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ANNUAL REPORT:
KING FAHD CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST & ISLAMIC STUDIES
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM

Submitted by
Joel Gordon, Professor of History and Director of Middle East & Islamic Studies

July 2010

OVERVIEW

The King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies is an interdisciplinary program in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, dedicated to the study of the Middle East and the geo-cultural area in which Islamic civilization prospered, and continues to shape world history.

Faculty members associated with the Center are rooted in degree-granting departments in Fulbright College and the broader University of Arkansas. We specialize in history and politics, literature and popular culture, religious and secular practice and interpretation, human engagement with the environment and ecosystem in contemporary times and antiquity. We work in diverse media: poetry and fiction, public archives, film and music, television and oratory, curricular instruction and cartography, the detritus of the past and the cultural production, classical and colloquial, artistic and vulgar, of the present.

The Center offers an undergraduate co-major linked to regional language study and supports the best of our undergrads with scholarships. Many of our undergraduates go on to graduate study in area studies programs and related professional work in public and private spheres. At the graduate level the Center supports students working in key disciplines towards the MA and PhD. Our graduate students have received highly competitive fellowships to support research and foreign language study, and have presented their work at annual professional meetings and specialized academic conferences. Many are now teaching at academic institutions here and abroad – ‘research one’ universities, metropolitan universities and liberal arts colleges – and are affiliated with research institutes or government agencies.

The Center is currently under new leadership, with the appointment of Joel Gordon, Professor of History as Director for a four-year term. Tom Paradise, Professor of Geography, who had served for three years as Interim Director, served the past academic year as Associate Director to help ease the transition. Suz Wall, the Center's Administrative Assistant since 2000 retired at the end of the current academic year. Mahfuza Akhtar, who moved up to Old Main 202 when the Administrative Assistant moved to the first floor office in Old Main 104, continues to serve as assistant to the program. Future staffing needs are currently being discussed.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

During AY 09-10 the program counted approximately 50 undergraduate co-majors and 13 minors (students continue to enroll on a rolling basis throughout the semester and some have recently graduated). These numbers demonstrate steady growth over recent years. We had forty-one co-majors in AY 2008-09, up from thirty-six in AY 07-08, and twenty-eight in 06-07. The number of minors has also grown, from fifteen in AY 08-09 and twelve in AY 07-08, ten in AY 06-07, and only five the previous year. MEST graduated ten co-majors in May 2009, and 6 co-majors and 1 minors this AY 09-10.

The same can be reported for student grade point average, which has been climbing as well. Newly admitted MEST majors carry a GPA between 3.7 and 4.0, whereas in previous years the numbers were generally between 3.1 and 3.5. The cohort in AY 08-09 carried a mean GPA of 3.5, up from 3.3 in the previous year. The number of co-majors who are Honors students has also been increasing, from 10 in AY 07-08 to 15 in AY 08-09.

During AY 09-10 the Center supported 7 undergraduate students with fellowships of \$6000 per year. 2 of these students graduated in May 2010. In the upcoming academic year (AY 10-11) the Center will support 6 students at the 'full' (\$6000) level; two additional students will receive partial funding (\$3600).

Students funded during AY 2009-10

Stewart Bailey (IR/MEST), Cory Ellis (IR/MEST), Ayumi Fukashima (IR/MEST), Robert Hintz (HIST/MEST), Lynnsey Molinaro (ANTH/MEST), Gary Noel (IR/MEST), J Eric Webb (PLSC/MEST). Ellis and Webb graduated in May 2010.

Students funded for summer research AY 2009-10

Lynnsey Molinaro (archaeological field school, Syria)
Bilal Ziada (archaeological field school, Syria)

Students being funded for AY 2010-11

Stewart Bailey (IR/MEST), Andie Duplantis (GEOS/MEST), Ayumi Fukushima (IR/MEST), Grace Henderson (GEOS/MEST), Robert Hintz (HIST/MEST, partial), Lynnsey Molinaro (ANTH/MEST, partial), Bilal Ziada (ANTH/MEST).

GRADUATE STUDENTS

During AY 09-10 the Center supported 14 graduate assistants at the 50% assistantship level with stipends of \$11,600 (one student relinquished his assistantship mid-year; another received a half year of research support). Of these, three students graduated during AY 09-10. Two formerly funded students will continue thesis research with prestigious national awards. In the coming academic year (AY 10-11) the Center will fund 15 students, 7 of whom are newly funded (of these 4 are new to the university), and one of whom will be returning from a research year abroad that was funded through external sources.

Graduate assistantships are spread among affiliated departments as follows:
Anthropology/5; Comparative Literature/3; Environmental Dynamics/1; Geosciences /2;
History/5; Political Science/2; Public Policy/1.

Graduate Students funded for AY 2009-10 were:

Chris Angel (ENDY), Ryan Cochran (GEOS), Banan al-Daraiseh (CLIT), Lama Hamoudi (CLIT), Eric Jensen (ANTH), Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH), Taylor Montgomery (ANTH), Raza Naeem (HIST, 1 semester), Matt Parnell (HIST, 1 semester), Jennaleigh Petersen (ANTH), Simon Reid (GEOS), Asaad al-Saleh (CLIT), Laila Taraghi (PLSC), Golsa Yaghoobi-Rahmatabadi (HIST)

Of these, the PhD/MA breakdown is 10 PhD (Angel, al-Daraiseh, Hamoudi, Jensen, Morton-Jerome, Montgomery, Naeem, Parnell, al-Saleh, Yaghoobi-Rahmatabadi) and 4 (Cochran, Petersen, Reid, Taraghi) students.

Graduate Student Research Awards AY 2009-10

Ahmet Akturk (HIST), PhD research in Turkey (\$3000 for AY 09-10)
Chris Angel (GEOS), Arabic in Morocco (\$3000 for summer 10)
Amy Karoll (ANTH), archaeological field school in Syria (\$1000 for Summer 10)
Matt Parnell (HIST), Arabic in Egypt (\$6000 for Fall 09)
Laila Taraghi (PLSC), Arabic in Lebanon (\$3000 for Summer 10)
Anna Weiser (ANTH), archaeological field school in Syria (\$1000 for Summer 10)

Of these, the PhD/MA breakdown is 3 PhD (Akturk, Angel, Parnell) and 3 MA (Karoll, Taraghi, Weiser) students.

In addition, the King Fahd Center supported travel to the Midwest Modern Language Association for Banan al-Daraiseh and Asaad al-Saleh (CLIT), both PhD students who were presenting papers.

Graduate Students to be funded in AY 2010-11 are:

Ahmet Akturk (HIST), Chris Angel (ENDY), Kaveh Basiri (MFA/Tran), Seth Billingsley (PLSC), Sarah Chapman (ANTH), Ryan Cochran (GEOS), Travis Curtice (PLSC), Banan al-Daraiseh (CLIT), Lama Hamoudi (CLIT), Sarah Hudson (CLIT, 1 semester), Sonia Kapoor (PubPoL), Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH), Taylor Montgomery (ANTH), Anna Weiser (ANTH), Golsa Yaghoobi-Rahmatabadi (HIST)

Of these, the PhD/MA breakdown is 8 PhD (Akturk, Angel, al-Daraiseh, Hamoudi, Kapoor, Morton-Jerome, Montgomery, Yaghoobi-Rahmatabadi) and 7 MA (Basiri, Billingsley, Chapman, Cochran, Curtice, Hudson, Weiser) students.

BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

The original endowment continues to suffer from the downturn in the stock market, a fact that has necessitated a more conservative approach to budgetary allocations. Whereas the original \$20 million dollar endowment had grown to more than \$30 million by 2007-08, this number plunged dramatically thereafter. The projected earnings from the endowment were \$1,159,003 for AY 08-09 and \$1,094,352 for AY 09-10.

Throughout this downturn, fixed budgetary commitments, primarily faculty/staff salaries and benefits, continue to climb (albeit not as much as they might have in a healthier economy). The Center budgeted \$434,963 in AY 08-09, and \$ 448,011 in AY 09-10 for these expenditures. This represents nearly half of the operating budget.

Nonetheless, without reducing funding opportunities or the amounts allocated to graduate and undergraduate students, the Center was able to increase faculty development allotments to Core MEST faculty from \$3000 in AY 08-09 to \$3500 in AY 09-10. This amount will should remain consistent in the coming year (when most faculty members arrived at this university the faculty development allotment was \$5000). Substantial savings were incurred with full payment of a \$250,000 debt owed the Dean's Office (for substantial overspending in the mid-2000s) and with the termination of a lease on an apartment rented (but rarely utilized by MEST) that ran approximately \$18,000 annually in prior years.

The budget for AY 09-10 included the following categories (matched with prior year allotments).

Income Generated from Endowment = 1,094,352 (projected)

Faculty/Staff Salaries – 448,011
Faculty/Staff Benefits – 108,491
Miscellaneous Salary Adjustments – 5000
Faculty R&D Funds – 35,500
Graduate Assistant Salaries/Benefits – 162,000
Undergraduate Scholarships – 42,000
Archaeological Field Schools – 20,000
Study Abroad – 10,000
Graduate Research Award – 7800
Graduate Conference Travel – 2000
Undergraduate Travel Award – 1500
Speakers/Events – 12,000
Library Purchases – 10,000
Organizational Memberships – 4000
Maintenance Funding – 11,000
UPS 1000
Miscellaneous – 4,000

The tentative total expenditures of \$ 884,302, subtracted from 1,094,352, left a projected surplus of \$210,050, in keeping with advice from the Deans Office of Fulbright College to maintain a comfortable cushion.

Actual Spending AY 2009-10 (where substantially different from projected allotments)

GA Salaries/Benefits: 147,600
Graduate Research Awards: 8,000
Undergraduate Study Abroad: 2,100
Undergraduate Travel: 0
Visiting Speakers: 6,491

Notes

1) Faculty salaries/benefits include salaries for Paula Haydar, full-time Arabic Instructor and 3 adjunct instructors: Spencer Allen (MEST 410V, History of Jesus and Paul, Fall 09), Ramin Rezakhani (MEST 410V, Persia/Iran: Geography-History-Language, Fall 09) and Yulia Uryadova (History 3033, Islamic Civilization, Spring 10) .

2) Graduate Assistant numbers reflect \$12,000 per student x 12 students full year, \$6000 for one student research award for Fall 09 (Matt Parnell), \$6000 for one student who completed only one semester (Raza Naem).

3) Undergraduate numbers reflect \$6000 per student x 7 students

4) Archaeological field school numbers reflect 2 x \$10,000 for programs in Egypt and Syria directed by Professors Rose and Casana

5) Undergraduate summer study abroad numbers reflect support set aside for MEST majors for summer programs via the Study Abroad Office. Support generally ranges from 1500-2000 per student for MEST majors with at least 1 semester + summer, or 2 semesters. Current numbers reflect support for 2 students (Lynnsey Molinaro and Bilal Ziada). The category of undergraduate travel covers supplemental funding for student overflow from Study Abroad, which is usually \$500 maximum. None was allocated this year.

6) Library purchases have generally been allocated at \$20,000 per year. See below (under Mullins Library for cost cutting in periodicals). Since there was a substantial surplus left over from AY 2008-09, only \$10,000 was projected for this past AY.

7) Maintenance includes phone, supplies, post, copying, office equipment and purchases from campus book/computer stores.

Summary: Final projected readings as of 6/22/2010 show a surplus of \$305, 373.23, which will provide the King Fahd Center with a significant surplus to utilize for more aggressive programming, as well as a comfortable cushion to protect against what remains a dangerous, volatile market.

Budget – Literature/Translation

The King Fahd Center maintains a second, smaller budget allocated for expenses related to translation and literary endeavors. This budget supports the Arkansas translation award (prize money, judging fees, advertising), the Arabic speech contest, related speakers and events such as the sponsorship of the special session at this year's Vis Musicae.

The projected endowment at the start of AY 09-10 was \$1,964,024. This provided an a projected available fund of \$274,588.

The current size of the endowment is approximately \$2, 133,000, which will provide a projected available fund of \$379, 171.

CURRICULUM

MEST Core Faculty

Core MEST Faculty members are full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty members whose salaries are paid in full or in part by the King Fahd Center, plus several full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty members and a full-time instructor who make substantial contributions to the MEST curriculum/program through teaching and mentoring students.

Jesse Casana (Associate Professor of Anthropology): Archaeology of the Ancient Orient and Medieval Near East, Cultural Heritage Preservation

Mounir Farah (Professor of Curriculum and Instruction): Pedagogy and Curriculum Development, Educational Reform, Social Sciences, US-Middle East Relations

Najib Ghadbian (Associate Professor of Political Science): Arab World Politics and International Relations, Islamic Movements

Joel Gordon (Professor of History, Director King Fahd Center): History of the Modern Middle East, Popular Culture, Film and Media

Adnan Haydar (Professor of Foreign Languages): Arabic Language Pedagogy, Comparative Literature, Middle East Literature, Arab Poetics, Translation Theory

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Foreign Languages): Arabic Language Pedagogy, Comparative Literature, Translation Theory, Modern Arabic Literature

Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English): Comparative Literature, Pre-modern Islamicate Literature, Modern Arab/Islamic/Diaspora Literature

Thomas Paradise (Professor of Geography): Cultural and Physical Geography of the Middle East and North Africa, Cartography, Natural/Cultural Resource and Architectural Management/Preservation

Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology): Biological Anthropology, Bio-Archaeology, Forensic Archaeology

Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology): Cultural Anthropology of the Middle East/Islamic World, Popular Culture, Social and Critical Theory

Courses Taught AY 2009-10

Faculty members are currently able to teach 12-15 undergraduate and combined undergraduate-graduate courses across the core disciplines per semester. Those numbers will rise with the addition of new historian of Islamic history, a replacement position that has just been granted the History Department and for which a search will be held during the coming academic year.

Summer 09: FLAN 398V (Arabic-Eastern Dialect), PLSC 352, WLIT 3893 (Quran)

Fall 09: ANTH 4123, ARAB 1016 (2 sections), ARAB 3016, ARAB 4023, ARAB 470V, GEOG 4033, HIST 3923H (Social Bandits), MEST 2013, MEST 410V (Jesus and Paul), MEST 410V (Persia/Iran), PLSC 5523, WLIT 575V

Spring 2010: ANTH 3033, ANTH 3123, ANTH 4533, ARAB 2016 (2 sections), ARAB 4016, ARAB 4033, ARAB 470V, HIST 3033, HIST 4363, MEST 4003, PLSC 4843, WLIT 3893 (Literature of Spain 711-1609)

Summer 2010: PLSC 4593, WLIT 3983/603V (Quran), WLLC (FLAN) 398V (Arabic-Eastern Dialect)

Major/Minor Requirements and Courses

University-wide curriculum changes created in 2004 and implemented in 2005 were added to the Catalog of Studies in 2007-08. For MEST undergraduate co-majors the key changes were the addition of Islamic Civilization (HIST 3003) and Geography of the Middle East/North Africa (GEOG 4033) as options, along with MEST 2013 (renamed Introduction to Islamic Studies), for fulfilling major requirements.

MEST co-majors are required to complete 30 hours of course work. This includes at least one from the following courses – MEST 2013, HIST 3003, GEOS 4033 – plus 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement, plus 9 hours in one MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies), plus 9 hours in a second MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies), plus the MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003).

MEST minors are required to complete 18 hours of course work. This includes the MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003), 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement, plus 9 hours of MEST courses in one or more disciplines.

The list of MEST-affiliated courses at this time follows:

ANTH 3033 Egyptology
ANTH 3123 Anthropology of Religion
ANTH 4123 Ancient Middle East
ANTH 4256 Archaeological Field Session
ANTH 4513 African Religions
ANTH 4533 Middle East Cultures
ANTH 4913 Topics in the Middle East
ARAB 4213 Introduction to Arab Culture
ECON 4533 Comparative Economic Systems
GEOG 2003 World Regional Geography
GEOG 4033/4033H Geography of the Middle East and North Africa
GEOG 410V Middle East and North African Resources
HIST 3033 Islamic Civilizations
HIST 3043 History of the Modern Middle East
HIST 3473 Modern Palestine/Israel
HIST 4353 Middle East 600-1500
HIST 4373 Mongols and Mamluks
HIST 4393 Ottoman Empire and Iran 1300-1722
HIST 4363 Middle East since 1914
HIST 4413 New Women in the Middle East
HIST 4433 Social and Cultural History of the Modern Middle East
HIST 4443 Modern Islamic Thought

HUMN 2213 Introduction to World Religions
HUMN 425V Colloquium (approved topics)
MEST 2003 Islam in Theory and Practice
MEST 2013 Introduction to Islamic Studies
MEST 4003/H MEST Colloquium
MEST 410V Special Topics
PLSC 3523 Politics of the Middle East
PLSC 3813 International Law
PLSC 4583 Political Economy of the Middle East
PLSC 4593 Islam and Politics
PLSC 4843 Middle East in World Affairs
WLIT 3983/603V Special Studies (approved topics)

Notes:

1) MEST core faculty have examined the above list in light of far-reaching curriculum review across campus and proposed a small number of emendations to this list, paring primarily those courses that do not have dominant MEST content. Such proposals will go before the Fulbright College curriculum committee.

2) MEST 2013, Introduction to Middle East Studies, was formally renamed (from Gateways to the Middle East) during AY 09-10 to keep in line with other area studies offerings on campus. The course will be offered by faculty members on rotation and occasionally by advanced graduate students who are particularly well versed in interdisciplinary approaches to area studies.

3) MEST 4003, designed as a capstone colloquium for all undergraduate majors is offered every Spring semester, taught by a member of the MEST faculty who offers a topics course that matches area/research specialization. During AY 09-10, Professor Najib Ghabbian (PLSC) offered a course on Government and Politics in Syria. In Spring 2011, Professor Mohja Kahf (CLIT) will offer the colloquium.

4) Arabic Program: The relationship between the King Fahd Center and the Arabic program housed in the Foreign Languages department remains critical at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Arabic courses are currently taught by two faculty members: Adnan Haydar, Professor of Foreign Languages, and Paula Haydar, Instructor of Foreign languages, who is hired by the Center. Adnan Haydar teaches 9 credit hours per semester (in addition, he supervised four independent studies, one graduate teaching assistant, one undergraduate honors thesis, and served on one dissertation committee in Comparative Literature. Paula Haydar teaches 12 hours per semester. This year the total number of Arabic students was 173 (96 Fall, 77 Spring, 10 Summer 2009). Together, they advise students on study abroad options and have been increasingly successful in preparing both graduate and undergraduates to compete successfully for outside funding for Arabic study, especially for the Critical Languages Program sponsored by the US State Department. They also organize an annual Arabic Speech Contest, held in conjunction with other language programs at the University of Arkansas, an event the

King Fahd Center co-sponsors. During the summer of 2009 they developed a course in Lebanese Colloquial Arabic, a course designed to supplement the Modern Standard coursework for students with at least one year of language study. The course is being offered again in Summer 2010.

5) History Search: In November 2009 the History Department was authorized to open a search for an historian of the pre-modern Middle East and Islamic World. The position was not filled, but has been reauthorized and the search will recommence at the beginning of the Fall semester. The position was held for many years by William Tucker, who retired at the end of AY 2007-08, and who offered two upper-division courses during AY 2008-09. The position is of the utmost importance to the History Department curriculum, and particularly ongoing graduate training in modern Middle East history. It is also critical to an area studies program. As Professor's Joel Gordon (Director of the King Fahd Center) and Lynda Coon (Chair of the History Department) wrote in their position justification to Dean William Schwab: "Simply put, early and classical Islam and Islamic history is vital to any program that claims to embrace Middle East and Islamic studies. Without this position, given our faculty profile, we cannot begin to address the historical, cultural, religious milieu out of which the modern Middle East emerged. This holds just as true for the undergrad co-major (we lose 4 key historical classes plus special topics) as for the graduates."

FACULTY NEWS

Jesse Casana (Associate Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Casana was awarded a \$310,000 grant from the NASA Space Archaeology Program in conjunction with two colleagues in Geosciences (Jackson Cothren and Jason Tullis). The grant will support research using CORONA satellite imagery and other environmental remote sensing datasets to map the distribution of archaeological sites in relation to spatial patterning of environmental variability across the northern Fertile Crescent (encompassing Lebanon, Syria, southern Turkey and northern Iraq). The project will run for 3 years, beginning July 2010.

Professor Casana co-authored 5 articles in 2009-10 in the Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology; Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy, SAA Archaeological Record, and 2 publications in Studia Orontica. He presented papers at annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) in New Orleans, the International Conference on Archaeology of the Ancient Near East at the British Museum in London, and presented a paper at the Joukowsky Institute of Archaeology at Brown University.

In addition to the CORONA project, funded by NASA, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies, Professor Casana continues to co-direct excavations and the regional survey project at Tell Qarqur in the Orontes Valley of western Syria. In the summer of 2009 and again 2010 he directed a five-week excavation and field school, at which 5 University of Arkansas students (3 grads/2

undergrads) attended, 4 of whom were sponsored by the King Fahd Center. He is also director of the Dubai Desert Survey, a project focusing on the history of settlement in the inland desert regions of Dubai, UAE. This past academic year the primary focus of the project entailed working with Emirati officials to create a museum to house finds from sites under excavation.

Professor Casana's graduate students made their mark at various academic venues. Jason Hermann presented papers at the ASOR meeting and the International Conference on Archaeology of the Ancient Near East; Tuna Kalayci presented a poster at the ASPRS annual meeting and delivered an invited lecture at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA; Anna Weiser presented a paper at the Geological Society of America Southeastern Regional meeting. Jason Hermann continued work on his Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation. DeShea Rigg was awarded a \$1000 Biblical Archaeological Society scholarship; Anna Wieser was awarded a Doolittle Fellowship to attend the ASOR meetings. Graduate students Wieser and Amy Karoll, along with undergraduates Lynnsey Molinaro and Bilal Ziada were awarded research awards from the King Fahd Center to support their participation at the Tell Qarqur field school during Summer 2010.

Mounir Farah (Professor of Curriculum and Instruction)

Professor Farah is currently advising 6 PhD students from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Yemen who are conducting studies on various aspects of educational development in their home countries. Another student from Gaza has just been admitted to the program and will begin his studies this coming Fall term. In November 2009, 1 of his students presented a paper on the educational system in Kuwait at the annual meeting of the International Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies, held in Atlanta. During AY 2009-10 he taught 2 graduate courses for future teachers – Method of Teaching Social Studies and Teaching Multicultural Issues – in which he included topics relating to the Middle East and North Africa, Islam, Arab- and Muslim-Americans. He also assisted teaching interns in Northwest Arkansas who are teaching units on the Middle East.

At Professor Farah's initiative, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction regularly hosts scholars from the Middle East who come to campus to pursue research and take special courses. During Summer and Fall 2009 the Department of Curriculum and Instruction hosted two professors from the University of Tanta in Egypt who conducted research in curriculum and instruction, one of them with an emphasis on special education. This summer the Department is hosting a professor from Saudi Arabia who will focus on math curriculum development; this coming Fall term the program will host a Ford Scholar from Egypt who will specialize in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL).

Professor Farah delivered a keynote address to 200 Arkansas teachers at the University of Central Arkansas and participated in a conference on Teaching the Middle East in Social Studies, in August 2009. In November 2009 he attended the annual meeting of the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies, as a board member and participant, held in Little

Rock; he represented the International Assembly at the annual meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies in Atlanta; and he attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association and the Middle East Outreach Council in Boston. During May and June 2010 he traveled to the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Syria for a series of meetings with academic and government officials engaged in educational research and policymaking. Closer to home, in April 2010 he spoke to the Great Decision Group of Greater Fayetteville on Challenges facing the Persian Gulf.

Professor Farah is General Editor of Civilizations of the Middle East and Southwest Asia (ME Sharpe) and the 4 volume Lifelines in World History series (ME Sharpe 2009). He is currently writing a book on US diplomatic relations with the Syrian province of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th Century and a book chapter on American missionary activities in Syria.

Najib Ghadbian (Associate Professor of Political Science)

Professor Ghadbian's essay, Israeli-Syrian Relations: A Syrian Perspective, appeared in Middle East Observer 1 (2) March 2010. 'Politics and Government in Syria: The Limit of Authoritarianism' is forthcoming in Fred Lawson (ed) Syria: A Global Studies Handbook. In Arabic he published 'The Islamic Movement in Syria and the Prospects of Democratization' in Al-Misbar, September 2009, and his translation of Lisa Wedeen, Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria (University of Chicago 1999), which was published in 2010 in Beirut. He wrote 3 Op-Ed essays for al-Jazeera.net: 'The Ambitious Obama's Strategy Toward Afghanistan' (December 20, 2009); 'The Syrian Role and the Regional Polarization' (March 5, 2010); and 'Reading in the National Security Strategy of the Obama Administration' (May 30, 2010).

Professor Ghadbian presented 2 papers at international gatherings: 'Challenges to Active Citizenship in the Arab World' at the workshop on 'Active Citizenship: Towards a Responsible Citizen,' held Amman, Jordan in July 2009, and 'We Cast Your Vote For You: The 2007 Syrian Election' at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Boston in November 2009.

Professor Ghadbian remains a regular fixture on Arabic satellite television and radio as a commentator on Middle Eastern and American political affairs. During the past academic year he gave interviews for Arabic Monte Carlo Radio, al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, al-Hurra Television (Washington, DC), Barada Television (London), and al-Alam Television (Beirut). He served as faculty advisor for the Arkansas delegation to the National Model Arab League (at which two students won honorable mention and one won an outstanding advocacy award). One of his graduate students, Laila Taraghi, presented a paper at the 11th annual convention of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, in DC.

Joel Gordon (Professor of History and Director, King Fahd Center)

Professor Gordon assumed directorship of the King Fahd Center in July 2009. He also serves on the History Department Executive and Graduate committees, chaired the promotion review of one colleague and is overseeing the search for an historian of the pre-modern Islamic world. He submitted an article, 'City of Broken Dreams: Revolutionary Cairo in Yusuf Chahine's Bab al-Hadid' to a special peer-reviewed journal, wrote 13 entries for the forthcoming Oxford University Press Dictionary of African Biography (eds. Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel Akyeampong), and published book reviews in the International Journal of African Historical Studies and the Review of Middle East Studies. In August 2009, his review of Haggai Ram's Iranophobia: the Logic of an Israeli Obsession headlined the Books and Authors supplement of the Friday edition of Dawn, the most influential English-language daily in Pakistan.

Professor Gordon chaired a panel on 'Performing Resistance' at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. He spoke on 'Academia, Boycott, and Israeli-Palestinian Conflict' at the University of New Mexico, sponsored by the Peace and American studies programs. Most recently he served as discussant for three panels at a workshop on 'Arab Responses to Fascism and Nazism, 1933-1945' held at Tel Aviv University. He completed ten years service as Book Review Editor for the International Journal of Middle East Studies and regularly reviews manuscripts. He reviewed grants for the Israel Science Foundation and Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, and a promotion for Ben-Gurion University. On campus he continues to host Nadi Cinema, the Middle East Film Club that screens films bi-weekly throughout the Winter and Spring semesters.

Professor Gordon currently supervises 6 graduate students working towards the PhD in History, serves on the Graduate Advisory Committees for 3 other History students. He served on the MA thesis committee of Caleb McCallum (A Brogi), who defended his thesis in February 2010, and Blake Duffield (B Grob-Fitzgibbon), who will defend his thesis in July 2010. Outside the History Department he served on the PhD committee of Asaad al-Saleh (CLIT) and Meeran Gichki (JOUR/IR); both successfully defended, in April and June 2010.

Professor Gordon's PhD students reaped prestigious awards. Ahmet Akturk won the Hudson Doctoral Dissertation Award from the University of Arkansas Graduate College, had an article accepted for publication by Middle Eastern Studies and a paper abstract accepted for the upcoming annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. Matt Parnell was granted a Fulbright fellowship to carry out dissertation research and further language study in Egypt (and declined a US State Department Critical Language Award). Yulia Uryadova won the Fulbright College Dissertation award, which she followed up with an ACCESSL-Title VIII fellowship to support thesis research in Russia and Uzbekistan.

Adnan Haydar (Professor of Foreign Languages)

Professor Haydar continued work, in collaboration with Paula Haydar, on a textbook for Eastern Arabic (Lebanese) dialect, to be published by Georgetown University Press, a companion volume to al-Kitab, the leading text for Modern Standard Arabic. He translated (along with Michael Beard, Professor of English, University of North Dakota) 18 short poems by Adonis (Ali Ahmad Said), the Syrian poet frequently touted as a contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature. These poems are featured in ‘Certezza dell’ombra,’ a film production by the artist Kelli Jones. In December 2009 he received the Lois Roth Award for Translation of a Literary Work from the Modern Language Association for his translation (with Michael Beard) of Adonis’ ‘Mihyar of Damascus, His Songs.’

Professor Haydar also translated and submitted to a special edition of the Norton Anthology of World Literature a previously unknown article on ‘The Future of the Arabic Language’ by the renowned Lebanese-American poet, philosopher, and artist Jibran Khalil Gibran (Kahlil Gibran), which is due for publication. He is currently finalizing a paper on the Lebanese poet Khalil Hawi for submission to al-Abhath, a literary journal published by the American University of Beirut.

Professor Haydar lectured and performed as an oral poet, improvising poetry and sung versions of Lebanese oral and folk tradition, at the Vis Musicae international conference in Calabria, Italy in July 2009. As an outgrowth of this performance, he and Paula Haydar were asked to help facilitate a special session at this year’s conference to which they have invited two distinguished Lebanese poets to engage in oral improvisation and poetic dueling. He was also invited by the Arab League Educational Science and Culture Organization (ALESCO) to lecture on ‘Translating Arabic Poetry’ at its international conference in April 2010. Due to the volcanic activity in Iceland the event was postponed and rescheduled for November 2010. Professor Haydar continues to serve as co-editor for the Syracuse University Press series on Middle East Literature in Translation, and during AY 2009-10 co-edited 3 books for SUP. He also continues to supervise the Arkansas Translation Prize, awarded by the King Fahd Center and published by Syracuse UP. He serves on the governing council for the Center for Arabic Study Abroad. At Arkansas he directs the Arabic program and serves on the Comparative Literature Committee. He directed 1 dissertation (Gamil Alamrani) and 1 undergraduate honors thesis (Alia Biler). Along with Paula Haydar he organized the Arabic Speech Contest and advised numerous students on study abroad and career options related to language mastery.

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Foreign Languages)

Professor Haydar published her sixth major translation of Arabic literature, Touch (Masaas), by the Palestinian author Adania Shibli (Clockroot Books/Interlink 2010), her sixth major translation. She is currently collaborating with Nadine Sinno (PhD 2009) on a translation of Who’s Afraid of Meryl Street (Tstifil Meryl Streep) by the Lebanese writer Rachid al-Daif. In July 2009 she delivered a paper on the ‘The Tradition of Lebanese Zajal Poetry’ at Vis Musicae – Oral Poetry of the Mediterranean Region, an

annual conference held in Calabria. This year she will participate in a special session in which two renowned Lebanese poets will engage in an oral improvisation duel.

Professor Haydar continues to work with Adnan Haydar on a textbook for Eastern Arabic (Lebanese) dialect in collaboration with Georgetown University Press, publisher of al-Kitab, the leading text for Modern Standard Arabic in the United States and other dialects of Arabic. In the summer of 2009, and again in 2010 she taught Eastern dialect at Arkansas, and during 2010 she will teach for the SCALE (Study Colloquial Arabic in Lebanon) program at the American University of Science & Technology in Beirut. This spring she was awarded an Apple Award for Distinguished Teaching at the 11th annual Faculty Appreciation Banquet. Along with Adnan Haydar she organized the Arabic Speech Contest and advised numerous students on study abroad and career options related to language mastery.

Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English)

Professor Kahf won a Pushcart Prize in May 2010 for her essay 'The Caul of Inshallah,' published in River-Teeth (11) 2009. Her poem, 'Asiya's Aberrance,' was published in Melissa Kwasny and M L Smoker (eds) I go to the Ruined Place: Contemporary Poems in Defense of Global Human Rights (Lost Horse Press 2009). A short story, 'Manar of Hama,' is included in the 2nd edition of Pauline Kaldas and Khaled Mattawa (eds), Dinarzad's Children: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Fiction (University of Arkansas Press, 2009). Her academic article, 'Packaging Huda: Sharawi's Memoirs in the United States Reception Environment,' was reprinted in Mona Baker (ed), Critical Readings in Translation Studies (Routledge 2009).

Professor Kahf delivered invited lectures at Syracuse University, Franklin & Marshall College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, University of Alabama-Birmingham, Kenyon College, and the University of Washington. She delivered combined talks/readings at Bryn Mawr College and Evergreen State College. She gave public readings at Franklin & Marshall College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the Schomburg Center for Black Culture (NY), Kenyon College, and the Boulder Colorado Public Library.

Professor Kahf saw one of her students, Asaad al-Saleh, complete his PhD in Comparative Literature and get a tenure-track teaching position at the University of Utah. He presented papers at the Modern Language Association and Midwest Modern Language Association annual meetings. Banan al-Daraiseh also presented at the Midwest Modern Language Association and the American Comparative Literature Association meetings.

Tom Paradise (Professor of Geosciences)

Professor Paradise continues to conduct research on the Roman and Nabataean architecture of Petra in conjunction with the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. This past year he worked in conjunction with one of his PhD students, Chris

Angel, who is a recipient of a Middle East Studies assistantship. Paradise has two papers forthcoming related to this research: ‘Tomb Humidity Variation and Tourism in Petra, Jordan,’ in the Journal of Architectural Conservation, and ‘Anthropomorphic Influences on Stone Deterioration, Petra, Jordan,’ in Annals of the Department of Antiquities, Jordan. He recently published ‘Earthquakes and Islam: case studies from Morocco,’ in the Journal of Islamic Law and Culture 10 (2) 2008. He is primary contributor to the new Earth Atlas (publisher) penning the sections on Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, the Atlas Mountains, and Egypt. The 576-page atlas is the product of the collaboration of more than 100 geographers, photographers and cartographers, and represents the state of the art in the fields.

Professor Paradise is a frequent consultant for Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, The Learning Channel, National Geographic, PBS, NHK (Japan), France 5, and NDR (Germany) networks on aspects of Middle East/North Africa geography, classical and vernacular architecture, and natural and cultural resources across the Mediterranean basin. In 2009, in conjunction with Petra being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, he was interviewed for an ABC News Good Morning America series on the Seven Wonders of the World. His work was also cited recently in the Times of London. The governments of Tunisia, Italy, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have utilized his expertise on sandstone, granite and limestone as building materials in cultural heritage and preservation schemes.

Professor Paradise supervised an active cohort of graduate students. Simon Reid and Chris Angel presented poster sessions at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Washington, DC. Reid successfully defended his MA thesis during Spring 2010.

Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Rose oversaw two seasons of his Bioarchaeology Field School in Amarna, Egypt, which is partially funded by the King Fahd Center. In 2009 he supervised 9 undergraduates from 4 universities (including 3 from the University of Arkansas) and 6 graduate students from 3 universities (including 1 from University College, London). In 2010 he supervised 10 undergraduates from 10 different universities and 1 graduate student from the University of Arkansas.

Professor Rose co-authored a book chapter with Melissa Zabecki (PhD Arkansas 2009): ‘The Commoners of Tell el-Amarna,’ in Salim Ikram and Aidan Dodson (eds) Beyond the Horizon: Studies in Egyptian Art, Archaeology and History in Honor of Barry J Kemp (Cairo: Publications of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2010). He presented the results of field research with Melissa Zabecki and Barry Kemp (University of Cambridge) at the annual meeting of the Paleopathology Association in Albuquerque NM; he co-hosted two poster sessions with University of Arkansas Anthropology undergraduates at the concurrent annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists: ‘Did Akhenaten bite off more than he could chew?’ (Andrew LoPinto), and ‘Nutritional Stress at Amarna (Nicole Fumo and S. Lee).

Two doctoral students, Melissa Zabecki (Late Pre-dynastic Egyptian Workloads and Musculoskeletal Stress Markers at Hierakonpolis) and Ankita Kunas (Health at Hierakonpolis: a Predynastic Settlement in Upper Egypt) defended their dissertations. 2 masters students, William Schaffer (A Biomechanical Assessment of Ancient Egyptian Long Bones from the Amarna South Tombs Cemetery) and Meredith Larson (Health at Hierakonpolis, Egyptian Archaeological Site viewed through the Lens of the Global Historical Health Index) completed their theses. Professor Rose also supervised one undergraduate Honors student, Michelle Helton (Osteoporosis at Amarna).

Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Swedenburg published two articles on the British-based Islamic Hip-hop band, Fun[^]Da[^]Mental, in Vis-à-vis: Explorations in Anthropology and a collection edited by Asef Bayat and Linda Herrera, Being Young and Muslim: New Cultural Politics in the Global South and North (Oxford University Press 2010). He published book reviews in the Journal of Palestine Studies and on H-Net, and wrote the entry on the 1936 Palestinian Arab revolt for the Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Professor Swedenburg lectured at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas-Austin, the Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA, the Palestine Center in Washington, DC, and at Eastern Michigan University. He presented a paper at the American Studies Association annual meeting in Washington DC and for a special presidential session at the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia.

He serves on the editorial board of the Middle East Report, the international advisory committee for a research project on Islamic youth cultures in Europe sponsored by the National Research Council of the Netherlands, and is co-editor of a new book series, 'Public Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa,' with Indiana University Press.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Graduate Students supported by the Middle East Center and working on advanced degrees with MEST faculty – along with recent graduates from affiliated departments – have compiled an increasingly impressive list of academic achievements over the past few years.

Annual meetings attended: This past year graduate students attended annual meetings of the Middle East Studies Association, Modern Language Association, American Anthropological Association, Association of American Geographers, American Comparative Literature Association, American Schools of Oriental Research, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and the Annual Conference on South Asia. Increasingly our students are presenting papers, and first year students are

regularly taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the Graduate College to attend an annual meeting in the first year without having to present a paper.

Conference Papers – The following students presented papers at major meetings and conferences in AY 2009-10:

Banan al-Daraiseh (CLIT), ‘The Hybrid Love Tale in Rushdie's short story The Courter,’ Midwest Modern Language Association, St Louis, November 2009

----- ‘Constructive Displacement in Soueif's Eye of the Sun,’ American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, April 2010

Jason Hermann, ‘Site Formation at Saruq al-Hadid, Dubai and Implications for Environmental Change in Ancient Southeast Arabia,’ American Schools of Oriental Research, New Orleans, November 2009

----- ‘Evidence for Desert Occupation and Environmental Change at Three Sites in Dubai, UAE,’ 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, London, April 2010

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH), ‘Transforming Religious Education in South Asia: The Case of Private Islamic Schools in Pakistan,’ 38th Annual Conference on South Asia, UW-Madison, October 2009

----- ‘Negotiated Islam: Private Islamic Education in Karachi,’ American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2009

Asaad al-Saleh (CLIT) ‘Displaced Sexuality: Western Desires and Eastern Butterflies,’ Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, December 2009

----- ‘Courtly Love in Sir Orfeo and The Ring of the Dove: How far did Ibn Hazm’s Dove Fly?’ Midwest Modern Language Association, St Louis, November 2009

Laila Taraghi (PLSC) ‘Evaluating Obama’s Contributions to Iran’s Democratic Opposition,’ Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, Houston, April 2010

The following students have already had papers accepted for the coming academic year, all for the Middle East Studies Association: Asaad al-Saleh, Banan al-Daraiseh, Sanaa Riaz, Ahmet Akturk.

Conference Posters – The following students presented posters at major meetings:

Chris Angel (GEOS) ‘Evolution and Morphology of a Bedouin town above Petra, Jordan,’ Association of American Geographers, Washington, DC, April 2010

Tuna Kalayci (ANTH) ‘Spectral Mixture Analysis of Ancient Artifact Scatters,’ American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Albuquerque, April 2010

Simon Reid (GEOS) ‘Perception of Educational Access and Nationhood: South Asian Muslims in Bradford, England,’ Association of American Geographers, WDC April 2010

College/University Courses Taught Off Campus

Matt Parnell (HIST), UNC-Wilmington, Introduction to Global History, UNC-Wilmington, Summer 09

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH), Mt St Mary's College (NY) The Middle East, The Middle East in Film, Spring/Summer 2010

PHD Completed

Nadine Sinno (CLIT) 'Disrupted places, Creative Spaces: The Transformative Power of Border-crossings, Prison, and War in Contemporary Arab Women's Writings,' Spring 2009 (M Kahf)

Melissa Zabecki (ANTH) 'Late Predynastic Egyptian Workloads: Musculoskeletal Stress Markers at Hierakonpolis, Fall 2009 (J Rose)

Asaad al-Saleh (CLIT) 'Displacement and Memory in Palestinian Autobiography, Spring 2010 (M Kahf)

MA Completed

Simon Reid (GEOS) 'Perceptions of Education and Nationhood: South Asian Muslims in Bradford, England,' Spring 2010 (T Paradise)

Awards/University

Ahmet Akturk (HIST) Hudson Doctoral Dissertation Award (Graduate College)

Yulia Uryadova (HIST) Fulbright Graduate Research Award (Fulbright College)

Awards/National

Matt Parnell (HIST), Fulbright Scholar (Egypt) – for AY 2010-11

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH), American Institute of Pakistan Studies – for travel to Asian Studies Conference, Fall 2009

Yulia Uryadova (HIST), ACCESL-Title VIII (Russia) – for AY 2010-11

Grants Submitted

Ahmet Akturk (HIST) Imagining the Nation away from Home: Kurds and Kurdistan in Hawar, (American Research Institute in Turkey, Social Science Research Council)

Chris Angel (GEOS), 'An Assessment of the Celestial Alignment and Arrangement of Nabataean Architecture and City Form in Petra, Jordan' (National Science Foundation)

Matt Parnell (HIST), 'The Emergence of Youth Political Activism and Youth Culture in Egypt, 1892-1919,' (Fulbright US Student Fellowship, Fulbright-Hays)

Articles Accepted/Published

Ahmet Akturk (HIST), 'Arabs in Kemalist Historiography,' Middle Eastern Studies (forthcoming)

Tricia Nellessen (ANTH), 'Yemen: The Next Failed State,' Military Review (forthcoming)

Non-Refereed Publications

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH), 'Women's Religious Education—Pakistan,' Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (forthcoming)

----- 'Globalization,' India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic (forthcoming)

Book Reviews

Ahmet Akturk (HIST), Deniz Balgamis/Kemal Karpat (eds), Turkish Migration to the United States (University of Wisconsin Press), International Journal of Middle East Studies (forthcoming)

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH), Siobhan Lambert-Hurley, Muslim Women, Reform and Princely Patronage: Nawab Sultan Jahan Begam of Bhopal (Routledge) in Journal of South Asian Studies 32 (3) 2009: 558-64

----- N Ali, VS Kalra, Sayyid (eds), A Postcolonial People: South Asians in Britain (Columbia), Journal of South Asian Development (forthcoming)

----- David Pinault, Notes from a Fortune-Telling Parrot: Islam and the Struggle for Religious Pluralism in Pakistan (Equinox), Contemporary Islam (forthcoming)

Teaching Positions

Asaad al-Saleh (PhD CLIT 2010) has taken a position as Assistant Professor of Foreign Language, University of Utah beginning AY 10-11

Middle East Studies Graduate Association (MESGA) – Three years ago a group of graduate students organized a Registered Student Organization (RSO) to promote Middle East Studies. In addition to social events, MESGA has hosted speakers, provided a forum for students to present their work (including test runs of conference papers), and to discuss academic work of mutual interest. MESGA members have begun to collaborate with other related RSOs in order to cost share for funded events, and have begun to discuss ways to redefine themselves as a broader collective of graduate students working in Middle East Studies and MEST undergraduates.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Alia Biller (Sr, PSYC; minor ARAB) completed her Honor's Thesis on "Translation Recognition in Learners of Arabic." Alia graduated in May 2010, and has been accepted at the University of Texas at Austin to pursue graduate studies.

Clayton Clark (Jr, JOUR/MEST; minor ARAB) is an honors fellow and holds the distinguished governors scholarship. Clayton has been awarded a CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) Fellowship to study Arabic in Jordan during AY 2010-2011, and a study abroad grant from the Honors College.

Vera DeBerg (Sr, PLSC; minor ARAB) spent Summer 2009 studying Advanced Arabic in Morocco with a Critical Languages Scholarship. Vera graduated in May 2010 and has been accepted to the U of A's graduate program in Political Science.

Cory Ellis (Sr, IR/MEST; minor ARAB) was accepted into a TEFL program in Alexandria, Egypt for Summer 2009. Cory graduated in May 2010 and will enter a graduate program in International Studies at George Washington University.

Ayumi Fukushima (Jr, IR/MEST) spent the Fall semester of 2009 studying Arabic at the Jordanian University. Her studies were supported by the King Fahd Center and a study abroad grant.

Matt Harb (Jr, FINN) will study Colloquial Arabic at the SCALE Program in Lebanon, Summer 2010.

Nadia Haydar (So, APST) will study Colloquial Arabic at the SCALE Program in Lebanon, Summer 2010.

Lynnsey Molinaro (Jr, ANTH/MEST) will participate in archaeology field school at Tel Qarqur, Syria in June 2010 with support from the King Fahd Center.

Joshua Moore (Sr, ARAB/MEST) has been awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study in Jordan in Summer 2010.

Saba Naseem (Jr, JOUR/MEST; minor ARAB) will study French in France and work with a television station in Summer, 2010. Her studies and travels are funded by several study abroad grants, including one from the Honors College.

Alexa Naumovich (Jr, IR/MEST; minor ARAB) has been awarded a CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) Fellowship to study Arabic in Jordan during AY 2010-2011, and a study abroad grant from the Honors College.

Gary Noel (Jr, IR/MEST; minor ARAB) took classes at the American University in Cairo in Summer 2009. He received an Honors College Study Abroad Grant to help pay for part of the tuition. Gary spent the Spring 2010 semester studying in Ireland.

Samuel Roberts (So, IR) has been awarded a CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) Fellowship to study Arabic in Jordan during AY 2010-2011.

Jackson Spradley (Jr, ANTH) received a Study Abroad Grant from the Honors College to support his studies in Tanzania in 2010.

Andrew Walchuck (Sr, IR/PLSC/EUST/SPAN; minor in MEST/ECON/ARAB) interned for the American Task Force for Palestine in Washington, D.C. in Summer 2009.

Andrew was a finalist for the Truman Fellowship, and spent AY 2009-2010 in Spain and Morocco with funding from his Bodenhamer Fellowship. He has been awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study in Morocco in Summer 2010.

Bilal Ziada (Jr, ANTH/MEST) will participate in the archeology field school in Tel Qarqur, Syria, with support from the King Fahd Center.

ALUMNI NEWS

MEST alumni continue to contribute to the field in academic ventures and to carry their expertise into governmental and non-governmental service and organizations.

Academic Positions

At present there are 8 recent PhDs in tenure track teaching positions in the United States and abroad: Charles Argo (2004) is Assistant Professor of History, Ball State University; Basri (2008) is Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, State Islamic University of Malang, Indonesia; R Michael Bracy (2005) is Assistant Professor of History, Oklahoma State University; Clea Lutz Bunch (2004) is Assistant Professor of History, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Ali Khwaileh (2009) is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Yarmouk University, Jordan; Nawaf al-Madkhli (2007) is Assistant Professor of History, King Fahd University of Petroleum, Saudi Arabia; Farid al-Salim (2008) is Assistant Professor of History, Kansas State University; Nadine Sinno (2009) is Assistant Professor of Arabic, Georgia State University; Melissa Zabecki (2009) has been teaching cultural anthropology at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Alumni publications/productions

Clea Bunch (PhD 2004), currently Assistant Professor of History at UALR, published two articles: 'Supporting the Brave Young King: The Suez Crisis and Eisenhower's New Approach to Jordan, 1953-58,' in Simon C Smith (ed), Reassessing Suez 1956: New Perspectives on the Crisis and its Aftermath (Ashgate 2008), 107-22; and 'Strike at Samu: Jordan, Israel, the United States, and Origins of the Six-Day War,' Diplomatic History 32 (1) 2008, 55-76.

Suncem Kocer (MA 2005), currently a PhD student at the University of Indiana has co-produced an ethnographic documentary, *The Last Season: Shawaks* (2009, dir Kazim Oz), on pastoralists in Southeastern Turkey that has screened in New York and is currently screening in Istanbul.

Nadine Sinno (PhD CLIT 2009), currently Assistant Professor of Arabic at Georgia State University published her translation of Nazik Yared, Canceled Memories (Syracuse UP 2009).

Melissa Zabecki (PhD ANTH 2009), co-authored an article, 'Skeletal Biomechanics, Mobility and Habitual Activity from the Paleaeolithic to the mid Dynastic Nile Valley,' in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology (forthcoming).

Other Alumni News/Doings

Safiya Ghori (BA 2002, IR/MEST; JD 2005; MA PLSC 2006) is South Asia Policy Analyst for the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Bethania Ibrahim (BA 2009, IR/MEST) has been teaching Kindergarten at the Huda Islamic School in Little Rock. She is pursuing TEFL and hopes to teach English – and work on her Arabic – in Jordan in the Fall.

Will Watson (BA 2009, IR/MEST) graduated in December 2009. A former Outstanding Delegate at the Model Arab League (2009), Senator of Distinction with the University of Arkansas Student Government (2008-09), and Chancellor's Scholarship holder (2005-09), Will has served as Field Director for David Whitaker's run for Congress and, more recently, as Regional Field Director for Bill Halter for Senate.

Chris Wylie (IR/MEST; minor ARAB/ECON) graduated in May 2009. After graduation he lived in Washington, D.C. as a fellow with the National Council on US-Arab Relations Summer Internship Program. Chris spent AY 2009-2010 living in Jordan studying Arabic at the Qasid Institute in Amman.

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

Visiting Speakers and Special Events

On October 5, Yoram Meital, Director of the Chaim Herzog Center of Middle East Studies and Diplomacy, Ben-Gurion University and Roane Carey, Managing Editor of the Nation Magazine, spoke on 'Palestine/Israel after Gaza: Futility or Hope?'

On November 5, Zulficar Ghose, novelist-poet and Emeritus Professor at the University of Texas-Austin, recited poetry and spoke on 'On being a Native Alien: the Question of a Writer's Identity.' The event was co-sponsored by the Program in Latin American Studies and the Pakistan Culture Club

On February 2, Catherine Warrick, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Villanova University, spoke on 'A Little Bit Separate, a Little Bit Equal: Women in the Jordanian Parliament.' Professor Warrick also led a brown-bag discussion on informal Sharia courts in the West. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Educational Reform, the Department of Political Science, and the Law School.

On March 1, Joshua Stacher, Assistant Professor of Politics at Kent State University, spoke on 'Conditioning Participation: the Egyptian State and the Muslim Brotherhood.'

On March 29, Barbara Nimri Aziz, journalist/author and founder of the Radius of Arab American Writers, spoke on 'Can we Bomb Knowledge: the Case of Iraq.' Dr Aziz also spoke that same day at Nightbird Books about her experience as an ethnographer in Nepal and Tibet.

On April 15-16, the Center co-sponsored (along with the Middle East Studies Graduate Association) a 2-day Film Festival dedicated to documentary works on the Palestine-Israel conflict. Tuna Kayalci, a PhD student in Anthropology, took the lead in organizing the event.

Sponsored Events Off Campus

In conjunction with Professors Adnan and Paula Haydar, the King Fahd Center underwrote the costs of bringing renowned Lebanese 'zajal' poets, Henry Zoghaib, Antoine Saade, and Elias Khalil to perform at the annual conference of Vis Musicae held July 28-31 in Calabria, Italy. The poets will engage in improvisational 'competition' and will be backed by chorus responders, who sit with tambourines behind the poets to repeat their last lines and bring them back to the musical melody from which they have strayed. Adnan and Paula Haydar will introduce the poets and their genre, translate the poetry into English and explain the nature of the wordplay in which they engage. The performance will be videotaped for MEST and university archives.

Faculty Outreach

Faculty members affiliated with the King Fahd Center continue to maintain strong relations with local, national and international media. Faculty members gave interviews for television and radio networks ranging from ABC Good Morning America to al-Jazeera Satellite Television, and published reviews in leading journals in media capitals like Beirut and Karachi (see individual faculty profiles for further citations). Faculty members regularly review national and international grant applications for Fulbright, the International Institute of Education, the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council and other leading funding agencies. They review manuscripts for leading academic journals and academic publishers and are called upon by American and international colleges and universities to evaluate tenure/promotion cases and serve as outside readers on graduate theses.

Closer to home, Center affiliated faculty have been generous with their time and expertise in supporting adult education programs such as Great Decisions, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Elderhostel programs, which are administered by the School of Continuing Education. Senior graduate students and recent graduates have also been encouraged to participate in such events. Faculty have also appeared on local Cable Access television in programs sponsored by the Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology. Many of us

are contacted with regularity by journalists, authors, and filmmakers – in addition to colleagues at other institutions, and their undergraduate and graduate students -- who seek information and advice regarding ongoing or germinating projects.

Arkansas Arabic Translation Award

This prestigious award, announced in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association every November, carries a \$5000 prize for both the translator and author (if living). Submissions are solicited for works of fiction, poetry or prose, and non-fiction works in the literary tradition. The winning translation is published by Syracuse University Press (with full reference to the King Fahd Center), one of the leading academic publishers of Arabic fiction in the world.

The 2009 winner was The Pistachio Seller by Reem Bassiouney (Cairo 2006), assistant professor of Arabic at Georgetown University. The Pistachio Seller is her fourth of five novels, the most acclaimed and first to be translated into English. Publisher's Weekly called it a 'bighearted' novel and the Egyptian literary giant Gamal al-Ghitani has noted it as 'one of the most tender and painful love stories' he has ever read. The prize-winning translator is Osman Nusairi, a London-based theater director.

During the past academic year AY 09-10, at the suggestion of Professor Adnan Haydar, who supervises the project, and with the concurrence of the Center Director and Dean's Office, the guidelines for submission were amended, with the aim of opening the competition to a wider pool and addressing perceived constraints and inequities. Starting with the competition for the 2010 award, 'Previous winners may not submit subsequent manuscripts for a period of 5 years. Submissions from current faculty, students, or anyone affiliated with the University of Arkansas will not be considered. Former University of Arkansas students or faculty remain ineligible for 5 years after graduation or ending their affiliation with the University of Arkansas.'

Model Arab League

Nearly every spring Professor Najib Ghabbian leads a delegation of Arkansas undergraduate and graduate students to participate/compete in the national Model Arab League, sponsored by the National Council on US-Arab Relations (NCUAR) and held annually in Washington, DC. The King Fahd Center helps underwrite the costs of travel and lodging for students and Professor Ghabbian.

Each participating university – some 22 universities and over 300 students participate – is assigned to represent a League delegation and role-play as a collective and as representatives on various subcommittees. Awards are given at the end of the three-day session for outstanding delegates.

This year 8 University of Arkansas undergraduates represented the Palestinian delegation. Cory Ellis won Honorable Mention as outstanding delegate for his work on

the Council on Palestinian Affairs; Jacob White won Honorable Mention and Outstanding Advocacy awards for his work with the Arab Court of Justice.

Arabic Study Abroad

This year 2 undergraduates (Joshua Moore, Jr, Jordan; Andrew Walchuck, Sr, Morocco) and 2 graduate students (Ethan Morton-Jerome, ANTH, Oman; Matt Parnell, HIST, Oman) won Critical Language Study fellowships sponsored by the US Department of State to study Arabic abroad. Matt Parnell declined a Critical Language award in order to accept a Fulbright award for Egypt).

In addition, 3 undergraduates have been awarded Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) fellowships to study Arabic abroad during AY 2010, all in Jordan: Clayton Clark (Jr), Alexa Naumovich (Jr), Samuel Roberts (So)

Numerous other undergraduate MEST co-majors pursued language study abroad during AY 2009-10, many with the support of MEST and other University funding. These include Cory Ellis (Egypt), Gary Noel (Egypt), and Andrew Walchuck (Morocco). 3 students (Matt Harb, Jr; Nadia Haydar, So; Laila Taraghi, Gr/PLSC) will attend the SCALE program this summer in Lebanon.

Arabic Speech Contest

The Center helped sponsor the annual WLLC Speech Contest, held in April 2010. Thirteen undergraduate students participated at Elementary (6), Intermediate (4), and Advanced levels (3). Winners and runners-up were: Joshua Moore/Christian Hefton (Elementary), Clayton Clark/Heba Abdelaal (Intermediate), and Andrew Parsons/Vera DeBerg (Advanced). Judges were Mounir Farah, Professor of Curriculum Instruction, and Asaad al-Saleh, who recently completed his PhD in Comparative Literature.

Organizational Affiliation

The King Fahd Center maintains active involvement in a variety of international scholarly organizations and supports others through annual subscription/membership dues. Affiliation is vital to the ongoing endeavors of these research centers and institutes, and nets the Center valuable information pertaining to research funding opportunities for faculty and advanced students, advisory roles on governing boards, participation at annual meetings, and important journals for the University of Arkansas library collection.

Currently the Center maintains membership in the following organizations: American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR), American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIS), American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Palestine American Research Center (PARC).

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture

JILC is an ongoing – and going – venture operating out of the Lefflar Law School under the direct supervision of Professor Steven Sheppard, a specialist in international law. Although the King Fahd Center no longer subsidizes the journal, which is now published by Routledge Press and is finding its niche amidst a variety of other academic reviews, the Center has renewed its commitment to working with the Law School students and to bringing them into closer contact with fellow graduate students working more directly in Middle East and Islamic Studies, and with Center programming and activities in general. One result was a cooperative venture to sponsor an academic lecture in Spring 2010 between the JILC and Middle East Graduate Association, both registered student organizations with the ASG (Arkansas Student Government).

Friends of Nekhen

Since 2003 the King Fahd Center has been the US home of the Friends of Nekhen, a privately funded organization that supports the archaeological work in Hierakonpolis, the largest pre-dynastic site in Egypt (Nekhen is the ancient Egyptian name for the site). Renee Freidman, Heagy Research Curator at the British Museum, directs the expedition and edits the newsletter, the Nekhen News. Jerome Rose, Professor of Anthropology, headed the bioarchaeology excavations for several years, assisted by Dr Melissa Zabecki (PhD Arkansas 2009), at the time one of his graduate students. At the outset of AY 2010-11, Professor Friedmann requested that the collection of donations for the Friends of Nekhen be handled in the future by the American Friends of the British Museum. Professor Rose, as well as current and former students will continue to benefit from the artifacts uncovered and analyzed during those expeditions.

Mullins Library

The King Fahd Center has over the years allocated \$20,000 for library expenditures, including books, journal subscriptions, and audiovisual materials. For several years the Center has not met this budget, resulting for AY 2009-10 in a significant surplus. Nonetheless, rising costs significantly restrict the number of volumes that may be added to the collection during a given year. Faculty are encouraged to purchase materials that will further the general collection, reflecting a the type of broad-based holdings that would support student and faculty research by purchasing in the following general areas: Middle East and Islamic History; Middle East Politics and International Relations; Culture and Society; Religion; Literature, Art and Criticism; Human and Cultural Geography/Landscape.

Journal subscriptions constitute a significant part of any library budget and in an internet-driven age, in which academic libraries subscribe to wide-ranging periodical services, have increasingly proven to be cost inefficient. During AY 2009-10 MEST faculty members, in consultation with staff of Mullins Library, approved a major downscaling of individual hard-copy journal subscriptions based on usage and electronic availability. In

the case of organizational publications, the King Fahd Center agreed to deposit hard copies of journals received into the Mullins collection, which constitutes a significant savings and avoids what essentially proved to be ‘double’ payments. The Center dropped subscriptions to 24 journals at a savings of \$7442, retained 13 and added 1, which leaves journal expenditures at \$2023. Because several of the dropped journals had already been paid for, full savings will not be reflected until AY 2010-11.

Ann Rhea Collection in Near East Antiquities

In 2005 the King Fahd Center was woffered a large donation worth approximately \$100,000 of Near Eastern antiquities from Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia. The fit wa formalized and the materials handd over to the Univeristy in 2005 and 2006. Materials collected by Ms Rhea during her twelve-year residence in Saudi Arabia (1960-72) date from the Paleotlithic period through the medieval Islamic era and were gathered from archaeological sites in Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Lebanon. Processing of the collection continues. Once all accessions have been cataloged a formal announcement will follow, making the artifacts available for scholarly analysis.

LOOKING AHEAD

During AY 2009-10 all area studies programs were asked to submit a Program Review in conjunction with an upcoming external review under the auspices of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The review dealt solely with undergraduate curriculum – although in the case of the King Fahd Center it was often very difficult to separate undergraduate from graduate concerns. In closing this year’s annual report, it seems appropriate to insert the concluding section of the Program Review, since it deals directly with ongoing ventures and future aims:

“We have a strong faculty with marked achievements in teaching, research and academic and community service. After a long period of declining morale, the product of internal dynamics, we have recaptured a better spirit of communality and collective purpose. Our students are getting better all the time and are more deeply committed to their specific studies. We support students financially to reward and enhance interest and performance, rather than to encourage or coax them to pursue their studies. We are working to more closely coordinate our formal academic program with informal, extracurricular activities – always a tricky game given the multiple interests and jam-packed schedules of our undergraduates, many of whom take double majors and are involved in Honors studies.

“We remain limited in our own specific research expertise to the Arab and Arabic speaking world; at the same time many of us, ‘classically’ trained in broader Middle Eastern and Islamic traditions do spend considerable class time focusing on a more holistic geo-cultural area. And many of us continue to branch out experientially and academically to areas and traditions – North Africa, South and Central Asia, the Northern Mediterranean, Turkey and the ex-Ottoman Balkans, Iran, that were not part of our immediate research agenda as scholars. We hope to enhance our strengths in coming

years by sponsoring visiting and/or post-doctoral fellowships or exploring options through programs like Fulbright, in order to bring to our campus and program individuals who might further broaden our course offerings and expand our intellectual perspectives. We have done some of this in the past, but never quite integrated into the program the way many of us would have liked to see done.

“Broadening our linguistic offerings has long been a topic of discussion, with compelling arguments on both sides for beginning with straightforward language study or, conversely, offering courses with specific geographic focus on, say, Iran or Turkey. From a philosophical standpoint, the Foreign Language department is certainly open to expanding course offerings, but realistically, given economics and current shortages in teaching established languages, sees little likelihood for growth generated from within. Several years ago plans were put in motion to bring a Farsi instructor from Iran, but this fell through due to visa issues. We should do more to avail ourselves of relatively cost-free options through programs run by Fulbright and the IIE.

“Student morale and participation are growth areas for us that need attention, at both graduate and undergraduate levels. The matter is being addressed at the graduate level through a revitalized RSO (registered student organization). Undergraduates see each other and presumably socialize in classroom settings where they share interests. We would like to provide more forums in which they will feel comfortable – or excited – to break away from other diversions and attend academic and cultural events. We need to work harder to isolate a leadership corps amongst the upper-level undergrads and encourage them to draw in fellow students. As noted above, one vehicle might well be an expanded RSO that covers both graduates and undergraduates.

“Public relations and information conveyance is a major concern. For the first time in its history the King Fahd Center has a functioning base or headquarters centrally located on the second floor of Old Main, with an administrative nerve center on the ground floor. This new spatial arrangement has worked wonders in terms of both open accessibility to students and protecting the confidentiality of sensitive documents (personnel/student affairs and financial). Under prior arrangements lines between offices were often blurred and shifting. In the recent past an interim director (Professor Paradise) elected to work out of his departmental office, which made sense given the nature of his appointment, but left operations, at least from the standpoint of students, somewhat decentralized.

“A primary area of energy is currently revamping the Center website, which is outmoded and in some key areas outdated. As the ultimate public face of the Center – for students, faculty, community, and fellow academics beyond the university – the current site under-serves the program on many levels. Revamping the website provides an opportunity to carefully revisit policies and their presentation, as well as to reconsider the overall missions of the Center and program, particularly with regard to student affairs, and especially with regard to our undergraduate co-major and our students.”