press was unwilling and obtuse for the possibility of renegotiating more favorable terms to the Center. At that time and by mutual agreement between Cornell and Malley, it was decided to terminate the relationship between the King Fahd Center and University of Arkansas Press after the publication of the 2005 award winner. No award will be given for 2006. The King Fahd Center is currently in negotiations with Syracuse University Press to publish the award winner for 2007. Syracuse University Press has expressed a willingness to come to a fair agreement with the Center and negotiations are expected to be completed soon.

King Fahd Center Web Site

In spring 2004, the Fahd Center hired a professional web designer to produce a new web site for the King Fahd Center. Over a period of approximately three months, and at modest cost, Philadelphia web designer Derrick Von Schlegell designed a handsome and simple web site that met all specifications required by Fulbright College. The Newsletter and Web Site Committee, chaired by Tom Paradise, also provided advice, direction and assistance. This web site can be found at <http://www.uark.edu/depts/mesp/> and contains information on the center, including lists of faculty and courses, programs of study, requirements for MEST majors and minors, and instructions for those applying for scholarships, assistantships, and graduate programs. There are also links to King Fahd Center institutional partners and library resources, such as the Kenneth Brown Collection. On-line copies of the last two issues of the center newsletter are also available. The site is updated on a regular basis each academic year and has received accolades from its simple design and detailed information.

King Fahd Center Newsletter

The fourth edition of *Ilham*, the King Fahd Center's popular newsletter was released in autumn 2005. This issue covers news and events in academic year 2004-2005, plus related course offerings for spring 2006. The King Fahd Center newsletter has become an important source of information and „ambassador' of the King Fahd Center to the US and abroad.

King Fahd Center Institutional Memberships

- ♦ *American Institute of Iranian Studies (Trustee 2005-2006)*
- ♦ *American Institute of Maghrib Studies (Board Member 2005-2006)*
- ♦ *American Research Center in Egypt*

- ♦ *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)*
- ♦ *Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Consortium*
- ♦ *ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)*
- ♦ *Middle East Studies Association*
- ♦ *Muslim Networks Consortium*
- ♦ *National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations*
- ♦ *Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)*
- ♦ *The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII)*

Fahd Center & Middle East Studies Outreach

King Fahd Center affiliated faculty members have continued to maintain strong media relations and other outreach activities at the local, national, and international level. Faculty members gave interviews for local TV network affiliates and newspapers, and have been called upon by national services, as well as international radio and satellite television services. Najib Ghabdian continues to act as a regular analyst for *al-Jazeera*. Tom Paradise is regularly contacted by CNN, NPR, MSNBC and the Gannett News Service regarding contemporary issues on the Middle East oil crisis, North African natural disasters (Pakistan Earthquake) and cultural resource issues throughout the region (Baghdad National Museum looting). Two major international magazines had recent cover stories on Paradise's Jordanian research. *Domenica di Corriere* (Italy's leading national weekly magazine) and *GeoTimes* (Geological Society of America's magazine) interviewed Paradise for his 15 years of research in Petra.

A significant aspect of King Fahd Center outreach is its participation in the national Model Arab League, held every spring in Washington, D.C. Model Arab League Participants in the 2006 University Model Arab League Conference, April 6-9 included Shazene Hussain (MEST), Cole Bockenfeld, (MEST), Nick Robbins, (MEST), Will Myers (PLSC), Sarah Gibson (MEST), Maysa Gayyusi (MEST), Laura Stump (MEST), Shereen Ghori (MEST) and faculty sponsor, Najib Ghabdian. A report on this year's meeting follows:

A Report about National Model Arab League, Washington, DC, April 2005

The Model Arab League (MAL) is sponsored by the National Council for US-Arab Relations and is a forum for college students to experience the behind-the-scenes politics of multinational bodies. MAL is organized in various committees for which member countries provide delegates. These delegates represent the interests of their countries when dealing with issues and problems facing the Arab world. Such issues include: the status of Arab women, educational and environmental concerns, terrorism, keeping the peace among member states, and a variety of other issues in the name of Arab unity. There is always a lively debate in these committees.

The University of Arkansas King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies sponsored the MAL country of the United Arab Emirates in 2005. The Arkansas UAE delegation was led by political science professor Najib Ghabdian. Before the conference,

the delegation met weekly to examine and discuss the political climate in that country. Dr. Ghadbian who taught in the UAE, and a fellow classmate who was a citizen of the UAE provided first-hand information. Each delegate researched his or her topics and wrote resolutions to present at the conference. Cole Bockenfeld, the head delegate of the Arkansas delegation, was interviewed at the conference by Abu Dhabi television. He answered questions on UAE economic policies and outlined the delegation's position on purchasing settlements in the Palestinian occupied territories. He also answered several questions in Arabic. After the conference, the delegation visited the UAE embassy in Washington DC, where they were hosted by several officials.

The Center will continue its commitment to sponsor attendance by UA students at the Model Arab League nationals. This experience has proven very valuable for students seeking to learn more about the Middle East.

Center faculty, in addition to pursuing their ongoing research agendas, also continue to devote scholarly energies to print, on-line publications, and web-sites, including encyclopedias, map projects, and other instructional media designed to reach a broad audience. Also, past-Associate Director and current Interim-Director Tom Paradise continues his *pro bono* cartographic work on the Middle East and North Africa for a number of University Presses, and National and International agencies including the U.S. State Department, UNESCO, University Presses of America (Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Maryland), and Jordan's Royal Geographic Center.

Mullins Library Development

The King Fahd Center continues to budget \$20,000.00 per year to provide books, subscriptions, and other materials for Mullins Library. The same procedures were followed in 2005-2006 as in the previous two years. To be as fair as possible for the needs of all Center-affiliated faculty and their disciplinary interests, each affiliated faculty member was allotted \$800.00 to order library materials for the year. The remaining funds are used to cover journal subscriptions and to pay for occasion windfalls. A recent emphasis has been given to the purchase of books in Judaic Studies outside of Europe and the U.S. MEST-Fahd faculty professor Adler has been particularly helpful in identifying key works of Jewish philosophy and religion.

PROGRAM & CENTER FACULTY

MEST Affiliated Faculty (Fulbright College)

The affiliated faculty of the King Fahd Center presently includes the following faculty members in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences:

1. Charles Adams (Associate Professor of English, Associate Dean of Fulbright College) North Africa in American Literary Culture, North Africa and the Middle East in the Western Imaginary
2. Jacob Adler (Associate Professor of Philosophy) Judaic Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Languages (Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic)
3. Jesse Casana (Assistant Professor of Anthropology) Archaeology of Turkey and the Middle East
4. Lynda Coon (Associate Professor of History) Early Christianity in the Arab world and Mediterranean basin, Late Roman Empire, sainthood in late antiquity, gender and sexuality
5. Rkia Cornell (Research Associate Professor of Foreign Languages) Arabic language pedagogy, Quranic studies, Islam Studies
6. Vincent Cornell (Professor of History and past-Director of the King Fahd Center, Religious Studies Program Chair) Islamic Studies, Islamic Mediterranean and Middle East, Sufism, Islamic law
7. JoAnn D'Alisera (Associate Professor of Anthropology) Islam in Africa, Anthropology of Religion, Muslim transnational communities
8. Najib Ghabbian (Associate Professor of Political Science) Politics of the Arab world, Islamic movements, international politics of the Arabian Gulf
9. Joel Gordon (Associate Professor of History) Modern Middle East, Egypt in the Nasser era, popular culture, Middle East media studies.
10. Hugh Halman (MEST, HUMN Research Assistant Professor of Religious Studies) Islam, Comparative Religions, Gateways to MEST
11. Adnan Haydar (Professor of Arabic) Arabic language pedagogy, comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, oral poetics
12. Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English) Comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, women's studies, Orientalism
13. Thomas Paradise (Professor of Geosciences, Interim Director of the King Fahd Center) Cultural & physical geography, human and natural impacts on cultural and natural resources, architectural deterioration, geography of the Middle East & North Africa
14. Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) Director of the Public Administration graduate program

15. Jerome Rose (Professor, Chair of Anthropology) Biological Anthropology, bio-archaeology, forensic anthropology, archaeology of Jordan and Egypt
16. Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology) Cultural anthropology of the Middle East, social and critical theory
17. William Tucker (Associate Professor of History) Medieval Middle Eastern history, Shiite Islam, history of Islamic world and the Mediterranean
18. Rembrandt Wolpert (Professor of Music, Director of the Center for the Ethnomusicology of Asian and Middle Eastern Music) Chinese and Silk Road musical traditions
- 19.

MEST-Affiliated Faculty (non-Fulbright College)

20. Stephen Sheppard (Associate Professor of Law) International Law, Laws of War and Conflict, Associate Editor (with Vincent Cornell) and Law Advisor for staff of *The Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*
21. Mounir Farah (Professor of Education) Curriculum and development, diplomatic history of the modern Middle East

Faculty Grants, Awards, and Publications

Lynda Coon (HIST) was the recipient of a prestigious National Humanities Fellowship in 2005 and studied at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina.

Jerry Rose (ANTH) and Delores L. Burke published the edited volume, *Sa'ad: A Late Roman/Byzantine Site in North Jordan* (Yarmouk University Publications).

Rkia Cornell's (FLAN) book, *Early Sufi Women*, was translated into Indonesian as *Sufi Sufi Wanita* (Indonesia: Pustaka Hidaya). She also published "Rabi'ah al-Adawiyyah c720-801", in *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 311: Arabic Literary Culture, 500-925*, (Cooperson & Toorawa: editors), Thomson & Gale Publishers, 2005.

Vince Cornell (HIST) has departed as Center Director to accept a position as the endowed chair of History at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Najib Ghabbian (PLSC) presented before the US State Department and continues to do political analyses on Al-Jazeera and Al-Hurra television news networks. In addition Dr. Ghabbian, Joel Gordon (HIST) and Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) ran a bi-weekly forum on current affairs in the Middle East as "Diwan Baghdad". The forum was well-attended and was held from September 2005 through April 2006. It is anticipated that they will continue with this important service to the Fayetteville and campus community.

Joel Gordon (HIST), just finished a new book Nasser: Hero of the Arab Nation, which will be published in the fall by Oneworld Publications. Professor Gordon also presented an invited lecture at Tennessee Tech University, (February 2006) titled "Cairo Station"

Hugh Halman (MEST) received a Fulbright Teaching Award for 2005 at Universitas Islam Negeri (State Islamic University) Jakarta, Indonesia.

Adnan Haydar (FLAN) received Arkansas' "Apple Teaching Award" for excellence in teaching. Professor Haydar directed, developed, and taught at the Arabic Language Institute "BAALI" in Beirut, Lebanon (Summer 2005) with seven MEST students participating. Professor Haydar Also conducted translation research at the Bellagio Study Center in Italy (Fall 2005) on "*The Mihyar Poems by Adonis (Ali Ahmed Said)*" and "*The Hamimiyat (Intimate Poems)*" by Henri Zoghaib, which will soon appear in a tri-lingual publication.

Mohja Kahf (ENG) will soon release her new novel, The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf (Avalon Publishing), about growing up Muslim in Indiana in the 1970s. She also presented papers on her research writings at the University of Michigan's Center for Arab American Studies (Dearborn), UCLA's Near Eastern Studies Department, and at the University of Wisconsin's Middle East Studies Program. Professor Kahf was also an organizer of the first national conference of RAWI (Radius of Arab American Writers) at Hunter College NYC (Summer 2005).

Tom Paradise (GEOS) published the opening chapter of the Geologic Society of America's (GSA) new book Stone Architecture & Deterioration on the classical architecture of Petra, Jordan. Professor Paradise is also an editor and contributor to the upcoming Encyclopedia of Culture & Society having written the chapters "Algeria", "Morocco", "Tunisia", "Libya" and "Egypt", and well as chapters in the Encyclopedia of the Environment: "US Mining Law of 1872", "OPEC", "US Department of the Interior", "Mining", "US Bureau of Reclamation", "US Geological Survey" and the "US Antiquities Law of 1906" (Facts on File 2006). Also, Paradise's leading-edge research on Islam, risk behavior and earthquakes are soon to be published in a series of papers in the International Journal of Environmental Hazards (Elsevier), and the Journal of North African Studies (Taylor & Francis). Paradise is also a regular consultant to NHNZ, the

primary documentary producers for the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, TLC, National Geographic, PBS (US), NHK (Japan), France 5 and NDR (Germany) networks.

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) presented an invited lecture at Tennessee Tech University, (February 2006) titled *"Rock 'n' Roll, Feminists, and Gay Pickups in Yusuf Chahine's"*. In addition, his lecture *"Rai Music in France"* was presented at the workshop "Sounds from la Cité: Franco-Maghrebi Music" at the University of Chicago (October 2005). Professor Swedenburg also served as a reviewer of Middle East National Resource Centers and Title VI Council (USDOE January 2006). The council oversees all DOE applications and disbursements for ALL of the major Middle East Centers in the US.

Bill Tucker (HIST) recently finished two new sections for the Encyclopedia of Medieval Islamic Civilization: "Floods" and "Weather" (Routledge 2006).

Rembrandt Wolpert, Elizabeth Markham (MUS), and Bo Lowergren (MUS) presented a section on "Buddhist Music from India to Japan" at a colloquium on early sacred music in Lisbon, Portugal in summer 2005.

These and other MEST faculty members also published articles in leading journals in Middle East Studies or their respective disciplines. They delivered papers and participated in major international conferences and workshops, and served on the editorial boards of leading journals and the governing boards of leading scholarly organizations.

Faculty Development Support

MEST continues to support faculty development. Because of the continuing budget crisis, faculty development accounts for 2005-2006 will remain at the reduced level of \$2,000.00. Chairs of committees with heavy time commitments, such as the Center Director, Associate Director, and Chair of the Publications and Translation Award Committee, will receive supplements to their development accounts commensurate with the extra time necessary to carry out their duties.

Affiliated faculty members may now apply to the King Fahd Center office for funding directly (if monies are available) through the submission of a detailed proposal and budget, to fully or partially support, or facilitate research or conference participation. Faculty formats will require more detail than the requirements for student proposal submission, with proposal plan from 10-20 pages in addition to fully justified budgets. Similar thesis and dissertation proposals submitted and funded by the Center in the past two years have proved to be 100% effective and more cost-effective (than a full

assistance). Of the seven students funded in the past, with an average grant of \$4500, all seven graduate students used the support to conduct their proposed research, ultimately completing their thesis/dissertation and their degree program. This has proved to be a winning combination – for an amount equaling only a third of the MEST assistance amount, the student becomes invested in his/her research as all levels and develops a stronger sense of involvement without entitlement. The task of proposal-writing alone can help all researchers sort out their needs, methods, and potential problems. The task of proposal-writing is also an excellent filter for those seeking support without a defined direction or method (see Appendix). It is hoped that this type of conventional proposal submission will become a standard procedure of most MEST-Fahd funding opportunities in the future, except the diminishing number of department assistantships that will continue.

The funds to be used for proposal funding are contingent upon the application of affiliated faculty members for funding through the Graduate College first. Also, the King Fahd Center will continue to provide support for MEST graduate students (or those in related research) to present papers at regional, national, or international conferences whenever possible. The Center will also provide funding support for visiting scholars to attend professional conferences when applicable.

Faculty Committees (2005-2006)

As part of their participation in the program, MEST-Fahd core faculty members are assigned to serve on at least one committee. Committee assignments are changed for each new academic year. The latest committee assignments from 2005-2006 were as follows:

1. Executive Committee: V. Cornell, Paradise, and Adams
2. Publications and Translation Award: Haydar (Chair), V. Cornell, Paradise,
3. Outreach: TBA
4. Arabic: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Paradise, Haydar, Joan Turner (FLAN Chair)
5. Undergraduate Awards: V. Cornell (chair), Adler, Casana, Halman
6. Graduate Awards: V. Cornell (chair), Paradise, D'Alisera, Rose
7. Web Site and Newsletter: Paradise (chair), R. Cornell, V. Cornell, Suz Wall (MEST administrative assistant), Nani Verzon (MEST student representative)

Faculty Advising

Center faculty members are assigned as advisers to MEST majors. Whenever possible, they are assigned students who are pursuing second majors in their departments or in related fields. Each faculty member advises approximately four to five MEST majors. The faculty members meet with their advisees each semester to

ensure adequate progress through the major and to help the students devise a coherent course of study. Tracking sheets are now available to help keep the MEST program informed of advising decisions.

SUMMARY

With the recent departure of past Director Vince Cornell, the King Fahd Center and the Middle East Studies Program is at an important crossroads. As similar programs across the US excel in conventional concentrations on politics, Arabic language and/or regional culture, this might be the ideal time to invest in our future by examining our own unique resources in expertise and capability. Ignoring our distinctive strengths is unwise, so it is hoped that the Center can utilize these assets by offering graduate assistantships and supported research to all Fulbright departments and not just those previously favored. Like other prominent American programs or centers at universities like Georgetown, Michigan, or Texas, these programs have traditional emphases that target political and cultural landscapes. Even though our program is developing a strong reputation in these fields, we are overlooking some of our brightest students and faculty and their innovative research in other fields that have related regional foci. With emerging fields such as natural resource management (water), cultural heritage (historic preservation), art history and the performing arts, our Program could become the only one of its kind in the US to have these promising regional studies in our Program. In addition, in tandem with our growing Arabic Program, we would be broadening our Middle East language base to include Farsi (Persian) and Turkish – all in the hopes of affording new study and research opportunities here and abroad.

As our graduate programs become increasingly filled with international students in need of leading-edge theoretical and technical training and expertise, we could also be supporting similar research overseas in these significant fields that offer groundbreaking research and innovative grant opportunities – not to become the best in Arkansas, but in the US.

Overall student enrollment in MEST or MEST-related classes is strong and participation in MEST-related activities is healthy. The sponsored lecture by Danielle Culpepper, for example, on Venetian-Constantinople warfare and politics was attended by more than 150-200 students and faculty (on a Thursday afternoon). Also, MEST classes show an increase in enrollment; Geography of the Middle East & North Africa (GEOG 4033), was first offered in 2001 with 12 students, now sees enrollment from thirty to fifty students. Lectures, art exhibits, forums, and concerts sponsored by the Fahd Center are increasingly anticipated, and well-attended, while camaraderie amongst MEST majors, minors and graduate students is at a new high.

Although the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies has been severely affected by university budgetary restraints in the past, students in and/or supported by the Middle East Program and Fahd Center continue to excel in their studies, research and activities, while our affiliated faculty continue to create and teach

a creative and germane curriculum, conduct related outreach, and carry out important and relevant research. Moreover, local, regional, national and international visibility continues to grow as our reputation as an up-and-coming Middle East research and informational center matures. It is essential that we continue to mold a core of Middle East, Mediterranean and Islamic scholars that continue to create a dynamic nucleus for research, outreach and service, grant-writing, and teaching, and we are on course.

APPENDIX

King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment

***Fiscal Year 2005-2006
(due date: May 1st each year)***

Name: _____

Department: _____

Rank: _____

I. Teaching Activities

- A. Middle East or Islamic Studies courses taught during year (give course number, name, enrollment and evidence of teaching effectiveness, e.g., Purdue item 200: "Overall, this instructor is among the best teachers I have known.")
- B. Most recent year in which you have taught MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003).
- C. Most recent year in which you have taught Gateways to the Middle East (MEST 2013).
- D. Individual Instruction
 - List MEST majors or graduate students directed in independent study courses
 - List honors' theses directed
 - List honors' thesis committees
 - List master's thesis committees
 - List master's theses directed (list student names)
 - List doctoral dissertation committeesNames of students defending dissertations during year:
- E. Advising
 - Program Advising:
 - List names of MEST majors advised
 - List names of graduate students advised
 - Other advising activities
- F. Curriculum Development (new courses created and/or taught, projects or areas where you helped to strengthen or develop curricula or courses in MEST).
- G. Honors, awards, and activities not mentioned above:

II. Service

- A. MEST-related lectures, seminars, and forums
- B. Visiting speakers recruited
- C. MEST Committee participation
- D. Student recruitment (majors and graduate students)

- E. MEST-related extra curricular activities organized and conducted (MAL, Arabic Speech Contest, etc.)
- F. MEST-related study-abroad programs directed or conducted
- G. Program development activities
- H. MEST-related University or College service activities (study-abroad fair/honors activities, etc.)
- I. Outreach activities and media interviews
- J. List contributions to King Fahd Center Newsletter

III. Research, Scholarly, Artistic, Creative Activities

- A. Current project(s)
- B. Grant proposals submitted (title of project, funding agency, annual and total dollar amounts requested, role of faculty member):
- C. Grant proposals submitted with MEST participation (title of project, funding agency, annual and total dollar amounts requested, role of faculty member):
- D. Grants awarded (title of project, funding agency, period of support, annual and total dollar amounts, role of faculty member):
- E. Grant proposals awarded with MEST participation (title of project, funding agency, annual and total dollar amounts requested, role of faculty member):
- F. Refereed publications or equivalent creative activities:
 - Creative/artistic activities (list type of activity, location, dates, and audience):
 - Work published during year (give full citation):
 - Work accepted for publication (title, publisher, anticipated date of publication):
- G. Contributions solicited and published in edited collections, anthologies, encyclopedias, or conference proceedings.
- H. Non-refereed reports and publications or non-juried creative endeavors (give full citations):
- I. Papers presented at professional meetings (indicate invited or refereed papers and give title and dates):

Comments:

KING FAHD CENTER FACULTY FUNDING APPLICATION

amount requested \$ _____

You must check the boxes appropriate to your funding request:

TRAVEL: research only conference presentation conference attendance only
RESEARCH: exploratory continuation assistance materials & supplies

name _____ department & position _____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project timetable _____

Only applications with the following attachments will be considered for funding:

- completed proposal (see guidelines below)*
- proposal bibliography
- itemized budget
- budget justification
- condensed résumé of applicant (2-3 pages)**

* Unless this funding application is for conference travel only, all other proposals must include a project proposal that includes an abstract, introduction, study site description, methods involved, a review of prior research, anticipated results and conclusions, cited references and possible venues for the publication of findings roughly 8-12 pages (16 pages max). In addition, a project budget and justification must be included.

** Each applicant must include a résumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than \$5,000, recent publications, presentations, exhibitions and/or recitals (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.

All completed funding requests must be submitted to the King Fahd Center (Old Main #202) by February 5, 2007 (3pm) for the spring semester, or September 15, 2007 (3pm) for the fall semester. Any late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

We all look forward to receiving your application for funding with Arkansas' King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies – thank you.

excellent examples of proposal-writing formats and suggestions:

http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art_of_writing_proposals.page
<http://www.research.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
http://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/proposal_dev_how_to_write.html
http://www.meaning.ca/articles/print/writing_research_proposal_may02.htm
http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_res/how_to_thesis_proposal.html

KING FAHD CENTER STUDENT FUNDING APPLICATION

amount requested \$ _____

You must check the boxes appropriate to your funding request:

TRAVEL: research only conference presentation conference attendance only
RESEARCH: exploratory continuation assistance materials & supplies

name _____ department & position _____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project timetable _____

Only applications with the following attachments will be considered for funding:

- completed proposal (see guidelines below)*
- proposal bibliography
- itemized budget
- budget justification
- condensed résumé of applicant (2-3 pages)**

* Unless this funding application is for conference travel only, all other proposals must include a project proposal that includes an abstract, introduction, study site description, methods involved, a review of prior research, anticipated results and conclusions, cited references and possible venues for the publication of findings roughly 4-8 pages (10 pages max). In addition, a project budget and justification must be included.

** Each applicant must include a résumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than \$5,000, recent publications, presentations, exhibitions and/or recitals (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.

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excellent examples of proposal-writing formats and suggestions:

http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art_of_writing_proposals.page
<http://www.research.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
http://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/proposal_dev_how_to_write.html
http://www.meaning.ca/articles/print/writing_research_proposal_may02.htm
http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_res/how_to_thesis_proposal.html