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

Submitted by
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Director of Middle East Studies

June 2012

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OVERVIEW

The King Fahd Center for Middle East 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.

During AY 2011-12 MEST faculty members voted to restore the original designation of the Center as the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies. This reflects a collective sentiment that the designation of Islamic Studies – one that had never been approved by affiliated faculty or channeled through appropriate university deliberative bodies -- was, for a variety of reasons, a source of contention. It is also our collective understanding that this re-designation in no way limits faculty and students from pursuing curricular and research agendas that extend beyond the geo-cultural boundaries of what might have been more narrowly defined as the ‘Middle East’ by prior generations of scholars. Our breadth remains rooted in our course offerings, supervised student projects, research ventures and outreach activities.

The current academic year was marked by a number of transitions and achievements that promise to represent watersheds in the Center’s growth.

This year the King Fahd Center collaborated with the Creative Writing Program to co-sponsor the annual writers’ festival. With combined support the event, usually highlighting one author, was able to feature readings by three prominent writers from the Middle East, as well as a combined panel discussion

Next year the King Fahd Center, working together with the Walton Arts Center and the Global Campus will host ‘Caravansarai: A place where cultures meet.’ The program is sponsored by Arts Midwest and supported by major funding from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. The program will bring two world-renowned musical ensembles and solo artists and an award winning filmmaker to campus for three separate weeklong residencies during AY 2012-13. Two full-fledged musical concerts will be included in WAC 10x10 series at a special reduced rate.

On a curricular level the Center reactivated a lower-division undergraduate Introduction to Islam and sponsored for the first time a course in Contemporary Arab Art, both taught

by degreed faculty affiliates who are experts in their fields. The Center continued to more actively pursue the creative use of advanced graduate students to teach topics courses in their areas of specialization, freeing up core faculty for other courses and providing the opportunity for students to teach beyond general department requirements. In once case the Center was able to sponsor a course – on classical Persian literature – that had never been offered and that greatly enhanced the curricular spread of the program at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

The Center also welcomed Professor Nikolay Antov, Assistant Professor of History to its faculty. Professor Antov, a specialist in Ottoman history and pre-modern Islamic empires, has already made an impact in renewing course offerings both at the undergraduate and graduate level in early, classical and early modern Islamic history and civilizations.

The Center maintained a vigorous program of guest speakers across disciplines and Center faculty participated in forums on campus and took their expertise off campus to local/regional, national, and international forums. With the ongoing global impact of the Arab spring, the increasing regional role of Turkey and Iran, and the relevance of Central and South Asia, MEST faculty continue to assume an ever larger role in public outreach – in addition to teaching and ongoing research agendas. Abroad, our international standing was underscored by sponsorship of a major artistic event in Lebanon and the publication of collaborative works in which MEST faculty engaged.

Last academic year the upsurge of revolutionary politics in the region led to the cancellation or redefinition of some Center-sponsored projects, and the re-routing of some undergraduate and graduate study/research plans. The ongoing conflict in Syria led to a second year of canceling the field school at Tel Qarqur, but this year students went instead to Cyprus. And the Amarna team returned to Egypt this current summer to pursue bio-archaeological research.

And, as during the preceding academic year, changes in the Middle East, as well as the ongoing development of curricular programming at the University, made for an exciting, productive year. Much of this will be treated below.

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. The Center is pleased to add Nikolai Antov, the new tenure-track hire in History, to its list.

Nikolai Antov (Assistant Professor of History): Pre-Modern/Classical Middle East/Islamic History, Ottoman History

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 Ghabbian (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

MEST Affiliated Faculty

MEST hired two part-time instructors to teach classes in Islam and contemporary Middle Eastern art, courses which we hope to see ongoing and developed in the future and granted credit for specialized courses taught by a visiting professor in the History Department.

Sarwar Alam has a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas and recently completed a two-year post-doctoral position in Religious Studies at Emory University. He has specializations in Sufism and women's issues in Islamic society. He offered MEST 2003 (Islam in History and Practice) during the Spring 2012 semester and will be offering it again in Fall 2012.

Amjad Faur has an MFA from the University of Oregon and is an increasingly accomplished photographic artist. He teaches studio courses for the UA Art Department. For MEST he offered a new course on Contemporary Arab Art (MEST 410V) during the Spring 2012 semester.

Robert Brubaker, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, has a PhD in Anthropological Archaeology from the University of Michigan and is a specialist in early South Asia up to the Islamic period. During AY 2011-12 he taught undergraduate special topics courses (HI 3983) on Early South Asian history and religious traditions for which MEST credit was offered.

MEST Staff

Mahfuza Akhtar (Administrative Support Supervisor) has a BS with Honors and an MS in Biology from Rajshahi University in Bangladesh. She passed the Civil Service exam and worked for Ministry of Education and then taught at Badrunessa Government College from 1984-96. She has worked for the King Fahd Center since 2002 and was promoted to administrative support supervisor in 2009.

Laila Taraghi (Program Coordinator) completed her MA in Political Science and graduated in May 2012. She has a BA in International Studies from the University of Oregon and studied Arabic at the American University of Science and Technology in Lebanon and the University of Jordan, and Persian at the University of Tehran. She has been working as Program Coordinator for the King Fahd Center since AY 2010-11.

Courses Taught AY 2009-10

Faculty members are currently able to teach approximately fifteen undergraduate and combined undergraduate-graduate courses across the core disciplines per semester. Summer course offerings have been minimal, although we have been fortunate to have steady offerings in colloquial Arabic. Increased numbers from recent years reflect the addition of Nikolai Antov, the new historian of Islamic history and the courses taught by affiliate faculty instructors Sarwar Alam and Amjad Faur. The number of MEST courses offered has also been supplemented by a more creative approach to utilizing advanced graduate students, who accounted for an additional five courses per term, allowing faculty greater leeway to teach at the graduate level.

The following courses were offered between Summer 2011 and Summer 2012

Summer 2011: ARAB/WLLC 398V

Fall 2011: ANTH 3033 (Chapman), ANTH 3923H/4913 (Morton-Jerome), ARAB 1016 (P Haydar/2 sections), ARAB 3016 (A Haydar), ARAB 4023 (A Haydar), ARAB 470V (A Haydar), GEOG 4033 (Paradise), HIST 3033 (Antov), HIST 3043 (Akturk), HIST 3983 (Ottoman/Antov), HIST 3983 (Early South Asia/Brubaker), HIST 4893 (Age of Nasser/Gordon), MEST 2013 (Ghadbian), PLSC 400V (Gender & Politics South

Asia/Kapur), PLSC 4843 (Ghadbian), WLIT 3983 (Classical Persian/Bassiri), WLIT 3983 (Arab-American/Kahf)

Spring 2012: ARAB 2016 (P Haydar/2 Sections), ARAB 4016 (A Haydar), ARAB 4033 (A Haydar), ARAB 470V (A Haydar), HIST 3033 (Antov), HIST 3042 (Akturk), HIST 3983 (Religious Traditions Early South Asia/Brubaker), HIST 4943 (Early Modern Islamic Empires/Antov), HIST 4333/MEST 4003 (Gordon), MEST 2003 (Alam), MEST 410V (Faur), PLSC 400V (Ethnicity & Nationalism South Asia/Kapur), PLSC 5523 (Ghadbian), WLIT 3983 (Modern Arabic Lit/Kahf)

Summer 2012: ANTH 4256 (Casana)

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 additional MEST core courses, 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 4123 Ancient Middle East
ANTH 4256 Archaeological Field Session
ANTH 4533 Middle East Cultures
ANTH 4913 Topics in the Middle East
GEOG 2003 World Regional Geography
GEOG 4033/4033H Geography of the Middle East and North Africa
GEOG 410V Special Problems: Middle East and North Africa
HIST 3033 Islamic Civilizations
HIST 3043 History of the Modern Middle East
HIST 3473 Modern Palestine/Israel
HIST 3923 Honors Colloquium (approved special topics)
HIST 4353 Middle East 600-1500
HIST 4373 Mongols and Mamluks

HIST 4393 Early Modern Islamic Empires
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)

Arabic Courses Offered:

ARAB 1016 Intensive I
ARAB 2016 Intensive II
ARAB 3016 Intensive III
ARAB 4016 Intensive IV
ARAB 4023 Advanced I
ARAB 4033 Advanced II
ARAB 4053 Readings
ARAB 470V Special Topics

Notes

1) 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. In Fall 2011, Professor Ghadbian taught the course.

2) 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. In Spring 2010, Professor Ghadbian offered a course on Government and Politics in Syria; in Spring 2011, Professor Kahf taught Gender and Religion in the Middle East; in Spring 2012 Professor Gordon offered Modern Islamic Thought, cross-listed with History.

3) Arabic Program: The relationship between the King Fahd Center and the Arabic program housed in the World Languages, Literatures and Cultures 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.

4) History Search: In Fall 2011 the History Department filled an open position in pre-modern Islamic history with the hire of Nikolay Antov. Professor Antov (PhD Chicago 2011) is a specialist in Ottoman social history with a current research focus on religious conversion in the Balkans during the 16th Century. During AY 2011-12 he taught 2 sections of Islamic Civilization (HIST 3033), a core requirement for MEST co-majors, and topics courses in Ottoman History (HIST 3983) and Early Modern Islamic Empires (HIST 4393).

5) Enhanced Offerings: The King Fahd Center has in recent years undertaken an initiative to promote special topics courses or faculty-replacement courses offered by advanced graduate students with particular research interests and teaching ability. In Fall 2011 the following courses were taught by advanced graduate students: ANTH 3033 (Chapman), ANTH 3923H (Morton-Jerome), HIST 3043 (Akturk), PLSC 400V (Kapur), WLIT 3983 (Bassiri). In Spring 2012 the following courses were offered: HIST 3043 (Akturk), PLSC 400V (Kapur). Faculty members affiliated with the Center supervise courses taught by advanced graduate students.

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES – AY 2011-12

Visiting Speakers, Screenings and Special Events

The following lectures and screenings were held in Fayetteville, both on campus and at community venues. Further details and promotional information may be accessed on the Center website:

September 1: ‘Iranian Contemporary Photography’ – lecture by Malu Halasa, independent scholar/author (co-sponsored by KFC in collaboration with MESGA)

October 13: ‘Resisting Democracy: America and the Egyptian Regime’ – lecture by Jason Brownlee, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Texas-Austin (co-sponsored by KFC in collaboration with MESGA)

November 4: ‘Politics and Performance in an Early Modern Empire: Ottoman Imperial Ceremonies under Suleiman the Magnificent’ – lecture by I Kaya Sahin, Assistant Professor of History at Tulane University

February 13: ‘The Arab Spring One Year Later’ – lecture by Juan Cole, Richard P Mitchell Professor of History, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (co-sponsored by KFC in collaboration with MESGA)

March 26: ‘Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism’ – open classroom presentation/discussion by John Calvert, Associate Professor of History, Creighton University

March 31: ‘Sharia: Islamic Path of Justice and Freedom in America’ – a lecture by M Ali M Sadiqi (JD UA 2011) (supported by KFC and sponsored by the Muslima RSO)

April 2: ‘After Qadhafi: Libya from Dictatorship to Revolution’ – lecture by Ali A Ahmida, Professor of Political Science, University of New England (co-sponsored by KFC in collaboration with MESGA)

April 9: ‘After Baghdad’ – screening of documentary film by Sinan Antoon with discussion led by Joel Gordon and Kaveh Bassiri

April 20-21: Arkansas Spring Writers’ Festival featuring readings and a panel discussion with Sinan Antoon, Randa Jarrar, and Shahrnush Parsipur (co-sponsored by KFC, UA Creative Writing Program and Global Campus)

Arkansas Spring Writers Festival

This past AY for the first time the King Fahd Center collaborated with the Creative Writing Program and the UA Global Campus/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to sponsor the annual writers’ festival. With combined resources we were able to invite 3 prominent Middle Eastern writers to present individual readings and to share in a group panel discussion. The authors’ translated works were displayed ahead of time at local bookstores (Night Bird Books and the UA Bookstore) and were available for purchase and signing at events. Events were staged at the UA Global Campus, the Fayetteville Public Library and Night Bird Books.

Sinan Antoon is Assistant Professor of Literature at New York University. Born in Baghdad, he is an acclaimed novelist, poet, translator and literary scholar/critic. His first novel, *Ijaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody* was hailed by *The Nation* as ‘one of the essential Arab novels of its time.’ His second novel is currently in production. His translations of Mahmud Darwish won a PEN award, and his highly regarded documentary film (which MEST screened in advance), *About Baghdad* was the first film made about Iraq after the fall of the Ba’th regime in 2003.

Randa Jarrar teaches literature at California State University-Fresno. She is the author of *Map of Home*, winner of a Hopwood Award and noted as one of the best novels of 2008 by the *Barnes and Noble Review*. She was chosen to participate in Beirut39, a collection celebrating the thirty-nine most gifted writers of Arab origin under age forty, and is currently completing a collection of short stories and a new novel.

Shahrnush Parsipur is one of the most widely read Iranian writers of her generation. She has authored thirteen books. Her first novel is considered the second great work of modern Iranian fiction written by a woman. *Women without Men* (1990), which was banned – as has much of her writing – in Iran, has been recently adapted into a critically acclaimed motion picture by renowned Iranian visual artist Shireen Nashat. Shahrnush Parsipur currently lives in California as a political refugee after numerous imprisonments in Iran.

Lebanese Zajal Performances

In conjunction with Professors Adnan and Paula Haydar, the King Fahd Center underwrote the costs of a major poetry duel/performance held in Lebanon in August 2011. The event featured a verbal duel between six prominent masters of the art of *zajal*, improvisational poetry in colloquial Lebanese backed by chorus responders who sit behind the poets with tambourines to repeat lines and, at times, bring them back to the musical melody from which they strayed. The event, which was introduced by the president of the Lebanese Poets Society, was attended by 1500 artists, patrons and poetry lovers, and was recorded by the Lebanese National Television network. The role of the King Fahd Center and University of Arkansas was highlighted in advertising, official introductions, and subsequent press coverage. This event will be followed by another performance, this time featuring eight prominent poets, to be held in Lebanon this summer, July 2012.

KING FAHD CENTER SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS -- ONGOING

Ann Rhea Collection in Near East Antiquities

In 2005 the King Fahd Center was offered a large donation worth approximately \$100,000 of Near Eastern antiquities from Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia. Materials collected by Ms Rhea during her twelve-year residence in Saudi Arabia (1960-72) date from the Paleolithic 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.

Arabic Program

During AY 2011-12, 172 students took Arabic at various levels: 8 in Summer 2011, 98 in Fall 2011, and 66 in Spring 2012 (AY 2010-11 were similar: 9+98+72 = 179; AY 2009-10: 10+96+77= 173). Together, Adnan and Paula Haydar 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 Language Scholarship 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 was offered for a third consecutive summer in Summer 2011. Materials were all developed – and undergo regular revision – by UA Arabic professors in collaboration with a former student, Nadine Sinno, who is currently Assistant Professor of Arabic at Georgia State University.

A proposal for a major in Arabic, prepared by Adnan and Paula Haydar is currently under review by the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Civilizations, and the Middle East Studies Program.

Arabic Speech Contest

The Center helped sponsor the annual WLLC Speech Contest, held in April 2012. 21 undergraduate and graduate students participated at Elementary (10), Intermediate (8), and Advanced levels (3). Winners and runners-up were: Elizabeth Heckman and Hannah Burns (Elementary, Shane Elder and Christian Peterson (Intermediate), and Joshua Moore and Preston Caldwell (Advanced). Judges were Mounir Farah, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Badr Yassin, PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction.

Arabic Study Abroad

During the summer of 2011, 2 students received US State Department Critical Language Scholarships to study Arabic in the Middle East: Rachel Calandro (IREL/MEST) for Rabat, Morocco, Vera DeBerg (MA student in PLSC) for Tunis, Tunisia and Saba Naseem (Junior, JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor) in Rabat, Morocco. Brittany Williams (Junior, IREL/MEST) received a Gilman Scholarship and MEST support to study at CIEE in Amman, Jordan. 3 students studied Arabic in the Middle East with MEST support: Ethan Morton-Jerome (PhD student in ANTH) at Birzeit University in the Palestine Authority, and Seth Billingsley (MA student in PLSC) and Joshua Moore (ANTH/MEST, ARAB minor) at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan.

During AY 2011-12, Rachel Calandro (IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) CIEE fellowship in Jordan, supported by Honors College with supplemental MEST support.

This summer 2 students received Critical Language Scholarships: JP Huber (Senior, GRMN, ARAB minor) to Rabat, Morocco and Saba Naseem (Senior, JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor) to Amman, Jordan. 2 students were awarded scholarships to study Arabic at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa, Oman: Shane Elder (PhD student in CLCS) and Jessie Keller (Sophomore, IREL/FRNC, ARAB minor). Their scholarship to this program covers travel, books, and room/board.

3 students will be attending the CIEE program in Amman, Jordan: Preston Caldwell (Senior, ECON/PLSC, ARAB minor), Chales Denny (Sophomore, IREL, ARAB minor), and Russell Reynerson (Junior, MRKT/Pre-Business). Sanket Desai (PhD student HIST) received support from MEST to study Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon.

2 students were accepted into the brand new 'Arabic Institute for the Next Generation' program at Harvard University: JP Huber (Senior, GRMN, ARAB minor) and Joshua Moore (Senior, ANTH/MEST). Acceptance into the 3-week program, designed to train future high school and college Arabic teachers includes tuition, board and a small stipend. MEST supported both students with travel awards to cover travel and housing.

During the coming AY 3 students will study abroad in the Middle East: Charles Denny (Sophomore, IREL, ARAB minor) will study at the University of Jordan in Fall 2012; Christian Peterson (Junior, ECON/IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) will study at CIEE in Jordan during Fall 2012 with a Middle East Studies undergraduate scholarship; Sara Kouchebagh will study in Bahcesehir University in Istanbul Turkey during the Spring semester 2013 with support from the King Fahd Center.

Arabic Table

The King Fahd Center helped organize, in conjunction with Arabic professors Adnan and Paula Haydar, noontime gatherings of Arabic students to pursue guided informal discussion. Meetings were held in the Arkansas Union with refreshments provided from Center funds.

Archaeology Field schools

The King Fahd Center supports financially the operation of two archaeological field schools organized/supervised by Center-affiliated faculty.

Professor Rose had to cancel his Bioarchaeology field school in Upper Egypt last year due to concerns about safety and access to field sites. When the situation in Egypt stabilized, Professor Rose was able to lead a field expedition of faculty and advanced graduate students to analyze bones collected during the prior year's digging season. This summer, Professor Rose was able to reopen the school, giving priority to students who had been unable to participate the year before. The current team includes his co-director, Professor Gretchen Dabbs, and a teaching assistant, both from Southern Illinois University. This year there are 8 field school students (5 from UA, 1 from Macquarie University in Australia, 1 from the Australian National University, 1 from University of Central Florida). Honoring a request from the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, Professors Rose and Dabbs, also accepted 3 Egyptian student/trainees into the program.

In the coming Fall 2012 the Center will underwrite, as part of its support for this endeavor, the travel and expenses of a team who will go to Amarna and undertake a major excavation to prepare for Summer 2013 analysis.

Professor Casana has cancelled for a second year his field school at Tel Qarqur in northwest Syria due to the continued volatility of the political situation in that country. The Center looks forward to its continued commitment to these ventures under more stable political conditions.

In the meantime, Professor Casana has joined forces with a colleague who works in Cyprus and will be leading a field school at the Late Bronze Age site at Kalavassos that will include 8 students – 6 undergraduates (5 UA students and 1 student from Yale) and 2 graduate students (1 UA student and 1 from Penn) – and several staff members.

Arkansas Arabic Translation Award

This prestigious award, announced in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association every November/December, 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. By contractual agreement with SUP, the Center underwrites part of the cost of publication of the winner and, in return, receives a portion of royalties.

The 2011 winner is *String of Pearls: Queen of Egypt* (Shajarat al-Durr), the last published novel by Lebanese litterateur Jurji Zaidan (1861-1914), one of the pioneers of the modern Arabic literary and cultural renaissance. The winning translator is Sameh Salim, Assistant Professor in the Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures at Rutgers University.

Over the course of the past four years the award winners have included acclaimed works by contemporary authors from Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq. Last year's winner, *The World through the Eyes of Angels* by noted Iraqi author Mahmoud Saeed was published in 2011. This year's winner, due for publication in 2013, gives this important series added cultural and historical breadth.

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture

JILC is an ongoing venture operating out of the Lefflar Law School under the 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.

Plans are underway for a symposium in November 2013 on the debates in the United States and the Middle East on Sharia Law and its place in modern legal systems.

Middle East Studies Graduate Association (MESGA)

MESGA is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) that aims to promote Middle East Studies. In addition to social events, MESGA has hosted speakers, provided forums 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.

During AY 2010-11 MESGA initiated and sponsored (with assistance from the King Fahd Center) 4 public lectures, all of them noted above under Center Activities, by Malu Halasa, Jason Brownlee, Juan Cole, and Ali A Ahmida. Several speaking events are already in the works for AY 2012-13.

Model Arab League

Every spring Professor Najib Ghadbian and Program Coordinator Laila Taraghi lead a delegation of Arkansas undergraduate and graduate students to participate/compete in the National University Model Arab League (NUMAL), 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 advisors. Each participating university – some 22 universities and over 300 students – 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.

Recent rule-changes mandate that delegations first attend a regional meeting. So, since 2011 the UA delegation also attended the Southwest University MAL, held in Little Rock and hosted by UALR. This year the University of Arkansas represented the Comoros Islands at both regional and national meetings.

This year, 9 University of Arkansas undergraduates participated in both meetings: Morgan Byttner, Sydney Duerr, Emily Hudson, Abelazee Ihmeidan, Saba Kouchebahg, Sara Kouchebahg, Nicholas Linn, Michael Meizler, and Jeffrey Sherwood. Saba Naseem joined the national meeting delegation in WDC as part of the press corps. Representing a marginal country (UA represented Palestine last year) makes it hard to capture a spotlight, so extra kudos to Saba Kouchebahg and Jeffrey Sherwood for being awarded Honorable Mention in Little Rock for their representation of the Comoros on the Political Affairs Council.

Mullins Library

The King Fahd Center has over the years allocated \$20,000 for library expenditures, including books, journal subscriptions, and audiovisual materials. Faculty are encouraged to purchase materials that will further the general collection, reflecting 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.

This past year the Center was able to support – working in conjunction and with some additional financial support from the Library – a ‘boost’ in holdings related to Ottoman and early modern Islamic studies, as well as classical and modern Persian literature in translation. This coming year we will designate some extra funds towards early and classical Islamic eras and contemporary Middle Eastern art.

The Center also purchased for the library, from Lebanon, a unique collection of volumes of colloquial Lebanese poetry and studies related to the genre of *zajal*. Mullins Library will, consequently, hold for circulation a collection which has not been previously available in this country.

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).

Temple of Peace

The King Fahd Center underwrote the costs of scoring the documentary Temple of Peace by Hayot Tuchiev, Instructor in the UA Department of Journalism. The film, about the collaboration between a local Palestinian businessman and the Jewish community of Fayetteville, features 3 KFC faculty members – Amjad Faur, Joel Gordon, and Mohja Kahf. Lendell Black, a composer-arranger and musician based in Nashville, wrote the film score.

King Fahd Center Web Site

In May 2011 the King Fahd Center unveiled a new web site, the culmination of a long-standing and long-delayed project. Designed by MEST Program Coordinator Laila Taraghi (MA PLSC 2012) with creative input from Golsa Yaghoobi (MFA Arkansas), a former Center student, the site presents up-to-date data on Center students, faculty, policies, opportunities, news and events, as well as crucial links to academic resources. The web site will be an ongoing project, reflecting the changing nature of Center activities and the achievements of faculty, students, and alumni.

BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

At the outset of AY 2011-12 the projected income for both cost centers was \$1,014,163 (920,763 + 93,400). With surplus carry-over, the total was \$ 1,619,507.

Fixed budgetary commitments, primarily faculty/staff salaries and benefits, continue to climb (especially with the mandate to support base salaries for 2 unaffiliated faculty in the English Department) and represent nearly half of the annual operating budget (approximately \$600,000). Faculty research allotments – for MEST specialists – have been raised consistently in an effort to restore original levels, and will stand at \$5000 for AY 2012-13. Graduate Assistantships were increased for the coming year from \$11,600 to \$12,000 (MA) and \$12,500 (PhD), and most of the allotted slots will be filled. The number of undergraduate scholarships has increased as the pool of applicants has steadily improved. Support for student travel for research, language study, and conference participation has remained healthy; no legitimate requests were or need be declined. The Center is able to support the vital position of Program Coordinator, albeit still on an hourly basis, and to pay for special courses by affiliated faculty on a per-course basis. The King Fahd Center was also able to freely collaborate with other academic units to co-sponsor events that match our curricular and geo-cultural coverage. The Arkansas Spring Writers Festival was a prime example.

In the coming AY a highlight of Center programming will be the Caravansarai series. Underwritten by the Doris Duke and Robert Sterling Clark foundations, the Center – in collaboration with its partners – will be responsible for hosting costs, which will fit comfortably within our budget.

Total Expenditures AY 2011-12

Faculty/Staff salaries – 465,019
Faculty/Staff benefits – 107,051
Instructor Salaries – 9000
Miscellaneous Salary Adjustments – 5000
Wages/Benefits – 18,000
Faculty R&D funds – 44,000
Instructor R&D funds – 2000

Graduate Assistant Salaries/Benefits – 180,000
Undergraduate Scholarships – 21,600
Archaeological Field Schools – 24,000
Undergraduate Travel Awards/Study Abroad – 5500
Graduate Research/Travel Awards – 12,100
Graduate Conference Travel -- 2981
Speakers/Events – 3104
Arabic Translation Prize – 11,525
Poetry Duel (Lebanon) – 11,000
Writers' Festival – 4000
Arabic Speech Contest – 450
Model Arab League (regional) – 3145
Model Arab League (national) -- 9517
Library Purchases – 12,039
Temple of Peace (documentary) – 500
Fulbright/MEST Apartment -- 6000
Organizational Memberships – 4000
Supplies -- 1000
UPS – 1000

Total: \$ 963,531

Notes

- 1) Cost Centers – in AY 2010-11 the decision was made to simplify Center accounting by reconfiguring the two cost centers. Foundation account 31-000238 is now related to the primary endowment and account 31-000239 is the much smaller account relating to translation and literary endeavors. This has made budgeting expenditures much easier since funds are taken from accounts that most closely approximate academic directions.
- 2) Faculty salaries/benefits include salaries for Paula Haydar and Mahfuza Akhtar. Ted Swedenburg was on leave without pay as a visiting scholar at Georgetown University. Wages/benefits are for Laila Taraghi.
- 3) \$70,000 was removed from the Center budget in AY 2011-12 to support base salaries of 2 faculty members who are not affiliated with the King Fahd Center. Center faculty raised questions about the philosophy, propriety and short/long-term implications of this adjustment.
- 4) Graduate Assistant numbers reflect \$12,000 per student (stipend of \$11,600 + approximate tuition waivers) x 15 students full year plus two students half year.
- 5) Undergraduate numbers reflect \$6000 per student x 5 students + \$2400 x 2 students.
- 6) Undergraduate and graduate travel awards are itemized in relevant sections

7) Costs for AY 2011-12 Arabic Translation Award include \$5000 to the translator (since the author is deceased there is no additional payment), \$660 for an announcement in the MESA 2011 Annual Meeting Program, and \$8574 to Syracuse University Press to cover publication costs. SUP returned \$3209 in royalties for the prior year's winner/publication.

8) Regional Model Arab League numbers include registration fees, lodging, car rental (for transport to Little Rock), and mileage/gas/meals en route. National Model Arab League numbers include registration fees, airfare, ground transportation, and associated hotel fees.

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

During AY 2011-12 the Center supported 17 graduate assistants at the 50% assistantship level with stipends of \$11,600. During AY 2011-12 the MEST faculty approved raises to \$12,000 for MA students and \$12,500 for PhD students. This will go into effect for AY 2012-13

Chris Angel (ENDY), Kaveh Bassiri (MFA/Trans), Seth Billingsley (PLSC), Nancy Browning (ANTH), Sarah Chapman (ANTH, ½ year), Travis Curtice (PLSC), Sanket Desai (HIST), Andi Duplantis (GEOS), Nicole Fares (MFA/Trans, ½ year), Lama Hamoudi (CLCS), Grace Henderson (GEOS), Elise Jakoby (ANTH), Sonia Kapur (PBPL), Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH), Taylor Montgomery (ANTH, ½ year), Teresa Wilson (ANTH, ½ year) Wawan Yulianto (CLCS)

The PhD/MA breakdown is: 9 PhD students (Angel, Chapman, Desai, Hamoudi, Kapur, Morton-Jerome, Montgomery, Wilson, Yulianto) and 8 MA students (Bassiri, Billingsley, Browning, Curtice, Duplantis, Fares, Henderson, Jakoby) students.

Of this group, 2 MA students graduated in May 2012. 5 formerly funded PhD students (3 in HIST, 2 in CLCS) taught within their departments as they work on their dissertations. Of these, 2 will graduate in August and 1 of them will start a tenure-track job.

In AY 2012-13 the Center will fund 17 students:

Mohammad Abdelhadi (CIEC), Chris Angel (ENDY), Kaveh Bassiri (MFA/Trans), Nancy Browning (ANTH), Clayton Clark (MFA/Trans), Sanket Desai (HIST), Sarah Dunlap (HIST), Andie Duplantis (GEOS), Nicole Fares (MFA/Trans), Lama Hamoudi (CLCS), Grace Henderson (GEOS), Sonia Kapur (PBPL), Mark Meyers (PLSC), Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH), Keith Whitmire (ANTH), Teresa Wilson (ANTH), Wawan Yulianto (CLCS)

The PhD/MA breakdown is: 10 PhD students (Abdelhadi, Angel, Bassiri, Desai, Hamoudi, Kapur, Morton-Jerome, Whitmire, Wilson, Yulianto) and 7 MA students

(Browning, Clark, Dunlap, Duplantis, Fares, Henderson, Meyers). Of these, 4 are newly funded students, 2 of whom are new to the UA.

Graduate assistantships are spread among affiliated departments as follows: Anthropology (5); Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies (3); Environmental Dynamics (1); Geosciences (2); History (5); Political Science (2); Public Policy (1). For AY 2012-13 the King Fahd Center will use one 'empty' slot to fund a PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education. This is a 'start-up' project in two respects. It will fund a student for one year with available funds that are not available to CIEC. It will also initiate a greater flexibility across departmental lines when openings occur that departments choose not fill.

The graduate student pool is, of course, much larger. Not all MEST-affiliated students are funded through the King Fahd Center. Some are funded by their home departments and/or through faculty research grants; some international students are funded through their governments or bi-national Fulbright foundations in their home country. MEST graduate students are increasingly scoring prestigious national and international grants (Fulbright, IREX, ACCELS, CAORC, ASOR, AAUW) to fund study abroad and/or thesis write-up. Academic departments with graduate students working on Middle East topics have been supportive in providing instructorships to advanced students who have completed their funding cycle through MEST.

There are currently approximately 40 graduate students working on Middle East-related topics under MEST faculty guidance. 1 ANTH PhD student graduated in December 2011. 2 PhD students (ANTH, ENGL) graduated in May 2012; 2 PhD students (CLCS) are due to graduate in August 2012. 7 MA students (4 ANTH, 3 PLSC) graduated in May 2012. 1 MA (GEOS) and 2 PhD students (ANTH, HIST) are due to defend by late August or early September. Of these 15 students, 12 were funded by MEST and 2 were Fulbright international scholars.

Graduate Student Research Awards – Summer 2011 (from AY 2010-11 budget)

Chris Angel (ENDY), thesis research in Jordan (\$3000 for summer 2011)
Seth Billingsley (PLSC), Arabic language study in Jordan (\$3000 for summer 2011)
Ryan Cochran (GEOS), thesis research in Jordan (\$2500 for summer 2011)
Rasha Elendari (ANTH), field school in Syria (\$1500 for summer 2011/cancelled due to situation in Syria)
Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH), Arabic language study in Palestine (\$2500 for summer 2011)

The PhD/MA breakdown is three PhD students (Angel, Elendary, Morton-Jerome) and two MA students (Billingsley, Cochran).

Graduate Student Research/Study Awards – Summer 2012 (from AY 2011-12 budget)

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS), PhD research in Iran (\$3200)
Sanket Desai (HIST), language study in Lebanon (\$1600)
Andie Duplantis (GEOS), MA research in Palestine Authority (\$3000)
Grace Henderson (GEOS), MA research in Israel/Palestine Authority (\$3000)
Matt Parnell (HIST), PhD research in UK (\$850)
Melissa Zolnierz (ANTH), PhD research at Oriental Institute, Chicago (\$1000)

The PhD/MA breakdown is: 4 PhD students (Bassiri, Desai, Parnell, Zolnierz) and 2 MA students (Duplantis, Henderson)

In addition, the King Fahd Center supported travel to the 2011 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting for Ahmet Akturk (HIST) and Matt Parnell (HIST), both PhD students who had co-organized a panel and were presenting papers.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

During AY 2011-12 the program counted approximately 45 undergraduate co-majors and 10 minors (students continue to register on a rolling basis throughout the semester and some have recently graduated). These numbers demonstrate steady growth over recent years. We had 44 co-majors in AY 10-11, 50 in AY 09-10, 41 in AY 2008-09, 36 in AY 07-08, and 28 in 06-07. The number of minors remained steady, but still shows slight growth over time: 18 in AY 10-11, 13 in AY 09-10, 15 in AY 08-09, 12 in AY 07-08, 10 in AY 06-07, and only 5 the previous year. MEST graduated 7 co-majors and 6 minors in AY 11-12, 9 co-majors and 3 minors in AY 10-11; the previous year numbers were 10 co-majors and 1 minor.

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 2011-12 the Center supported 2 students with \$6000 scholarships and 1 student with a partial scholarship of \$3000: Stewart Bailey (IR/MEST, partial), Morgan Byttner (IREL/MEST), and Andrew Newell (IREL/MEST). 2 of these students graduated this year and 1 will be continued for a second year of funding.

For the coming AY 2012-13 the Center will support 5 students with full \$6000 scholarships: Katelyn Burns (IREL/MEST, minor ARAB), Mark Meizler (HIST/IREL/MEST), Sarina Mann (GEOS/MEST), Andrew Newell (IREL/MEST), and Christian Peterson (ECON/IREL/MEST, minor ARAB).

Students funded for summer study 2011 (from AY 2010-11 budget)

Partial funding was provided for the following students to pursue Arabic language study abroad during the current summer: Rachel Calandro (Jordan), Joshua Moore (Morocco), Brittany Williams (Jordan)

Students funded for summer study 2012 (from AY 2011-12 budget)

Partial funding was provided to Joshua Moore and J P Huber to support their participation in the new Harvard University 'Arabic Institute for the Next Generation'.

FACULTY NEWS

Nikolay Antov (Assistant Professor of History)

Professor Antov undertook rejuvenation of the History curriculum in pre-modern Islamic/Middle East Studies. In the Fall of 2011 he taught Introduction to Islamic Civilizations (HIST 3033) and an undergraduate special topics course on the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923 (HIST 3983). In the Spring semester 2012 he again taught Islamic Civilizations and an upper division course (HIST 4393) on Early Modern Islamic Empires. The latter constituted a revision of a longstanding course on Ottoman and Safavid Empires. Antov is in the process of submitting minor catalog changes to such existing courses to better reflect his own specializations and interests.

He also taught a series of independent reading courses for both graduate and advanced undergraduate students, both in conjunction with his regular Ottoman (Fall) and Early Empire (Spring) courses and as separate sections – he oversaw a cohort of students reading in Medieval Muslim Spain during the Spring.

He is supervising 1 MA student, a Turkish student with background in Ottoman history and Ottoman language, and is serving on 3 PhD committees and 2 graduate advisory (comprehensive exam) committees in History. He also served on 1 undergraduate Honors thesis committee.

Professor Antov is currently in Istanbul working in the Ottoman imperial archives to find further materials for his book, based on his dissertation, on the formation of the Turkish Muslim community in the Northeastern Balkans during the 15-16th centuries. He is also preparing two articles, on demographic and social history of Dobrudja and on the development of Ottoman confessional vocabulary in the context of the 16th century conflict between the Ottomans and the Safavids.

His talk, 'Emergence and Historical development of Muslim Communities in the Ottoman Balkans: Turcoman Colonization, Conversion to Islam and the *indigenization of Islam* in the Balkan Peninsula' – an invited presentation to an international conference on 'Beyond Mosque, Church and State: Negotiation Religious and Ethno-National Identities

in the Balkans' at The Ohio State University in October 2011 – is currently under review as part of an edited collection.

Jesse Casana (Associate Professor of Anthropology)

In Fall 2011 Professor Casana completed a 3-year project funded by NEH and ACLS (\$300,000). His team produced an online digital atlas using declassified cold war-era CORONA satellite imagery of archaeological sites and features throughout the Middle East. The atlas (now available at <http://corona.cast.uark.edu/index.html>) provides orthorectified versions of the imagery to users free of charge.

He currently directs a 3-year NASA-funded project (\$310,000) that aims to map all archaeological sites and related cultural features that are visible in CORONA satellite imagery across a large area of the Middle East. In 2011-12 his team completed an inventory of known sites, developing systems for mapping and morphological classification of sites, and began work on environmental modeling of the study area. Professor Casana currently also directs a regional archaeology project involving settlement survey, paleoenvironmental investigations, and targeted excavation at key sites throughout the interior desert of Dubai. In January 2012, with partial MEST support, he directed a short archaeological excavation at the site of Saruq al-Hadid. He remains co-director of an excavation at Tell Qarqur in the Orontes River Valley of western Syria. The planned summer excavations for 2011 and 2012 were cancelled due to the political situation in Syria. However, senior team members met for a 1-week study/publication meeting in Fayetteville in October 2011.

To replace the field school in Syria, Professor Casana has collaborated with Kevin Fisher, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Anthropology/CAST, to plan a new field project and archaeological field school at the Late Bronze Age site of Kalavassos in southern Cyprus. In June-July 2012 they will bring 8 students and several staff members on a 5-week project.

In addition to the above noted grants, Professor Casana applied for a \$25,000 course development grant from the UA Honors College to support a digital antiquity course.

Professor Casana published 2 articles in AY 2011-12: 'A Sequence of Inland Desert Settlement in the Oman Peninsula: 2008-09 Excavations at Saruq al-Hadid, Dubai, UAE' in *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* 23 (2012): 50-69 (co-authored w/ JT Herrmann and H Qandil); and 'Site Morphology and Settlement History in the Northern Levant,' in *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, London, March 2010* (British Museum and University College London Press).

He had papers accepted for publication in *Home Turf: Archaeology, Territoriality, and Politics* (Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association); *Theory and Method in Paleontology* (UP of Colorado); *Archaeology in the United Arab Emirates* (co-authored w/ JT Herrmann, HS Qandil, HM Zein); *Internet Archaeology* (co-authored w/ J Cothren, T Kalayci); *Handbook of Space Archaeology* (ICOMOS, co-authored w/ J

Cothren); and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (co-authored w/J Cothre, A Barnes, T Kalayci). All are currently in press.

Professor Casana presented his work at the NASA/COMOS Space Archaeology Workshop, Johns Hopkins University (October 2011); American Institute of Archaeology lectures in Fresno CA and Spokane WA (November 2011); the annual meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco (November 2011) and the Society for American Archaeology in Memphis (March 2012); and the International Conference on Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Warsaw, Poland (May 2012).

His graduate students presented their work at major academic gatherings, as will be noted in Student News. Completing student Jason Herrmann (PhD) has accepted a postdoctoral position at Dartmouth College; Rasha Elendari (MA), Amy Karroll (MA), Anna Weiser (MA), and James Wesolowski (MA) have been accepted in PhD programs at Toronto, UCLA, Kansas and UA.

Mounir Farah (Professor of Curriculum and Instruction)

Professor Farah spent two weeks (September 26-October 7, 2011) at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania. He met with professors of political science and international relations to discuss their plans for a future program in Middle East studies and to explore potential collaboration with UA. He also lectured on 'The So-Called Arab Spring' and served on a doctoral thesis committee.

In November-December 2011 Professor Farah spoke at a round-table meeting/discussion about the Middle East at the International Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies and participated in the Middle East Outreach Council and Syrian Studies Association meetings at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, DC.

On campus he hosted the Dean of the College of Education of the University of Kuwait, assisted teaching interns in their planning and development of curriculum units and lesson plans about the Middle East/North Africa and Islam. He actively helped recruit PhD students into Curriculum and Instruction from the Arab world, and served as judge for the Arabic speech competition sponsored in conjunction with other language competitions by the department of WLLC.

Professor Farah won the 2011 Faculty Career Award from the College of Education and Health Professions.

Najib Ghadbian (Associate Professor of Political Science)

Professor Ghadbian published 'How Satellite TV Challenges State Media Monopoly: al-Jazeera's Coverage of Syria' in Barry Rubin (ed), *The Middle East: A Guide to Politics, Economics, Society, and Culture* (M E Sharpe 2011). He has an essay on 'Opposition Activism under Bashar Asad' forthcoming in Raymond Hinnebusch and Tina Zint (eds), *Bashar al-Asad's First Decade*.

He currently serves on the executive committee for a working project, ‘The Day After: Supporting a Transition to Democracy in Syria,’ that is co-sponsored by the US Institute for Peace (USIP) and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), a European think tank based in Berlin. He is a member of two (of five) working groups, those on ‘Interim Governance Arrangements’ and Rule of Law, Elections and Constitutional Design’.

Professor Ghadbian presented papers on the current political situation in Syria at Harvard University, the annual conference of the European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris), the US Institute for Peace, the annual conference of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (Washington, DC), the University of Pretoria, the Afro-Middle East Center (Johannesburg), the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies (Vilnius), the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference (Moscow), Chatham House (London), the European Council of Foreign Relations (London). He also spoke to the Arab Reform Initiative (Tunis), first annual meeting of Syrian Expatriates in Europe (Vienna), Syrian American Council Town Hall Meeting on Syria (Los Angeles), and the Syrian American Community (Arlington, VA).

His many media contributions – he estimates some 600 interviews – will be noted below in the faculty outreach section. On campus, he acted as advisor to the UA delegation to the regional and national Model Arab League, and saw 2 MA students complete theses and graduate and 2 others graduate with non-thesis MA degrees.

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

Professor Gordon published ‘Broken Heart of the City: Youssef Chahine’s Bab al-Hadid (Cairo Station)’ in a special double issue on Arab popular culture of the *Journal for Cultural Research* 16 (2012): 17-37. ‘Writing Egypt’s Spring,’ an extended review essay on recent scholarly and fiction works from and on Egypt, appeared in *Bustan* 2 (2011): 84-99. He published 14 entries in Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel AK Akyeampong (eds) *Dictionary of African Biography*, including Hasan al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, musical legends Layla Murad, Farid al-Atrash and Abd al-Halim Hafiz, as well as cinema giant Omar Sharif.

He signed a contract in March 2012 with Cambridge University Press to edit a flagship volume on Gamal Abdel Nasser for the new *Critical Editions* series. Concurrently he is serving as chief consultant to filmmaker Michal Goldman for a forthcoming documentary on Nasser. The project won a \$75,000 development grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures initiative. A proposal, including a script, for an NEH production grant (up to \$800,000) is currently in the final stages of drafting.

Professor Gordon also co-wrote, with King Fahd Center Program Coordinator Laila Taraghi, a successful proposal to Arts Midwest for Middle East Center to co-host (along with the Walton Arts Center and UA Global Campus) Caravansarai: A Place Where Cultures Meet, a multi-million dollar initiative funded by the Doris Duke Foundation and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.

He presented 'Chahine, Chaos and Cinema: A Revolutionary Coda' at the 2011 Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, DC. A revised essay is currently under review.

He served as a grant reviewer for the NEH Bridging Cultures documentary film committee and reviewed individual grant proposals for the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council and the Israel Science Foundation. He reviewed manuscripts for a number of university presses and academic journals. He spoke on the Arab Spring at Missouri Southern State University and delivered a keynote address for a conference on the Arab Spring at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Professor Gordon currently supervises 4 graduate students working towards the PhD in History and one PhD student in Cultural Studies. He serves on the Graduate Advisory Committees for 4 other History PhD students.

Adnan Haydar (Professor of World Languages)

Professor Haydar continued work, in collaboration with Paula Haydar and Nadine Sinno on a textbook for Eastern Arabic (Lebanese) dialect to be published by Georgetown University Press as a companion volume to *Al-Kitab*, the leading text for Modern Standard Arabic in this country, now in its 3rd edition. This year the three authors signed a contract with GUP for *Haki bil-Lubnani*, including digital audio-visual supplements. The course will be an on-line companion to *Al-Kitab* with interactive exercises. The manuscript is currently in final revisions for a Fall 2012 submission.

Professor Haydar translated (with Professor Michael Beard, University of North Dakota), 'My Libya,' a poem by Libyan poet Leila Nahoum, which appeared in Words without Borders (wordswithoutborders.org).

His article on 'Khalil Hawi's Position in Modern Arabic Poetry' was accepted for publication by *al-Abhaath*, a refereed journal published by the American University in Beirut (expected publication June 2012).

Professor Haydar received the Oral Poetry Award from the Syndicate of Lebanese Poets in August 2011 in conjunction with his organization (with financial support from the King Fahd Center) of a Lebanese verbal duel that was held outside Beirut in August 2011. The event, which featured six prominent oral poets, drew a crowd of 1500 people and was videotaped and broadcast on Lebanese television. As part of an ongoing project to archive this poetic tradition, he secured the purchase of books, recordings and videos to be deposited in the UA Mullins Library. A related project is collaboration with Lebanese poet, artist, and scholar Joseph Abi Daher on an Arabic study of Lebanese customs, traditions and folklore. The work will be translated under Professor Haydar's supervision and published in both English and Arabic.

Professor Haydar is currently working on a book manuscript on Jordanian and Palestinian weddings and a co-translation for Words without Borders of a long poem by Egyptian poet Abdel Mun'im Ramadan entitled 'Walt Whitman's Funeral.'

As director of the Arkansas Prize for Arabic Translation, he oversaw the publication of the 2010 winner, Mahmoud Saeed's *The World through the Eyes of Angels*, and the awarding of the 2011 prize for Sameh Salim's translation of Jurgi Zaidan's *Tree of Pearls*. He continues to serve as co-editor of the Syracuse University Press Middle East Literature in Translation series and this past year co-edited 2 manuscripts for SUP. He also served as a consultant/reviewer for the Yale University Press Arabic textbook project by Munther Younes.

At the University of Arkansas Professor Haydar directs the Arabic program and serves on the Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies committee and the WLLC Executive Committee and Tenure/Promotion Committee. This past year he served on 1 CLCS dissertation committee and directed 7 undergraduate students in independent study, served on 1 undergraduate Honor's thesis committee and advised 11 undergraduate minors in Arabic, and 4 graduates in the MFA Translation program. He will serve on another CLCS dissertation committee and has agreed to direct an undergraduate Honor's thesis in the coming AY.

He co-organized (with Paula Haydar) the Arabic speech competition and they submitted a written proposal for a major in Arabic to the chair of WLLC chair and director of MEST.

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Foreign Languages)

Professor Haydar completed and submitted for publication her translation (with Nadine Sinno) of *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* (Tstifil Meryl Streep) by Lebanese novelist Rashid al-Daif. She also completed a translation of *June Rain* (Matar Haziran) by Lebanese novelist Jabbour Douaihy that was commissioned by the Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation. Along with Adnan Haydar and Nadine Sinno she signed a contract with Gerogetown University Press for *Haki bil-Lubnani*, the Lebanese dialect supplement to *Al-Kitab*, the leading textbook or Arabic students in this country.

She attended the zajal oral poetry event in Lebanon in August 2011 sponsored by the King Fahd Center and began transcribing the recorded event for research purposes and has been instrumental in helping organize a follow-up event scheduled for July 2012. She is currently sitting for her comprehensive examinations in Comparative Literature. During the Spring semester 2012 she was invited to serve as Visiting Translator by the UA program in literary translation. This involved individual meetings with students and running the translation workshop class.

Professor Haydar continues to advise undergraduate Arabic students and, with Adnan Haydar, drafted a proposal for a major in Arabic that was submitted to the chair of WLLC and the director of MEST. She worked closely with a PhD student in Curriculum

and instruction on a project relating to learning Arabic as a foreign language. Along with Adnan Haydar, she advised and recommended students for study abroad options.

Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English)

Professor Kahf's essay 'The Caul of Inshallah' was published in Bill Henderson (ed) 2011 *Pushcart Prize XXXV: Best of the Small Presses* (2011): 458-61. 'The Daughter's Road to Syria' appeared in *The Rumpus* (an online arts publication). 'Writing on Muslim Gender Issues in the West Today: Slipping Past the Pity Committee and Dodging the Defensive Brigades' appeared in Rabab Abdal Hadi (ed) *Arab and Arab American Feminisms* (Syracuse 2011): 111-21. An essay she wrote in English was translated into Italian and published as 'La Rivoluzione Si Metter I Jeans' in *Italianeuropei* 5 (2011): 131-44. Her translation (with Manal al-Natour) of Maimouna Alammar, 'Syrian Crackdown takes away her Family, One by One,' was published in *Women's ENews* and *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America* 13 (1) 2012: 7-9.

Her poems: 'The Water of Hajar' appeared in Kecia Ali, Juliane Hammer, and Laury Silvers (ed) *Jihad for Justice: Honoring the Work and Life of Amina Wadud* (2011): 183-84; 'Descent into JFK' appeared in *Quest* (an online publication of the Church of the Larger Fellowship) in February 2012; and 'My People are Rising' in *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America* 13 (1) April 2012: 4-6. A short story, 'The Girl from Mecca' appeared in *Feminist Studies* 38 (1) 2012: 73-83.

Professor Kahf read her poetry at the Center for Spiritual Life, Depauw University (September 2011) and the Arab Cultural and Community Center, San Francisco (November 2011). She delivered the opening keynote address at the conference on Muslim Women and the Challenge of Authority at Boston University (March 2012), and delivered guest lectures at Depauw University (September 2011), UC-Berkeley (November 2011), and Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids MI (May 2012).

She was a panelist at Arab and Arab American Feminisms book panel at the Arab Cultural and Community Center in San Francisco (November 2011), participated in the plenary session of 'Debating the Arab Spring' forum at UC-Berkeley (November 2011), and served on a panel on 'Women in the Syrian Revolution' in Arlington VA (March 2012). She conducted workshops on minority rights in a democracy for the Syrian Youth Activism Network meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2011 and in Chicago in October 2011, and participated in workshop conducted by Nonviolence International at George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Springs, MD (December 2011).

Professor Kahf has supervised two recent dissertations to completion, Banan al-Daraiseh and Manal al-Natour. She is currently supervising her former MA student, Wawan Yulianto, who began his PhD studies in Comparative Literature in Fall 2011.

Her numerous outreach activities, workshop participation and news postings in classical and new social media formats are noted in the Faculty Outreach section. She is currently completing a translation of the work of pre-Islamic poet, Safiah bint Tha'laba, that has

been commissioned by the Modern Language Association Texts and Translations series and has completed a draft of a collection of Syrian revolutionary chronicles that is currently under review.

Tom Paradise (Professor of Geosciences)

Professor Paradise completed and updated a series of maps for Jane Taylor's forthcoming book, *Beyond the Jordan: Baptism, Prophecy, and Pilgrimage* in which Taylor revisits the geography of the Jordan River Valley to resituate the activities of John the Baptist. Paradise's maps include Roman roads, province boundaries, and incorporate the latest research on physical landscape and archaeological evidence. He also produced maps for Taylor's *Roman Holy Land* (Oxford UP), the official map for the Baptism Site of Jesus in Jordan, and 2 wall maps for the National Museum of Jordan. Here at home he produced the University of Arkansas Public Art Map and brochure, the University of Arkansas Pig Trails on campus hiking/walking maps, the *Atlas of Arkansas* (Institute for Arkansas Studies), and the Trail of Tears map in bronze for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

In November-December 2011, Professor Paradise was invited, as one of eight international scholars, to Jordan as a consultant for UNESCO on the new designation of Wadi Rum as the newest World Heritage and World Natural site. He spoke at the plenary session before UN commissioners on 'Cultural Heritage Lessons learned from Petra, Jordan.' The conference lasted 1 week and included off-road site visits and impromptu talks.

Professor Paradise is an editor for UNESCO and ICOMOS (UN International Commission on Monuments and Sites) series on the four most important World Heritage sites: Petra, Macchu Picchu, Angkor Wat, and Pompeii. He contributed 'Architecture and Deterioration in Petra: Issues, Trends, and Warnings' to Douglas C Comer (ed), *Tourism and Archaeological Heritage Management at Petra: Driver to Development of Destruction* (Springer 2012): 79-104.

He has a number of publications currently in press: 'Petra: Maps, Magic and Science,' *ESRI News* (forthcoming); 'Solar influences on sandstone deterioration and development of tafoni on an isolated Djinn Block high above Petra, Jordan,' *American Journal of Archaeology* 116: 7 (July 2012); 'Sandstone Deterioration, Nature, and Tourism: Lessons learned from Petra, Jordan,' in G Chatelard (ed), *Proceedings from the Conference Desert and Man*, (in press). He currently has two articles under review.

Professor Paradise continues to work on architectural deterioration analysis, Nabataean urban morphology and celestial alignment in Petra, Jordan, and on seismic risk perception in comparative Muslim and Christian community settings.

He submitted and/or resubmitted 3 grant proposals: to the US Department of Defense Critical Language and Culture Program (\$802,000), the Center for International Business Education (\$1.9 million), and the Arkansas State Legislature (\$65,000). He was awarded

a number of grants as co-PI with various graduate and former students, from: UNESCO (\$3900 with Chris Angel to study urban morphology in Petra); Kingdom of Jordan (\$3900 with Mohammed Salem to study environmental perception and aquifer mining across the Madaba plain, and \$2850 with Ryan Cochran to study perceptions of political revolutions across North Africa); USDOD (\$3600 with Simon Reid to study perception of Muslim influence on educational opportunities in the UK).

Professor Paradise is a contributing editor to *Arab World Geographer*, *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*, and is a cartographic editor for the University of Arkansas Press. He is editor/consultant for *Annual Editions in Geography* (McGraw-Hill), editor of the *Regions of the World* textbook series and *The Middle East* (Harcourt-Brace). He served as grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, FEMA-Homeland Security, USAID, USIS-USIA, the US State Department, and National Park Service.

He continues to serve on the board of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Global Campus). He led sessions on Petra, Islamic Art and Architecture, and Gemology and Jewels for the program. He developed new courses that mesh his Middle East and theoretical/technical areas of expertise. American Public Lands and Policy is cross-listed with 4 departments, including the Law School. Historic Preservation is cross-listed between Geography and Architecture.

Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Rose continues to carry out research in Upper Egypt, at Amarna, capital city of the 'heretic pharaoh' Akenaten, and lead a highly regarded bioarchaeology field school. In Summer 2010 he supervised ten undergraduates from ten different universities and one graduate student from the University of Arkansas at his field school. Last year, in consultation with the King Fahd Center and University officials, he decided to cancel the field school. Instead, with Center support, he led a research expedition consisting of faculty colleagues and advanced graduate students. The team analyzed the skeletons excavated from the Amarna cemetery during the 2010 season. This season Professor Rose returned to Amarna along with his co-director, a teaching assistant, and 8 students (who were joined by 3 Egyptian student/trainees). The King Fahd Center will also help support a major excavation in November 2012 that will unearth a substantial number of skeletons for future analysis.

Professor Rose co-authored the following chapter that appeared in print during AY 2011-12: 'Body size, skeletal biomechanics, mobility and habitual activity from the Late Paleolithic to the Mid-Dynastic Nile Valley,' in Ron Pinhasi and Jay T Stock (eds), *Human Bioarchaeology of the Transition to Agriculture* (UK: Wiley-Blackwell 2011): 347-67 (co-authored w/ JT Stock, MC O'Neill, CB Ruff, M Zabecki, M Shackleford).

He won a \$19,562 grant from National Geographic to pursue further research on 'Epidemic Disease at Tell el-Amarna, the Capital City of Egypt's Heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten' (co-PI is Barry Kemp, Professor Emeritus, Cambridge University). The grant will fund excavations in Spring 2013.

Professor Rose presented his work at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center at Duke University (March 2012). He served on the Digital Antiquity Professional Advisory Panel at Arizona State University (March 2012). This panel provides advice and assistance in interfacing with stakeholder communities in the preservation and conservation of digital archaeology data. He also spoke on ‘The People of Pre-dynastic Hierakonpolis’ and ‘Akhenaten’s Failed Experiment with Monotheism and a New Capital City’ at Missouri Southern State University, Joplin MO, as a featured speaker for their semester-long seminar on Egypt.

Professor Rose spends considerable energy as program advisor for the UA Pre-dental Program. This past AY he advised 150 undergrad pre-dental students and 32 who were applying to dental school. He spends more than one month meeting with dental school applicants, collecting data from other faculty members and writing and submitting the letters of recommendation each year. This entails summer work since letters must now be written in June and July (instead of October). In Summer 2011 he wrote 33 committee letters for recommendation. This has paid off remarkably well – an acceptance rate of 48% (16 of 33 applicants) and 53% representation of 30 total spaces allotted for Arkansas students. Professor Rose also serves as faculty sponsor of the UA Dental Club.

One of his undergraduate students, Laura Faulkner, won an Undergraduate Honors Research Grant (\$3000) for her work on ‘Surface Analysis Methods of Cast Teeth from Ancient Amarna, Egypt.’ Sanaa Riaz, who completed her PhD and graduated in December 2011, accepted a job as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Ashford University in Denver CO.

Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Swedenburg was on leave for AY 2011-12 as Jamal Daniel Visiting Professor of Levant Studies in the Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He taught an undergraduate seminar on Levantine Jewish-Arab Culture in Fall 2011; in Spring 2012 he taught a five-week mini-course on Mediterranean Crossings: Cultural Connections for Georgetown’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Part of the GU outreach program, the students were elementary and secondary school and community college teachers.

He continued research and rewrote chapters for a forthcoming book, *Radio Interzone*, a project that he has reconfigured into two separate publications. His entry on Algerian rap star Cheb Khalid appeared in Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel Akeyampong (eds), *Dictionary of African Biography* (Oxford UP 2011). An essay on ‘Palestinian Rap: Against the Struggle Paradigm’ is forthcoming in Walid El Hamamsy and Mounira Soliman (eds), *Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa: A Postcolonial Outlook* (Routledge).

Several essays, a number of them classics, were reprinted in new edited volumes. ‘The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great Revolt (1936-1939)’, which appeared originally in an important 1988 collection and which has been reprinted in 3 other

collections, has been included most recently in Stuart Schaar and Marvin Gettleman, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* (Grove 2012). ‘Saida Sultan/Danna International; transgender pop and the polysemiotics of sex, nation and ethnicity on the Israeli-Egyptian border’ (*The Musical Quarterly* 1997) reappeared in Tony Langlois (ed), *Non-Western Popular Music* (Ashgate 2012). ‘Homies in the Hood: Rap’s Commodification of Insubordination’ (*New Formations* 1989) has been reissued in Chris Rojek (ed), *Popular Music Vol. 4: Cultures and Subcultures of Popular Music* (Sage 2011). ‘Imagined Youths’ (*Middle East Report* 2007) was reprinted in Jeannie Souwers and Chris Toensing (eds), *The Journey to Tahrir: Revolution, Protest and Social Change in Egypt* (Verso 2012).

Professor Swedenburg presented ‘The Palestinian Kufiya: Solidarity and/vs Fashion’ at Georgetown University in March 2012. He discussed papers and chaired panels at the GU Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and at the 2011 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. He co-authored a successful \$12,600 grant proposal with Elliott Colla, Chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown, to run a colloquium marking the 20th anniversary of Amiel Alcalay’s *After Jews and Arabs: Remaking a Levantine Culture* to be held in November 2012.

He is an editor of the Indiana University Press series ‘Public Cultures of the Middle East & North Africa’, the only book series devoted ethnography of the region, and he serves on the editorial committee of *Middle East Report*. While at Georgetown he served on the GU Press publication committee, the Levant post-doc committee, and the admissions committee for the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He also served as an oral examiner for 1 Georgetown MA student. He expects 2 current PhD students to successfully defend their completed theses by the end of this current summer. He currently is advising 1 additional PhD student and 1 MA student.

Sarwar Alam (Instructor)

Dr Alam published two chapters: ‘Making the Case for Sainthood in Modern Bangladesh: Narrative Strategies and Presentation of Holiness in the Life of Ziaul Haque Maizbhandari’ (123-40) and ‘Encountering the Unholy: the Establishment of Political Parties by Sufi Masters in Modern Bangladesh’ (163-80) in Clinton Bennett and Charles Ramsey (eds), *South Asian Sufis: Devotion, Deviation and Destiny* (Continuum 2012). His book manuscript on Bangladeshi women and public policy is under review.

Amjad Faur (Instructor)

Professor Faur was one of three artists represented by PDX Contemporary Art (Portland OR) at the Pulse Miami Art Fair in December 2011. His work was exhibited at PDX Contemporary Art in January 2012 in an exhibition entitled ‘Clouds Enclose Comets: the Envelope’ and at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, DC in December 2011. He participated in the Fulbright College Colloquium II: Charting Area Studies, with a presentation titled ‘The Lidless Eye: Photography and Looking at

the World through Images. Professor Faur has just accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Art at Evergreen State College.

FACULTY OUTREACH

Faculty members affiliated with the King Fahd Center continue to maintain strong relations with local, national and international media. This has been particularly accentuated by developments in the Middle East since late 2010, the ‘Arab Spring’ and the series of revolutions and civil conflicts that have enveloped the region, the ongoing tensions with Iran and Pakistan, and the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

Najib Ghadbian has been a regular commentator on al-Jazeera (English and Arabic), al-Arabiya, al-Hurra (both US-based), and other Arab satellite television channels. He appeared on BBC’s *Hardtalk*, and spoke to the Vatican Arabic service, Radio Monte Carlo (Arabic), France 24, Voice of the Arabs (Cairo), and Russia Today (Moscow). He was interviewed for the following newspapers: *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Times*, *Financial Times*, and *Asharq al-Awsat* (London).

Mohja Kahf posted analyses of the Syrian uprising, particularly nonviolent expression, and updates on political prisoners for *Jadailya.com*, Fellowship of Reconciliation (the largest, oldest interfaith peace organization in the United States), *Mashallah News*, and *Waging Nonviolence*. She was interviewed by *Fajr* (Algeria) and was cited on National Public Radio (June 2011), *The New York Times* (September 2011), and *CNN.com* (March 2012). She served as liaison between international journalists and Syrian political actors. She translated into English and posted political manifestos; her essay ‘Syria’s Prisoners: What Kind of People are in Syria’s Prisons Right Now,’ appeared in *The Guardian* (December 13, 2011). Professor Kahf created 5 solidarity pages on Facebook for Syrian prisoners of conscience and helps administer another 7. Her Twitter account was named 1 of 8 top English-language tweets to follow on Syria by the *UN Dispatch* and was cited in *NYT* and *Huffington Post*.

Joel Gordon spoke on the Arab Spring at Missouri Southern State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Mounir Farah lectured on Arab politics at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania, and will do so again this summer.

MEST faculty members also share academic pursuits and expertise beyond the headlines. Tom Paradise continues to serve as 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. Locally, he spoke on the making of the Arkansas Atlas to the NWA Rotary Club, at Shiloh Museum in Springdale, and at the Arkansas Geography and Earth Science Teachers Conference at UCA in Conway. Adnan Haydar gave interviews on Lebanese oral poetry to MTV (Lebanon) and TeleLiban (Lebanese National TV) in August 2011. Jerry Rose spoke on Amarna at Missouri Southern State University. Ted Swedenburg

served as background source for an April 2012 article on Hip Hop and the Arab Revolts for the *Huffington Post*.

Faculty members regularly review national and international grant applications for Fulbright, the International Institute of Education (IIE), NEH, UNESCO, the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council and other leading funding agencies. They review manuscripts for leading academic journals and academic/trade publishers, serve on literary and academic prize committees, consult on documentary films and print anthologies, 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 University of Arkansas Global Campus. 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.

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.

Awards/National-International

Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH) was awarded 1st Alternative for a Fellowship from the Palestine American Research Center to undertake dissertation research in Palestine. His proposal: ‘Colonial Occupation and Neo-liberal Economic Realities: Palestinian Labor on West Bank Settlements and Proposed Industrial Zones’ (\$10,000)

Matt Parnell (HIST) was awarded 1st Alternative for a Fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt to undertake dissertation research in Egypt. His proposal: ‘Youth, Power, Egypt: The Development of al-Shabab as a Sociopolitical Force in Egypt, 1882-1936’ (\$20,000)

Teresa Wilson (ANTH) – received the 2012 Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship a grant from the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan to study Health, Nutrition and Disease: Developmental Features and Defects of Teeth from four Bronze Age, Roman and Byzantine Cemeteries in Northern Jordan. Her award,

supplemented by the King Fahd Center, will cover a residency at ACOR from February to April 2013

Awards/MEST

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) – \$3200 to support PhD thesis research in Tehran, Iran and to cover travel to 9th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference in Istanbul, Turkey

Sanket Desai (HIST) – \$1600 to study Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon during the summer of 2012

Andie Duplantis (GEOS) – \$3000 to support MA thesis research in Tulkarm, Palestine Authority: ‘Perception of Urbanization and Landscape Change in Tulkarm, West Bank’

Grace Henderson (GEOS) – \$3000 to support MA thesis research in Jerusalem: ‘Perceptions of Earthquake Risk and Mitigation in Jerusalem’

Melissa Zolnierz (ANTH) – \$1000 – to support dissertation research at Oriental Institute, Chicago on domestication of animals in ancient Near East

Awards/University of Arkansas – Departmental

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) – Walton Fellowship in Translation (\$10,000) and the Peter Lily Award for Poetry (\$1000)

Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH) – J Hillman Yowell Award for Excellence in Teaching, Fubright College of Arts and Sciences

Matt Parnell (HIST) – George Billingsley Award, History Department (\$1500)

Conferences Attended

Increasingly our students are presenting papers, and first year students are regularly taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the Graduate School to attend an annual meeting in the first year without having to present a paper. The following students presented papers at major meetings and conferences in AY 2010-11:

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) – Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Sanket Desai (HIST) – Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Elise Jakoby (ANTH) – American Schools of Oriental Research 2011 Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA; Society of American Archaeology 2012 Annual Meeting, Memphis TN

Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH) – Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Matt Parnell (HIST) – ‘Visual Representations of Children and Childhood in History’ at Oxford University, UK

Laila Taraghi (PLSC) – Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting

Conference Papers Presented

Ahmet Akturk (HIST) co-organized a panel on ‘Shifting Gender Categories in the Post-World War 1 Middle East’ and presented ‘Defining Kurdish Women and Masculinity in the Kurdish Press of the 1930s and 1940s under the French Mandate’ at the Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC – Ahmet also chaired a panel on ‘Ottoman Charity: Imperial Pious Foundations’

Chris Angel (GEOS) presented a poster session, ‘Umm Sayhoun: Culture, History and Geography’, at the Association of American Geographers 2012 Annual Meeting in New York NY

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) presented ‘Iranian Writers’ Response to the Iran-Iraq War’ at the North East Modern Language 2011 Annual Meeting at Rutgers University; he participated in a Bilingual Poetry Reading at the American Literary Translation Association 2011 Meeting in Kansas City MO

Travis Curtice (PLSC) presented ‘Avoiding the Cultural Trap: Political Islam and Democratization’ and ‘From Pariah to Political Participant: Nested Arrangements of Conflict in Darfur and Northern Uganda’ at the Southern Political Science Association 2012 Meeting in New Orleans LA

Tuna Kalayci (ANTH) presented ‘Agricultural Sustainability of the Early Bronze Age Settlement Systems in the Syrian Jazira’ at the Association of American Geographers 2012 Meeting in New York City; he also co-ran a workshop on CORONA satellite imagery at the Society for American Archaeology 2012 Meeting in Memphis.

Matt Parnell (HIST) presented ‘Expressions of Youth Masculinity in the Egyptian Revolution of 1919 at the Middle East Studies Association 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) presented ‘Islamizing the Karachi Landscape: Towards an Alternative Reading’ at the 40th Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison WI; ‘Transnational Schooling in the Middle East and Beyond’ at the 2011 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC; and ‘Language and Ideological Struggles: Code Switching and the Construction of Social Subjectivities in the Private Islamic Schools of Karachi’ at the 2012 American Association of Applied Linguistics Annual Meeting in Boston

Laila Taraghi (PLSC) presented ‘Competing for Relevance: Iran’s Internal Struggle to Define the Arab Uprisings’ at the International Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting in San Diego

Wawan Yulianto (CLCS) presented ‘Baseball Bats Smithereening Idols: *The Taqwacores* and its Double Critique’ at the Florida State University Religion Symposium in Tallahassee FL and ‘The Call for Double Heresy in *The Taqwacores*’ at the American Comparative Literature Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Providence RI

Yulia Uryadova (HIST) presented ‘Prostitution and Social Disorder in Imperial Ferghana, 1905-1914’ at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington DC

The following graduate students have already had paper abstracts accepted for the coming AY – all for the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting: Ahmet Akturk (HIST), Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS), Matt Parnell (HIST), Laila Taraghi (PLSC).

Colloquia/Symposia Presentations/Readings

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) read at Illuminated Verses in New York City, an event planned by City Lore and Poets House, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts – He participated in the main event of Bridging Cultures, a conference and celebration at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, and presented ‘Innovation in Form and Evolution of Free Verse’ as part of the evening poetry reading.

Matt Parnell (HIST) spoke to the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt on American Higher Education and on Political Protests in Egypt at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Yulia Uryadova (HIST) presented ‘Social Movements in the Imperial Ferghana Valley: the Breakdown of Civil Authority, 1905-1907’ to the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas (April 2012)

Creative Activities

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) organized the Norooz 2012 Celebration (March 22, 2012) at VII Gallery in Brooklyn, NY, a collaboration between City Lore, Bowery Arts + Sciences, the Persian Arts Festival, and the Association of Iranian American Writers (AIAW). He selected an anthology of poems in Farsi and English to be distributed at the event, which included readings, music videos and music. In Fayetteville he co-organized a new reading series called ‘Improved Lighting’ that brings guest poets and writers to Fayetteville to read with local authors.

Courses Taught Off Campus (College/University AY 2011-12)

Seth Billingsley (PLSC) UA-Fort Smith, State & Local Government and American National Government

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) Arkansas State University, Introduction to Anthropology & ESL

Graduates/PhD

Abu al-Wafaa Mansoor Abbasi (ENGL/Booker), 'Paradigms of Style: A Study of Zulfikar Ghose's Novels' (May 2012)

Banan al-Daraiseh (CLCS/Kahf), 'The Trope of Travel in Arab Women's Narratives' (August 2012)

Jason Herrmann (ENDY/Casana), 'Settlements and Sands: Ancient Human Ecodynamics in the Rub' al-Khali Desert, Dubai, UAE' (August 2012); Jason has accepted a 3-year Neukom Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dartmouth College

Manal al-Natour (CLCS/Kahf), 'Forms and Rhetoric of Resistance to Authority in Contemporary Arabic Literature' (August 2012); Manal has accepted a tenure-track job in Arabic at West Virginia University

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH/Rose), 'Mediating Tradition, Modernity and Class: The Private Islamic Schools in Karachi' defended her PhD thesis (December 2011); Sanaa has accepted a tenure-track job in Anthropology at Ashford University

Graduates/MA

Rasha Elendari (ANTH/Casana), 'Early Social Complexity at Late Chalcolithic Tell Qarqur and the Orontes River Valley' (August 2012); Rasha will begin the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Toronto

Seth Billingsley (PLSC/Ghadbian), Non-Thesis (May 2012)

Travis Curtice (PLSC/Ghadbian), Non-Thesis (May 2012)

Amy Karoll (ANTH/Casana), 'The Early Bronze Age IV to Middle Bronze Age I Transition in the Orontes Valley: A View from Tell Qarqur' (May 2012); Amy will begin the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at UCLA

Laila Taraghi (PLSC/Ghadbian), 'Competing for Relevance: Iran's Internal Struggle to Define the Arab Spring' (May 2012)

Anna Weiser (ANTH/Casana) 'The Geoarchaeology of the Orontes River Floodplain surrounding Tel Qarqur, Syria' (May 2012); Anna will begin the PhD program in anthropology at the University of Kansas

James Wesolowski (ANTH/Casana) ‘Reappraising the Land Behind Baghdad: Using CORONA Satellite Imagery to Reassess the Archaeological Landscape of the Kiyala Plain, Iraq’ (May 2012); James has begun the PhD program in ENDY at UA

Professional Service

Ahmet Akturk (HIST) is a member of the editorial board of *Kurt Tarihi* (Kurdish History), a new journal published in Turkey

Sonia Kapur (PBPL) is Assistant Editor of the Journal of Comparative Social Welfare (Routledge)

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) served on the Career Development Grants Committee for the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and is currently on the program committee for the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) 2013 annual meeting

Publications

Chris Angel (GEOS) published ‘Umm Sayhoun: Geography and History of a Permanent Bedouin Settlement above Petra, Jordan,’ *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 55 (2011) and ‘The B’doul and Umm Sayhoun: Culture, Geography, and Tourism’ in Douglas C Comer (ed), *Tourism and Archaeological Heritage Management at Petra: Driver to Development or Destruction?* (Springer 2012): 105-18

Jason Herrman (ANTH) co-authored (w/ J Casana and H Qandil) ‘A Sequence of Inland Desert Settlement in the Oman Peninsula: 2008-09 Excavations at Saruq al-Hadid, Dubai, UAE’ in *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* 23 (2012): 50-69. He has another co-authored article forthcoming in *Archaeology in the United Arab Emirates*.

Tuna Kalayci (ANTH) has co-authored articles forthcoming in *Internet Archaeology* and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*

R Taylor Montgomery (ANTH) published ‘The Social and Cultural Implications of Violence at Qasr Hallaat’ in Debra L Martin, Ryan P Harrod and Ventura R Perez, *The Bioarchaeology of Violence: Bioarchaeological Interpretations of the Human Past* (UP Florida 2012)

Manal al-Natour (CLCS) has forthcoming entries for Brian Azzarello, Kyle Baker, Kurt Busiek, Frank Frazetta, and Dave Gibbons in M Keith Booker (ed), *Comics through Time: An Historical Encyclopedia* (forthcoming). Her translation (with Mohja Kahf) of Maimouna Alammar, ‘Syrian Crackdown takes away her Family, One by One,’ was published in *Women’s ENews* and *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America* 13 (1) 2012: 7-9

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) wrote the entry on ‘Globalization’ for Arnold R Kaminsky and Roger D Long (eds), *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic* (ABC-Clio

2011): 282-85. Her entry on 'Women's Religious Education—Pakistan' appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (2012)

Publications – Creative Writing

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS) published the following poems: 'Elementary English' in *Bellevue Literary Review* 10th Annual Edition (Fall 2011); 'See Also' in *Best New Poets 2011 Anthology* (2012); 'Elementary English Grains' in *RHINO*; and 'Memorial Day' and '99 Names of Exile' in *The Forbidden: Poems from Iran and its Exiles* (Michigan State University Press); he has a play forthcoming in *Post Road*; he also published translations of 2 poems by Roya Zarrin, 'You're Dreaming of Me', 'The Time Isn't 4:30' and 'You Weren't' in *Arroyo Literary Review* (Spring 2011)

Wawan Yulianto (CLCS) published 'Bikes, Blues & BBQ: Haters Make Us Famous' (Indonesian) in *jakartabeat.net*, November 7, 2011. His translation into Indonesian of Jennifer Finney Boylan, *Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror* (2010) was published in Jakarta in October 2011.

Published Book Reviews

Ahmet Akturk (HIST) reviewed Sarah D Shields, *Fezzes in the River: Identity Politics and European Diplomacy in the Middle East on the Eve of World War II* (Oxford UP 2011) in *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter* 16 (2) 2011; Nevzat Bingol, *Syria's Undocumented Kurds* (Turkish) (Elma 2004) in *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter* 16 (1) 2011; and Boris James, *Saladin and the Kurds: Perception of a Group at the Time of the Crusades* (Turkish – originally in French) (Avesta 2011) in *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter* 17 (1) 2012

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) reviewed Judith Cochran, *Educational Roots of Political Crisis in Egypt* (Lexington 2002) in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 43 (2011): 185-86; and N Ali, VS Kalra and S Sayyid (eds), *A Postcolonial People: South Asians in Britain* (Columbia 2008) in *Journal of South Asian Development* 6 (2011): 121-24

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

December 2011 graduates include: Heba Abdelaal (IREL, MEST/ARAB minor)

May 2012 graduates include: Stewart Bailey (IREL/MEST, ARAB minor), Morgan Byttner (IREL/MEST), Clayton Clark (JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor), Kathryn Crabtree (MEST minor), Josh Drury (ARAB minor) Kathryn Dunlap (IREL/MEST, ARAB minor), Justin Holmes (MEST minor), Stephen Lun Hu (ARAB minor), Joshua Moore (ANTH/MEST), Cliff Parsons (MEST minor), Jackson Spradley (ANTH, ARAB minor), Brittany Williams Turner (IREL/MEST)

Heba Abdelaal (SPAN/IREL, ARAB minor) is working as an intern in Washington, DC

Rachel Calandro (IREL/MEST) spent AY 2011-12 studying in Jordan with support from the Council on International Educational Exchange, the Honors College and King Fahd Center.

Clayton Clark (JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor) graduated in May 2012 and will begin the Program in Literary Translation with a MEST assistantship in AY 2012-13.

J P Huber (GRMN, ARAB minor) was accepted into the Harvard University Arabic Institute for the Next Generation program and received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Morocco for Summer 2012

Joshua Moore (ANTH/MEST) was accepted into the Harvard University Arabic Institute for the Next Generation program for Summer 2012

Saba Naseem (JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor) received a fellowship at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New Orleans for Summer 2012. During AY 2011-12 she served as Editor-in-Chief of The Traveler. The newspaper won 3rd place in Region 12 of the Society of Professional Journalists Competition Awards for Best All-Around Daily Student Newspaper, 2nd place for Editorial Writing, and 3rd place for General Column Writing. Saba won the State of Arkansas Best Editor award. She also received a second Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Morocco.

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 12 recent PhDs in tenure track teaching positions in the United States and abroad: Abdallah al-Shorman (2002) is Professor of Anthropology at Yarmouk University, Jordan; Charles Argo (2004) is Assistant Professor of History, Ball State University; Basri Basri (2008) is Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, State Islamic University of Malang, Indonesia; Michael Bracy (2005) is Associate 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; Manal al-Natour is Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages at University of West Virginia; Sanaa Riaz is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Ashford University; Asaad al-Saleh (2010) is Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature, University of Utah; Farid al-Salim (2008) is Assistant Professor of History, Kansas State University; Nadine Sinno (2009) is Assistant Professor of Arabic, Georgia State University.

Other recent PhDs are teaching in visiting positions: Melissa Zabecki (2009) has been teaching cultural anthropology at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith; Ghadir Zannoun (2010) has accepted a visiting Lecturer position in Arabic at the University of Kentucky.

MA and BA students have gone on to complete higher degrees at other institutions and remain active in academia: Robert Moore (BA 1996, MA 2002) is Instructor of History at John Brown University; Matt Malczyk (BA 1997) is Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University; John Schaefer (MA 2000) was Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the American University in Cairo from 2010-12 and has taken a new position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Miami University-Middleton.

Alumni publications/productions

Charles Argo (PhD 2004), Assistant Professor of History at Ball State University will publish *Stolen Boys of the Ottoman Empire: The Child Levy as Public Spectacle and Political Instrument* (I B Taurus, forthcoming 2012).

Michael Bracy (PhD 2005), Assistant Professor of History at Oklahoma State University published *Printing Class: 'Isa al-'Isa, Filastin, and the Textual Construction of National Identity* (U Press America 2011); and 'The Palestine Liberation Organization and the People's Republic of China: A Diplomatic Odyssey, 1949-1985,' *American Review of China Studies* 11 (2) 2010

Farid al-Salim (PhD 2008), Assistant Professor of History at Kansas State University has received a contract for his manuscript *Palestine and the Decline of the Ottoman Empire: Modernisation and the Birth of the Palestinian State* with I B Taurus.

Asaad Al-Saleh (PhD 2010), Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature at the University of Utah, published 'Displaced Autobiography in Edward Said's *Out of Place* and Fawaz Turki's *The Disinherited*' in *Arab Studies Quarterly* 33 (2) 2011: 79-95; and 'Composition Teachers from Different Cultures: Where is Pedagogy?' in *Arab World English Journal* 2 (4) 2011: 194-218. He also published 2 entries in *Encyclopedia of Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia and Africa* (Sage 2012): 'Entertainment: Prehistory to 1250' (I: 51-53) and 'Literature: Prehistory to 1250' (I: 74-76). He also had 3 articles accepted that are forthcoming in Eyad Houssami (ed) *Doomed by Hope: Essays on the Theater* (Pluto), *Arab Journal for the Humanities* and *Journal of International Women's Studies*. His collection of narratives of the Arab Spring is currently under review.

Nadine Sinno (PhD 2009), Assistant Professor of Arabic at Georgia State University, co-translated Rashid al-Daif's novel *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* (Tstifil Meryl Streep) with Paula Haydar and submitted it to University of Texas Press. She published 'From Confinement to Creativity: Women's Reconfiguration of the Prison and Mental Asylum in Salwa Bakr's *The Golden Chariot* and Fadia Faqir's *Pillars of Salt*' in *Journal of Arabic Literature* 42 (1) 2011: 67-94 and 'Navigating Linguistic Imperialism, Cultural Hybridity, and Language Pedagogy' in Ahmad al-Issa and Laila Dahan (eds), *Global English and Arabic: Issues of Language, Culture and Identity* (Peter Lang 2011): 335-54.

Another article, 'The Greening of Modern Arabic Literature' has been accepted by *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*.

Melissa Zabecki (PhD 2009) co-authored 'Body Size, Skeletal Biomechanics, Mobility and Habitual Activity from the Late Paleolithic to the Mid-Dynastic Nile Valley' in Ron Pinhasi and Jay T Stock (eds), *Human Bioarchaeology of the Transition to Agriculture* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011): 347-67

Conference Presentations

Michael Bracy (PhD 2005), Associate Professor of History, Oklahoma State University, presented 'Commemorating Victory: The 1973 October War Panorama, the National Army Museum, and the Politics of National Identity in Times of War' at the 2011 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting

Nadine Sinno (PhD 2009), presented 'My People are Rising: Poetry, Protest and Online Activism in the Arab Uprisings' at the American Comparative Literature Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Providence RI. She also presented papers at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association 2011 Annual Meeting and at the Global Language Convention in Atlanta (April 2012).

Asaad al-Saleh (PhD 2010), Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature at the University of Utah, presented 'Syrian Revolution and the Role of the Intellectuals' at the American Comparative Literature Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Providence RI.

General News

Michael Bracy (PhD 2005) was promoted to Associate Professor of History at Oklahoma State University; he received a research grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and spent much of AY 2011-12 in Egypt. He has also received funding from the NEH to attend a summer seminar in Washington, DC on the First World War in the Middle East.

David Chaudoir (ABD) will begin teaching Anthropology at Zayed University, UAE

Bill Gardner (MA 1999) is director of primetime programming for history and current events at PBS in Washington, DC

Suncem Kocer (MA 2005) received her PhD in Culture and Communication from Indiana University. She currently produces and anchors a daily media commentary program and a weekly alternative cinema culture program at IMC-TV in Istanbul, Turkey

Tricia Nellesen (ABD) is working for the US State Department

Farid al-Salim (PhD 2008) has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Qatar University

Abdallah al-Shorman (PhD 2002) was promoted to Full Professor at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

Nadine Sinno (PhD 2009), Assistant Professor of Arabic, Georgia State University won a Research Initiation Grant for her proposal on ‘Arab Women’s War Narratives in the Digital Age.

Undergraduate Alumni News

Cory Ellis (IR/MEST; minor ARAB 2010) continues graduate study in International Studies at George Washington University.

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

Robert Hintz (HIST/MEST 2011) began graduate study in International Relations at the University of Denver.

Lynnsey Molinaro (ANTH/MEST 2011) was accepted into the graduate program in Curriculum Instruction at the University of Arkansas and won an outstanding graduate student award from her department.

Andrew Walchuck (IREL/PLSC/EUST/SPAN, ARAB/ECON/MEST minor 2011) won a 2011 UA Undergraduate Research Award for his paper, ‘Immigration and the Extreme Right: An Analysis of Recent Voting Trends in Western Europe.

LOOKING AHEAD

The King Fahd Center hopes to build upon the Academic Year that has just concluded by pursuing an ever-more vigorous programming schedule, continuing to further curricular development, and matching, if not expanding, our public outreach ventures.

Events in the Arab/Muslim world have had a profound impact on the direction in which the Center moved in AY 201-12. They always do, but the pace of events – as well as some of the startling directions, both positive and negative – has enhanced public interest in the area we cover and created openings to explore avenues of intellectual and artistic as well as political activity. We have monitored the situation constantly, as well, with an eye toward where our students might travel to pursue their studies and gain on-the-ground appreciation, and what alternatives we might suggest when classic sites of inquiry are closed due to political and social upheaval. Amidst this, we are proud to see a steady number of students win prestigious travel awards to pursue language study or thesis research. Concurrently we are frustrated when excellent, promising students who under ‘normal’ circumstances would be heading off for fieldwork find themselves waiting as high alternates (in 2 cases this year they sit atop the alternate list) because funding has been slashed so dramatically – and foolishly – by US government officials.

We are proud of our inter/national profile as a unique center and program, one that sits between the handful of major Middle East centers that compete for federal funding and the centers at institutions comparable to UA that have far fewer faculty and available resources. We are proud our placement record at the graduate level, both in terms of PhDs competing for academic positions and MA students winning acceptance into major PhD programs. Our graduates at all levels are already part of the newest wave of teachers and scholars, filmmakers, journalists, cartographers and spatial analysts working in the field, in this country and abroad. Our best undergraduates are going on to graduate programs or related employment opportunities.

Staffing remains key to furthering the Center's mission and academic goals. The Center is well served by our Administrative Assistant, Mahfuza Akhtar, who has in many respects streamlined the work that was accomplished for many years by two people. Our program coordinator, Laila Taraghi, has aided and abetted administration and creative output of the Center, helping with student affairs, undergraduate and graduate student programming, and community outreach, not least to local media outlets and university public relations. Laila was instrumental in writing the Caravansarai grant and in establishing partnerships with our Global Campus and the Walton Arts Center. The prospect of losing her – to graduate school and as she accompanies her husband, Amjad Faur out west (he will begin a tenure-track position at Evergreen State College) – will leave a major gap the Center will have to quickly address.

The MEST faculty has begun addressing a number of long and short-term goals that now appear attainable, given our financial footing.

Building off a major – and, in retrospect, timely – conference on contemporary Syria (January 2011) and co-sponsorship of the Arkansas Spring Writers Festival, the faculty aims to initiate a regular convocation of scholars-artists-public officials and intellectuals in upcoming Spring semesters. Topics will vary based on faculty interest and input; formats will combine public lectures/forums with semi-private workshops. The Caravansarai program will serve as second model, one that includes further collaboration with the broader regional arts community and that could well lay foundations for a wider program of culture performances, musical, literary and cinematic.

Curriculum revision is another area of discussion. Faculty members continue to discuss the option of a stand-alone major in Middle East studies. As part of a broader initiative to expand our Arabic program, we will also pursue a stand-alone major in Arabic. Bolstering the Arabic program is important for graduate as well as undergraduate studies. A major, requiring additional faculty hires, will allow for greater diversity in course offerings, both in colloquial dialects as well as upper division specialized courses.

MEST faculty members believe that a Masters Degree in Middle East Studies is long overdue. The MEST program seems ideally situated for this. Our models will be derived from larger area studies centers that offer 2-year interdisciplinary degrees as steppingstones to professional work or degrees, and academic degrees, with enhanced

language study – or, as is the case with many professional MA degrees, a way for educators or people in business to hone professional qualifications or enhance their own curricular offerings.

MEST faculty members also approved a two-tiered stipend increase for MA and PhD graduate assistants. We also discussed trying to attain a greater degree of flexibility in short-term awards across departments. We remain sensitive to the predictability that is inherent in the current fixed-slot system. At the same time, with an eye toward interdisciplinary solidarity and the presumption of special cases, we propose the establishment of 1-2 ‘floating’ assistantships – formal graduate assistantships with tuition waivers attached. Special cases have arisen in the past and been approved by the Graduate School – this coming AY, for example, the Center will fund a student in Curriculum and Instruction (as noted above) – but we strive for a more formal agreement that could very well enhance our program and make contributions far beyond our own university and center.

International Studies is a broader university initiative that has been on the table for the past few years. MEST faculty members are, by nature of our area studies training, excited at the prospect of interdisciplinary initiatives and, especially, enhanced curricula in international fields. We would even propose the Center and MEST major as a model for consideration (if not emulation). At the same time, we look for creative ways in which our endowment can endow such initiatives without depleting our own area-specific curricular agendas.

The Center remains open to and eager for collaboration with other academic units and programs, and individual colleagues that touch upon our geo-cultural areas of specialization. At the same time we recall moments in the Center’s history when the King Fahd endowment was utilized to support faculty and programming on campus – and in some cases abroad – that were ‘outside’ the curricular and programmatic scope of Middle East area studies, and those times when the Center (although not individual faculty members) was held in lowest esteem on campus, as well as amongst the wider scholarly community. Having emerge from a recent ‘dark’ era and attained a high profile amongst our peers, we are particularly wary of demands or expectations that recall a less estimable past.

We close on a cautious but optimistic note, with an eye towards troubling financial trends in our field. While our endowment is healthier than it had been just five years ago, a product of our own fiscal policies as well as the general economy, the state of area studies faces grave threats on a national level. The Department of Education is slashing funding and Title VI, which supports the major Middle East Centers at major research universities, faces elimination. The larger programs are in the process of downsizing. Support for research abroad is also greatly diminished (the American Research Center in Egypt, for example, which normally supports 20+ scholars engaged in research from antiquity to the present, has announced only three awards for the coming year).

This gives a university like ours – and a center like ours, which is privately endowed – an opportunity to make an even greater impact in the near future, through our collaboration with colleagues across the country and internationally, our ability to attract top-flight American and international graduate students, and our on-the-ground projects, archaeological, historical, and cultural at home and in the Middle East.