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Annual Report, 2012

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

Submitted by

Joel Gordon

Director of Middle East Studies

June 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview – Curriculum – KF Center Activities (AY 2012-13) – KF Center Activities/Projects (Ongoing) – Graduate Student Support – Undergraduate Student Support – Faculty News – Faculty Outreach/Professional Service – Graduate Student News – Undergraduate Student News – Alumni News – Looking Ahead

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 and are affiliated with research institutes or government agencies.

The current academic year was marked by a number of programs that reflect the Center's ongoing mission to provide a broad array of curricular and extra-curricular offerings offering and to expand collaborative efforts across the campus and community.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly Center sponsorship, in conjunction with the Walton Arts Center of Caravanserai: A Place where Cultures Meet. The program, now heading into its third year, is sponsored by Arts Midwest and supported by major funding from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. Caravanserai featured two week long music residencies, in October 2012 and April 2013, by two renowned ensembles, a half-week residency by a leading Moroccan documentary and feature filmmaker, and a traveling photography exhibit. Artists presented workshops, mini-concerts and screenings in a variety of venues on- and off-campus; the two musical ensembles were featured in the Walton Arts Center's innovative 10x10 series.

The King Fahd Center also collaborated with the Fulbright College Piano Performance Program to co-sponsor, in December 2012, a recital and lecture by internationally acclaimed pianist Ayşe Taşpınar, a specialist in late 19th/early 20th century Western and Middle Eastern classical music. Dr. Taşpınar is currently engaged in exploring the work of Turkish and Armenian composers during the late Ottoman Empire. Additionally, in April 2013 the KFC co-sponsored with the UA International Law Society and the *Journal for Islamic Law and Culture* a symposium on the constitutionality of recent anti-Sharia legislation passed and proposed in various states.

On a curricular level, the Center sponsored new courses on Sufism, Iranian film and literature, gender and public policy, and the history and ethnic politics of South Asia. For these courses the Center drew in part on the expertise of affiliated faculty and advanced graduate students. The Center sponsored the residency of two visiting scholars, Kenneth Brown (Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK) and Abdulla al-Shorman (Yarmouk University, Jordan), both of whom came to work with materials in Mullins Library and, in the case of Professor al-Shorman, the Department of Anthropology bioarchaeology lab.

As always, the King Fahd Center maintained a vigorous program of guest speakers across disciplines and Center faculty took their expertise off campus to local/regional, national, and international forums, as well as participated in forums on campus. With the ongoing global impact of events in the Middle East, South and Central Asia, and the broader Islamic world, KFC faculty continue to assume an ever larger role in public outreach – in addition to teaching and ongoing research agendas. Our national and international standing was underscored by sponsorship of a second major artistic event in Lebanon, the publications and frequent speaking engagements at American and international

universities and research institutes by faculty members, and the increased visibility of Center faculty and graduate students who have received funding from leading funding agencies. KFC sponsorship of Caravanserai has also given the Center and the UA increased visibility in the Arts community.

The ongoing upheaval in the Middle East (and beyond) continues to impact our program. Certain faculty and student research and study programs have been necessarily relocated. Nonetheless, whatever our disciplinary and interdisciplinary orientations, as scholars (established and forthcoming) dedicated to – and rooted in – a particular geo-cultural sphere, we remain committed to pursuing our research on site, expanding our appreciation for the struggles of peoples on the ground, and furthering the understanding of our students and community members about the complexities of the region to which we have dedicated so many energies.

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.

Nikolay 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 of the King Fahd Center): History of the Modern Middle East, Popular Culture, Film and Media

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

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Arabic): 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, Bioarchaeology, Forensic Archaeology

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

MEST Affiliated Faculty

Sarwar Alam has a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas and held a 3-year post-doctoral position in Religious Studies (2007-10) at Emory University. He has specializations in Sufism and women's issues in Islamic society with a research focus on South Asia. He has offered MEST 2003 (Islam in History and Practice) regularly since Spring 2012 and an advanced course (MEST 410V) on Islamic mystical traditions. He will offer MEST 2003 and MEST 2013 (Introduction to ME Studies) this coming Fall 2013.

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 2012-13 he taught undergraduate special topics courses (HIST 3983) on Early South Asian history and religious traditions for which MEST credit was offered. In Spring 2014 he will offer a new course on the History of Islam in South Asia.

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.

Haunani (Nani) Verzon (Program Coordinator), a transplant from Hawaii, completed her BA in 2007 in Middle East Studies/Geography/International Relations at the UA as a four-year MEST undergraduate scholarship recipient. She is currently working toward her MA in Geography on seismic risk perception in Pakistan. She joined the King Fahd Center staff in August 2012.

Laila Taraghi (Special Projects) has a BA in International Studies from the University of Oregon and an MA (2012) in Political Science from UA. She served as KFC Program Coordinator from July 2010-July 2012 and during AY 2012-13 helped organize the Caravanserai program. In August 2013 she will begin a PhD program in Public Policy at

Portland State University.

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 Nikolay Antov, the new historian of Islamic history and the courses taught by affiliate faculty instructor Sarwar Alam. 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 2012 and Summer 2013:

Summer 2012: HIST 3043 (Akturk)

Fall 2012: ANTH 3033 (Jensen), ANTH 4123 (Casana), ANTH 4533 (Swedenburg), ARAB 1016 (P Haydar/2 sections), ARAB 3016 (A Haydar), ARAB 4023 (A Haydar), ARAB470V/WLIT603V (Pre-Isl Poetry/A Haydar), ENGL 3923H/MEST 4003H (Mod Iranian Novel/Bassiri), GEOG4033/H (Paradise), HIST 3033 (Uryadova/2 sections), HIST 3043 (Akturk), HIST 3983 (Early S Asia/Brubaker), HIST 3983/HIST 526V (Ottoman Empire/Antov), HIST 5213 (Early Islamic/Antov), HIST5213 (19th Century ME/Gordon), MEST 2013 (Taraghi), PLSC 390V (Gender/Policy in ME/S Asia/Kapur), PLSC 4593 (Ghadbian), PLSC 5513 (Ghadbian), WLIT3983/WLIT 603V (Lit Spain 711-1615/Kahf)

Spring 2013: ANTH 3033 (Jensen), ANTH 4913/MEST 4003 (Swedenburg), HIST 3033 (Antov), ARAB 2016 (P Haydar/2 sections), ARAB 4016 (A Haydar), ARAB 4033 (A Haydar), ARAB470V (Pre-Isl Poetry/A Haydar), HIST 3043 (Akturk/2 sections), HIST 3983 (Relig Traditions Early S Asia/Brubaker), HIST 4393 (Early Mod Isl Empires/Antov), MEST 2013 (Gordon), MEST410V (Sufism/Alam), PLSC 390V (Ethnic Polit S Asia/Kapur), WLIT 3983/WLIT 603V (Syrian Lit/Kahf), WLIT 3983/MEST 410V (Iranian Film & Lit/Bassiri)

Summer 2013: HIST 3043 (Uryadova)

Major/Minor Requirements and Courses

MEST co-majors are required to complete 30 hours of course work. This includes MEST 2013 and MEST 4003, 9 hours of MEST core courses in 1 discipline, 9 hours of additional MEST core courses in 1 or several other disciplines, plus 6 hours of Arabic beyond ARAB 2016.

MEST minors are required to complete 18 hours of course work. This includes MEST 2013 and MEST 4003, 6 hours of MEST core courses and 6 hours of Arabic beyond

ARAB 2016.

MEST Core Courses

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, 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, GEOG 4033 Geography of the Middle East and North Africa, GEOG 410V Special Problems: Middle East/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 History and Practice, MEST 2013 Introduction to Islamic Studies, MEST 410V Special Topics, MEST 4003/H MEST Colloquium, 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 3723 Classical Arabic Literature, WLIT 3743 Arab American Literature, WLIT 3983/603V Special Studies (approved topics)

Notes

1) MEST 2013 (Introduction to Middle East Studies) is 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 2012, Laila Taraghi taught the course in an online format; in Spring 2013, Joel Gordon 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 2012 Joel Gordon offered Modern Islamic Thought, cross-listed with HIST 4333. In Spring 2013, Ted Swedenburg cross-listed ANTH 4913 (Nation, Race and Ethnicity) with MEST 4003. In addition, to handle overflow enrollments, Kaveh Bassiri's Fall 2012 Honors colloquium course on the Modern Iranian Novel (ENGL 3923H) and his Spring 2013 course on Iranian Film and Literature (WLIT 3983/MEST 410V) and Sarwar Alam's Spring 2013 course on Sufism (MEST 410V) all counted for MEST colloquium credit.

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 World Languages and Literature, and Paula Haydar, Instructor of Arabic, who is hired by the Center. Adnan Haydar teaches 9 credit hours per semester. Paula Haydar teaches 12 hours per semester.

4) Enhanced Offerings: The King Fahd Center has in recent years undertaken an initiative to promote special topics and Middle East survey courses offered by advanced graduate students with particular research interests and teaching ability. In Fall 2012 these courses were taught by advanced graduate students: ANTH 3033 (Jensen), ENGL 3923H/MEST 4003H (Bassiri), HIST 3033 (Uryadova/2 sections), HIST 3043 (Akturk), MEST 2013 (Taraghi), PLSC 390V (Kapur). In Spring 2013 these courses were offered: ANTH 3033 (Jensen), HIST 3043 (Akturk/2 sections), PLSC 390V (Kapur), WLIT 3983/MEST 410V (Bassiri). In Summer 2013 the following course is being offered: HIST 3043 (Uryadova).

5) New Courses: WLIT 3723 Classical Arabic Literature and WLIT 3743 Arab American Literature have been added to the Course Catalog. More MEST core courses are currently under development.

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES – AY 2012-13

Visiting Speakers, Screenings and Special Events

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

September 20: ‘Road Maps and Road Signs: Navigating the New Middle East’ – lecture by Meir Shlomo, Consul General of Israel, Houston, TX

October 2012-April 2013: Morocco in Transition – photography exhibit

As part of the Caravanserai program, the King Fahd Center organized the exhibition of a traveling collection of Moroccan photography in the Walton Arts Center, UA Global Campus, Fayetteville and Bentonville High Schools, and the Fayetteville Public Library. This photography exhibition features three contemporary photographers, Khalil Nemmaoui, Laila Hida, and Zineb Andress Arraki. The series explores the country’s dynamic landscape, juxtaposing urban and rural settings, and highlights individual and cultural diversity through candid portraits of Moroccan women.

October 14-20: Caravanserai Music Residency – Majid Bekkas Gnawa Ensemble featuring Brahim Fribgane

The Bekkas Ensemble and Fribgane presented workshops for 2 Music Lectures (200 students each), visited Fayetteville and Bentonville High Schools, and presented a workshop for families in the Children’s Wing of the Fayetteville Public Library. The attendance across all events was 2733.

October 17: ‘Gnawa Music’—lecture by Philip Schuyler, Professor Emeritus of Musicology, University of Washington-Seattle

October 18: Gala Concert by Majid Bekkas Ensemble/Brahim Fribgane at the Walton Arts Center

November 9: ‘The World according to Adonis: Religion & Gender, Poetry & Psychoanalysis’ – lecture by Kenneth Brown, Professor Emeritus of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester (UK)

Nov 11: Piano Recital by Ayşe Taşpınar (co-sponsored by the J. W. Fulbright Piano Performance Program)

November 13: ‘Rediscovering the Shared Cultural Heritage of Armenians and Turks through Music’ – lecture by Ayşe Taşpınar, professional pianist and DMA in Musicology from UCLA (co-sponsored by the J. W. Fulbright Piano Performance Program)

February 25-27: Caravanserai Film Residency – Hakim Belabbes

Hakim Belabbes spoke to UA students in MEST 2013 and a documentary film workshop, visited and met with students at Fayetteville and Bentonville High Schools, and screened two films at the Fayetteville Public Library. Total attendance for all events was 380.

April 12: ‘Can We the People Tolerate Islamic Law? Anti-Sharia Legislation and the US Constitution’ – symposium featuring Abed Awad (Awad and Khoury, LLP), John Eidsmoe (Society for Moral Law), Bernard K Freamon (Seton Hall University), Joel Gordon (UA), Aminah McCloud (DePaul University), Mark Potok (Southern Poverty Law Center), Stephen Sheppard (UA Law School) (co-sponsored with UA Law School, International Law Society and *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*).

April 17: ‘Distancing Acts: Air Power, Mercenaries and the Endless War on Terror’ – lecture by Jeremy Kuzmarov, Assistant Professor of History, Tulsa University (co-sponsored with History, International Relations, Phi Alpha Theta, UA Global Campus)

April 14-20: Caravanserai Music Residency – Orchestra of Fes

The Orchestra of Fes presented music workshops to UA students in 2 Music lectures (200 students each), at Pomfret Hall, visited Fayetteville and Bentonville High Schools, and performed at the Fayetteville Public Library. Total attendance at all events was 1891.

April 18: ‘They Were Promised the Sea’ – film screening and discussion with filmmaker Kathy Wazana

April 19: ‘Classical Andalusian Music’ – lecture by Philip Schuyler, Professor Emeritus of Musicology, University of Washington-Seattle

April 19: Gala concert by the Orchestra of Fes at the Walton Arts Center

Caravanserai

As noted in the introduction to this report, the highlight of special programming for the 2012-13 AY was the sponsorship, in conjunction with the Walton Arts Center, of the Arts Midwest second season of Caravanserai: A Place where Cultures Meet.

The KFC/WAC proposal was one of 4 proposals funded this year and the only one rooted in a university academic unit (the other 3 locales were Nashville TN, Grand Rapids MN, and Jamestown ND).

Majid Bekkas and his troupe represent the gnawa religious-folk tradition that has trans-Saharan roots in West Africa. Accompanying them was Brahim Fribgane, a New York based artist of Berber background who has played with an array of international figures. The Orchestra of Fes is one of the leading contemporary interpreters of classical Andalusian music, featuring percussion and string instrumentals and lyrics in Arabic, Darija, Ladino and Hebrew. The program also featured a half-week long residency by Hakim Belabbes, a leading Moroccan documentary and feature filmmaker and a member of the Film Studies faculty at Columbia College in Chicago.

In addition to a series of workshops and mini-performances and (for Belabbes) film screenings on campus, in local high schools and at the Fayetteville Public Library, the residencies featured 2 concerts at the WAC as part of their innovative 10x10 series that presents world-class artists at special reduced rates.

In conjunction with the music residencies the King Fahd Center organized a number of academic events on campus. Philip Schuyler, an ethnomusicologist and one of the leading international experts on Moroccan/North African/Islamic musical traditions, visited the UA twice to lecture on gnawa and Andalusian music, respectively, in lectures prior to both concerts. He also led a pre-concert discussion at WAC with members of the Orchestra of Fes. During this second music residency, Kathy Wazana, an independent filmmaker from Canada, screened her new film, 'They Were Promised the Sea', an exploration of the departure of Moroccan Jews in the years between the late 1940s and late 1960s. Brahim Fribgane and Hicham Aidi, a Columbia University professor who has written on North African and trans-global music and identity, were also invited as experts to help facilitate discussion and engagement with the musicians.

This first collaboration between the KFC and the WAC produced a wonderful synthesis of campus-community programming, engaging wide audiences and hopefully laying the foundation for future arts-academic programming relating to the Middle East and Islamic world.

KFC/JILC Symposium

In April the King Fahd Center, the UA International Law Society and the *Journal for Islamic Law and Culture* co-sponsored 'Can We the People Tolerate Islamic Law? Anti-Sharia Legislation and the US Constitution', a symposium to address legal questions relating to religious law in the United States and in particular the constitutionality of recent legislation, pending and proposed in several states to outlaw Islamic law.

Participants included: Abed Awad, Senior Partner of Awad and Khoury, LLP in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey; John Eidsmoe, Senior Counsel and Resident Scholar at the Society for Moral Law in Birmingham, Alabama; Bernard K Freamon, Professor of Law at Seton Hall University; Aminah McCloud, Professor of Islamic Studies at DePaul

University; Mark Potok, Director of Publications and Information for the Southern Poverty Law Center; Stephen Sheppard, Associate Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law at the UA School of Law. King Fahd Center Director Joel Gordon chaired the two panel sessions.

Ayşe Taşpınar

In December 2012 the KFC and the J. W. Fulbright Piano Performance Program co-sponsored a recital and lecture by internationally acclaimed Turkish pianist, Ayşe Taşpınar. Dr. Taşpınar holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts (DMA) from UCLA and is specialist in Western and Middle Eastern classical music traditions. Her academic and artistic focus is the synthesis of these two traditions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She is currently engaged in exploring the works of Turkish and Armenian composers working in realms of the late Ottoman Empire. These were primarily the works she performed in her recital and the focus of her lecture.

Lebanese Zajal Performance

In conjunction with Professors Adnan and Paula Haydar, the King Fahd Center underwrote the costs of a major poetry duel/performance held in Beit Miri, Lebanon in July 2012. This event, a continuation of the KFC-sponsored event held outside Beirut the previous August, featured a verbal duel between eight 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. Beit Miri is the site of one of the most famous *zajal* duels in contemporary Lebanese history, in July 1971.

The 8 poets, divided into 3 competing groups were: Antoine Saadeh, Elias Khali and Ali Farroukh (Jawqat al-Masrah); Samih Khalil, Faysal al-Sayegh and Habib Abou Antoun (Jawqat al-Qala’); Adil Khaddaj and Danny Sfeir (Jawqat al-Layali).

The event was preceded by a number of folkloric dance troupes representing different Lebanese regions and traditions, and was introduced by Zaghoul al-Damour, a legendary poet and a leading figure in the famous 1971 duel. It was attended by 6000 artists, patrons and poetry lovers, and was recorded for rebroadcast on television 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.

Visiting Faculty

During AY 2012-13 the King Fahd Center hosted 2 visiting scholars. During the Fall 2012 semester, Kenneth Brown, Professor of Social Anthropology Emeritus, University of Manchester (UK), returned to UA for a month-long residency. During his visit he worked in Mullins Library (which contains in its holdings his own former collection which the Center purchased in 2002) on a number of projects, including a comparative study of 5 North African Mediterranean cities – Tangier, Oran, Tripoli, Tunis and Alexandria. He met with faculty and students, helped facilitate the visit of the Majid

Bekkas Gnawa Ensemble, and presented a talk on the distinguished Syrian poet (and possible future Nobel laureate), Adonis.

This summer the KFC is hosting Abdulla al-Shorman, Professor of Anthropology at Yarmouk University. A UA alumnus (PhD 2002) who worked under the supervision of Professor Jerome Rose, Dr. al-Shorman is here to pursue research in Mullins Library and the Department of Anthropology skeletal and teeth collection for his current book project on 'Spectroscopy in Bioarchaeology'.

KING FAHD CENTER SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS -- ONGOING

Arabic Program

During AY 2012-13, 177 students took Arabic at various levels. This follows trends of strong number in recent years (172 students in AY 2011-12, 179 students in AY 2010-11, 173 students in AY 2009-10).

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 have now been finalized in conjunction with a former UA PhD student (CLCS 2009), Nadine Sinno, who is currently Assistant Professor of Arabic at Virginia Tech University.

During AY 2012-13 the Arabic professors, in conjunction with the King Fahd Center, applied for funding under the federally funded Language Flagship program. Although funding was not approved, we continue to plan for the expansion of the Arabic faculty and eventual approval at the university level of a major in Arabic. (Details of the many accomplishments of graduate and undergraduate Arabic students will be covered below).

Arabic Speech Contest

The Center helped sponsor the annual WLLC Speech Contest, which is part of the Fulbright College Language Festival and held every April. A total of 16 undergraduate and graduate students participated at Elementary (8), Intermediate (6), and Advanced levels (2). Winners and runners-up were: Jessica Jayakaran and Lana Sheikha (Elementary), Elizabeth Heckmann and Katelyn Burns (Intermediate), and Jessica Keller and Shane Elder (Advanced). Judges were Professor Mounir Farah and Mohammad Abdelhadi and Hawraa al-Zoin, graduate students in CIES.

Arabic Study Abroad

During Summer 2012, 2 undergraduates received US State Department Critical Language Scholarships. 1 undergraduate and 1 graduate student were awarded scholarships to study Arabic at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa, Oman (this latter scholarship covers travel, books and room/board). 3 undergrads attended the CIEE program in Amman, Jordan. 1 grad student received Center support to study Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon.

In addition, 2 undergraduates were accepted into the new 'Arabic Institute for the Next Generation' program at Harvard University. Acceptance into the 3-week program, designed to train future high school and college Arabic teachers included tuition, board and a small stipend. MEST supported both students with travel awards to cover travel and housing.

During AY 2012-13, 6 undergraduates studied abroad in the Middle East: 2 in Jordan (both in Fall 2012), 1 in Meknes, Morocco (Spring 2013), 2 in Istanbul, Turkey (Spring 2013), and 1 in Sharjah, UAE (Spring 2013).

For Summer 2013, 2 undergraduate students received Critical Language Scholarships to study in Meknes, Morocco and Alexandria, Egypt. 1 undergrad was awarded a scholarship (including travel, books and room/board) from the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa, Oman. In addition, 5 undergrads and 2 grad students will participate in various summer programs abroad (Amman, Istanbul, Cairo, and Beirut). 2 undergrads have also been accepted into summer Arabic programs in the US.

During AY 2013-14, 2 MEST undergrads will study abroad, 1 in Amman, Jordan and 1 in London, UK.

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 King Fahd Center faculty members Jerome Rose and Jesse Casana.

Professor Rose had to cancel his Bioarchaeology Field School at Amarna in Upper Egypt in 2011 due to concerns about safety and access to field sites. When the situation in Egypt stabilized, he was able to lead a field expedition of faculty and advanced graduate students to analyze bones collected during the prior year's digging season. Last summer he was able to reopen the school, giving priority to students who had been unable to participate the year before. The 2012 team included his co-director Professor Gretchen

Dabbs and a teaching assistant, both from Southern Illinois University. Joining them were 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.

This AY 2012-13 the King Fahd Center helped underwrite the travel and expenses of two teams of international scholars that traveled to Amarna to undertake two seasons of fieldwork (28 October-20 December 2012 and 30 March 30-1 May 2013) to prepare for Summer 2013 analysis. The first team included 9 field archaeologists, 2 conservators, and 1 line drawer. Professor Rose joined the team in December. The second team included 9 field archaeologists and 3 conservators.

The two seasons produced 153 new skeletons, reaching the goal of 400 excavated individuals for analysis. In addition to support from the King Fahd Center, these excavations received funding from National Geographic (2012), the British Academy (2013), the Amarna Trust, and, for the conservation of coffins, from the Thriplow and Aurelius Trusts. The excavations were highlighted in The National Geographic Daily News in March 2013.

The current Summer 2013 Field School season has just ended. Professor Rose led a team that included: Dr. Gretchen Dabbs, Co-Director, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Kristin Krueger, Dental Expert, Loyola University, Chicago; Heidi Davis, Teaching Assistant, UA; and William Schaffer, Biomechanics Expert, Arizona State University. This year 10 students from 8 universities in the United States, Canada and Australia participated in the field school (Appalachian State, Australian National University, Brown University, Indiana University, Macquarie University-Australia, Southern Illinois University, UA, and Wilfrid Laurier University-Canada).

Participants in this field school season examined 70 skeletons and 13 isolated skulls. In addition, 4 trained local workers brush cleaned 157 skeletons to insure preservation for future study.

Four UA graduate students are working under Professor Rose's supervision on dissertations rooted in the Amarna excavations: Ashley Shidner (Growing Up at Amarna: A Bio-cultural Approach to Childhood Growth); Heidi Davis (Building Akhenaten's Capital: Patterns of Activity in the Construction of a New City); Alissa Bandy (Death on the Horizon: Osteobiographies of the Inhabitants of Akhetaten); Nicole E. Smith (The Paleoepidemiology of Malaria in the Ancient Near East).

Professor Casana has cancelled for a third year his field school at Tell Qarqur in northwest Syria due to the continued volatility of the political situation in that country. Last summer he joined forces with a colleague who works in Cyprus and led a field school at the Late Bronze Age site at Kalavassos that included 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.

This year Professor Casana has been scouting sites in Northern Iraq with an eye towards future excavation projects. In May 2013, supported by King Fahd Center funding, he led a team of 5, including a recent UA PhD student of his, an incoming PhD student, and an Iraqi Kurdish student and a government representative on a survey of the Upper Sirwan/Diyala River.

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.

Unfortunately, there was no winner for 2012. Several translations were deemed worthy of resubmission after suggested revisions.

Over the course of the past four years the award winners have included acclaimed works by contemporary authors from Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq. The 2011 winner is *Tree 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.

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture

JILC is an ongoing venture operating out of the UA Law School under the supervision of Professor Steven Sheppard, a specialist in international law. The journal has been published by Routledge but will be transferred to the auspices of the Law School, where it will be published as an online journal under its present editorial board based at DePaul University.

The King Fahd Center was pleased to collaborate with the journal board and student editors in presenting the symposium (noted above) on the compatibility of US Constitutional and Islamic religious law in April 2013. This will hopefully strengthen the commitment to bringing Fulbright College graduate students and Law School students into closer contact and furthering collaborative academic efforts.

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. AY 2012-13 officers were: President, Sanket Desai (PhD/HIST); Vice-president, Ali Capar (MA/HIST); Treasurer, Peter von Groote (MA/GEOS); Secretary, Kaveh Bassiri (MFA-Trans).

Model Arab League

The MAL has been a mainstay of King Fahd Center programming, particularly for undergraduate students, in recent years. As noted in prior Annual Reports, UA students have made their mark at both regional and national conventions, even when representing smaller Arab League states. This past academic year our participation lapsed due to the leave of absence taken by faculty advisor Najib Ghadbian.

Mullins Library

The King Fahd Center has over the years allocated up to \$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.

In recent years the Center has focused on boosting holdings related to Ottoman and early modern Islamic history, classical and modern Persian literature and Lebanese oral poetry (*zajal*). The *zajal* initiative brings together volumes of poetry – and related literary studies – that have not been previously available in this country as a discrete library collection. Under the lead of Professor Nikolay Antov, the Library applied for a \$5000 grant from the Turkish Historical Society toward purchasing volumes in modern and pre-modern Turkish studies.

Mullins Library also boasts the Kenneth L Brown collection, which is in the last stages of cataloging. Ken Brown, twice a visiting scholar with the King Fahd Center, is Professor Emeritus of Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester, UK and the founding editor of the journal *Mediterraneans*. The collection contains his personal library, including rare works in Classical and Moroccan Colloquial Arabic, Darija, French, and Hebrew related to North African and Levantine history, culture, society and the arts. With the exception of certain rare or fragile volumes, these books are all available in the Library's main shelved collection.

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 Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT), American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR), Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Palestine American Research Center (PARC), The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII).

Public Relations/Social Media

In May 2011 the King Fahd Center unveiled a new website, the culmination of a long-standing and long-delayed project. The site, managed by Program Coordinator Nani Verzon, presents up-to-date data on Center students, faculty, policies, opportunities, news and events, as well as crucial links to academic resources. The website will be an ongoing project, reflecting the changing nature of Center activities and the achievements of faculty, students, and alumni. Prior year annual reports are also posted on the website. King Fahd Center Events are also posted on Facebook and Twitter.

This AY the KFC also inaugurated an electronic newsletter, *Akhbar al-Ahadith* (News and Happenings), produced and edited by Nani Verzon. The first two issues appeared in April and May 2013 and the regular trimester rotation (September/January/May) will commence with the September 2013 issue. Newsletters are also posted to the KFC website.

Ann Rhea Collection in Near East Antiquities

In 2005 the King Fahd Center was offered a large donation of Near Eastern antiquities by Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia valued at approximately \$100,000. 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.

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

During AY 2012-13 the Center supported 16 graduate assistants (8 PhD/8 MA):

Mohammad Abdelhadi (PhD/CIEC), Chris Angel (PhD/ENDY), Kaveh Bassiri (MFA/Trans), Dhia Ben-Ali (MA/PLSC – 1/2 year), Nancy Browning (MA/ANTH), Clayton Clark (MFA/Trans), Sanket Desai (PhD/HIST), Andie Duplantis (MA/GEOS), Nicole Fares (MFA/Trans), Grace Henderson (MA/GEOG), Sonia Kapur (PhD/PBPL), Mark Myers (MA/PLSC – 1/2 year), Ethan Morton-Jerome (PhD/ANTH), Keith Whitmire (PhD/ANTH), Teresa Wilson (PhD/ANTH), Wawan Yulianto (PhD/CLCS)

Of this group, 1 MA student graduated in May 2013; 1 PhD student and 2 MA students who will go off funding plan to graduate in Fall 2013. 4 formerly funded PhD students (3 in History, 1 in Anthropology) and 1 Political Science MA student taught within their departments as instructors.

During AY 2013-14 the Center will fund 18 students (9 PhD/9 MA):

Kaveh Bassiri (PhD/CLCS), Baris Basturk (PhD/HIST), Dhia Ben Ali (MA/PLSC), Clayton Clark (MFA/Trans), Charles Davidson (MA/ANTH), Sanket Desai (PhD/HIST), Blake Duffield (PhD/HIST), Nicole Fares (MFA/Trans), Kaelin Groom (MA/GEOG), Mehreen Humayun (PhD/HIST), Jamie Holland (MA/ANTH), Sonia Kapur (PhD/PBPL), Mark Myers (MA/PLSC), Michelle Moody (MA/GEOG), Mitra Panahipour (PhD/ANTH), Peter von Groote (MA/GEOG), Keith Whitmire (PhD/ANTH), Wawan Yulianto (PhD/CLCS)

Of the newly funded students, 4 are shifting from departmental to Center funding and 5 are new UA graduate students.

Graduate assistantships are spread among affiliated departments as follows: Anthropology (5), Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies/Translation (5); Environmental Dynamics/Geosciences (3); History (5); Political Science/Public Policy (3). For AY 2012-13 the King Fahd center utilized one 'empty' slot to fund an entering 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.

For AY 2013-14 the King Fahd Center will use one 'empty' slot to fund a History PhD student, Blake Duffield) to direct the new project in International Relations.

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 HIST PhD student graduated in December 2012 and 1 in May 2013. 1 ANTH PhD student and 3 ANTH MA students graduated in May 2013. The King Fahd Center provided support in the form of graduate assistantships and/or study and research awards to many of these students.

Graduate Student Research/Study Awards – Summer 2012

Kaveh Bassiri (CLCS), PhD research in Iran (\$3200) Sanket Desai (HIST), language study in Beirut, Lebanon (\$1600) Andie Duplantis (GEOG), MA research in Palestine Authority (\$3000) Grace Henderson (GEOG), 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)

Graduate Student Research/Study Awards – Spring/Fall 2012-13

Ethan Morton-Jerome (ANTH) utilized his Graduate Assistantship to travel to the Palestine Authority in Spring 2013 to begin dissertation research.

Teresa Wilson (ANTH) utilized her Graduate Assistantship to travel to Jordan for dissertation research under the auspices of ASOR. She also received \$1800 in travel support.

Graduate Student Research/Study Awards – Summer 2013

Chris Angel (ENDY) – \$1500 to support PhD research in Petra, Jordan examining urban morphology during the period of Petra's high empire from 100 BC to 300 AD

Kaelin Groom (GEOG) – \$3000 to support MA research in Petra, Jordan studying rock decay and tafoni development and investigating the effects of climate, tourism and geology on the deterioration of Petra's unique sandstone architecture

Jamie Holland (ANTH) – \$3000 to support language study and MA research on graffiti art in Beirut, Lebanon

Sonia Kapur (PBPL) – \$2500 to support PhD research on South Asian women immigrants in California

Peter von Groote (GEOG) – \$3000 to support MA research on Crusader era fortifications in Petra, Jordan

Keith Whitmire (ANTH) – \$3000 to support language study and preliminary PhD research on popular music and revolution in Cairo, Egypt

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

During AY 2012-13 the MEST program counted approximately 43 undergraduate co-majors and 13 minors (students continue to register on a rolling basis throughout the semester and some have recently graduated).

These numbers demonstrate stability over the last few years. In 2011-12 the numbers were 45/10; in 2010-11 they were 44/18; in 2009-10 they were 50/13; in 2008-09 they

were 38/15. This represents a steady climb from the years before. In 2007-08 there were 36 majors and 12 minors; in 2006-07 the numbers were 28/10.

During AY 2012-13 the Center supported 5 students with full scholarships:

Katelyn Burns (IREL/MEST, minor ARAB), Michael Meizler (HIST/IREL/MEST), Sarina Mann (GEOG/MEST), Andrew Newell (IREL/MEST), and Christian Peterson (ECON/IREL/MEST, minor ARAB. 3 of these students graduated in May 2013 and 2 will receive a second year of funding in AY 2013-14

During AY 2013-14 the Center will support 2 students with full scholarships:

Khalid Ahmadzai (IREL/MEST) and Baily Cox (IREL/MEST)

During AY 2013-14 the KFC will support 5 students with half scholarships:

Tanner Callison (IREL/MEST), Elizabeth Heckman (IREL/MEST/Honors), Jessica Jayakaran (IREL/MEST), Sarina Mann (GEOG/MEST), Michael Meizler (IREL/MEST)

These are either 1-semester awards for students who will graduate in December 2013 or partial awards to supplement other UA scholarships.

Students funded for summer study 2012:

Christian Peterson (IREL/MEST) CIEE, Amman, Jordan (\$1200)

Joshua Moore (ANTH/MEST) (\$1200), and J P Huber (GRMN, ARAB minor) (\$1200), to support their participation in the new Harvard University 'Arabic Institute for the Next Generation'.

Students funded for summer study 2013:

Mary Goodwin (IREL/MEST), AMIDEAST, Egypt (\$2000); Elizabeth Heckman (IREL/MEST/Honors) CIEE, Jordan (\$500)

FACULTY NEWS

Sarwar Alam (Instructor)

Professor Alam presented 'Devotionalism and Gender Transgression in the Songs of Miazbhandariyya Tradition in Bangladesh' at the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar in Valle Crucis, NC in October 2012 and 'Sufism Without Boundaries: The Maizbhandariyya Tariqa and Interfaith Dialogue in Modern Bangladesh' at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion 2013 Regional Meeting in Greenville, SC in March 2013. His proposal for a paper, 'O Murshid My Heart Cries for Thee: Devotionalism and Gender Transgression in the Songs of Maizbhandariyya Tradition in Bangladesh' has been accepted by the American Academy of Religion for its 2013 annual meeting.

He is currently revising his book manuscript (based on his UA dissertation), *Jewels of Honor: The Perception of Power, Powerlessness, and Gender Among Rural Muslim Women of Bangladesh* and is organizing a collected volume of essays titled *Sufism, Pluralism and Democracy* with Clinton Bennett of SUNY-New Paltz to which he will contribute a chapter titled 'In Search of God and Humanity: Vilayet-e-Mutlaka of Hazrat Delaor Husayn Maizbhandari'. He reviewed Hans Harder, *Sufism and Saint Veneration in Contemporary Bangladesh: The Maibhandaris of Cittagong* (Routledge) in *Sufi Studies* (2012), 252-54.

During AY 2012-13 he taught Islam in History and Practice (MEST 2003) and a special topics course (MEST 410V) on Islamic Mystical Traditions. In Fall 2013 he will teach MEST 2013 and MEST 2003 and will develop another upper division course for Spring 2014. He will also teach a mini-course on Islam for the UA Global Campus.

Professor Alam is a member of the Board of Editors of the *Journal of South Asian Studies*.

Nikolay Antov (Assistant Professor of History)

Professor Antov has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship administered by the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) that will allow him to spend AY 2013-2014 in Turkey. He will carry out research for a book project titled 'Imperial Expansion, Colonization, and Conversion to Islam in the Islamic World's "Wild West": The Formation of the Muslim Community in Ottoman Deliorman'. His research will build upon 3 months of work last summer in the Ottoman imperial archives in Istanbul.

He was invited to present his paper 'The Ottoman Danubian Serhad in the early 16th century: Challenges and Policies' at Indiana University in March 2013 at the 32nd György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium, 'Hungary on the Border-land of Two World Powers'. In June 2013 he is participating in an NEH summer institute on 'Empires and Interactions across the Early Modern World, 1400-1800' that is being held at Saint Louis University.

His essay, '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 (late 14th –18th cc.)', is currently under review as part of an edited volume, *Beyond Mosque, Church, and State: Negotiating Religious and Ethno-National Identities in the Balkans*.

Professor Antov continued to redesign the History curriculum for the pre-modern Islamic world and to incorporate comparative studies of Europe and Asia. He is designing a new Honors colloquium tentatively titled 'Early Modern: East and West' on the interactions and exchanges between Western Europe and the Islamic World in the early modern period (15th-18th centuries). He has also worked closely with graduate students working the Modern Middle East and Medieval Europe fields. His first graduate student, Ali

Capar, completed his MA on the history of the Nusayris in 19th century Ottoman Syria. Capar will stay on to enter the PhD program in Fall 2013. A second PhD student will arrive in on campus to work with Professor Antov in AY 2013-14.

Jesse Casana (Associate Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Casana directs a 3-year NASA-funded project that aims to map all archaeological sites and related cultural features that are visible in CORONA satellite imagery across a large study area of the Middle East. In 2012-13 he and his team completing an inventory of known sites, developed systems for mapping and morphological classification of sited and began work in environmental modeling of the study area. He launched a new, online digital atlas providing declassified Cold War era CORONA satellite imagery of the Middle East and surrounding areas. He worked to improve the atlas by adding additional imagery and providing online tutorials and guides. In April 2013 he received a 3-year \$275,000 NEH grant to expand the project to China, South Asia, Eastern Europe and the African Sahel.

In 2011 political unrest in Syria forced cessation of his long-standing excavation project Tell Qarqur in northwest Syria. In July 2012 he co-directed a 5-week geophysical survey an exaction project the Late Bronze Age site of Kalavastos Aiyo Dimetrios in Cyprus. His work, which incorporates low-altitude aerial thermography and mapping is partially funded by a new NEH grant. The project also served as an archaeological field school to replace his annual field school in Syria. During AY 2012-13 senior team members met in Fayetteville and completed a lengthy report, currently under review for publication that will serve as an interim (or perhaps) final assessment of the site.

In October 2012 Professor Casana initiated a new regional archaeological survey in the previously undocumented upper Diyala/Sirwan River Valley in Iraqi Kurdistan. He and his co-directors signed a 5-year permit with the Department of Antiquities granting them exclusive rights to work in the area. In May 2013 he directed a 2-week follow-up survey in the region accompanied by a small team.

Professor Casana is also working on analysis and publication of date from a 3-week excavation he directed at Saruq al-Hadid in Dubai in January 2012, and is planning renewed at fieldwork at this site in the near future. In 2013 he directed 2 short field surveys at archaeological sites in South Dakota, Illinois, and New Mexico. He continues work on a project to map archaeological landscapes in South Dakota and Arkansas utilizing aerial photographs from the 1930s-1940s. In January 2013 he received a \$275,000 NEH grant to expand the project alone the entire Middle Missouri River Valley.

Professor Casana published 'Radial Route Systems and Agro-Pastoral Strategies in the Fertile Crescent: New Discoveries from western Syria and southwestern Iran' in *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 32 (2013), 257-73 and 'Archaeology after the Arab Spring' in *The Ancient Near East Today* 2 (2013). He co-authored 'Swords into Ploughshares: Archaeological Applications of CORONA Satellite Imagery in the Near

East' (with Jackson Cothren and Tuna Kalayci) in *Internet Archaeology* 32/2 (2012); 'A Sequence of Inland Desert Settlement in the Oman Peninsula: 2008-2009 Excavations at Saruq al-Hadid, Dubai, UAE (with JT Hermann and Hussein Suliman Qandil) in *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* 23 (2012), 50-69; and 'The CORONA Atlas Project: Orthorectification of CORONA Satellite Imagery and Regional-Scale Archaeological Exploration in the Near East' (with Jackson Cothren) in Douglas Comer and Michael Harrower (eds), *Mapping Archaeological Landscapes from Space* (Springer 2013).

He has 3 papers accepted for publication: 'The Late Roman Landscape of the Northern Levant: A View from Tell Qarqur and the Lower Orontes River Valley' in *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*; 'Settlement, Territory and the Political Landscape of Late Bronze Age Polities in the Northern Levant' in Parker VanValkenburgh and James Osborne (eds), *Home Turf: Archaeology, Territoriality and Politics* (Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Society); and 'A Landscape Context for Paleoethnobotany: The Contribution of Aerial and Satellite Remote Sensing' in John M Marston, Jade d'Alpoim Guedes and Christina Warinner (eds), *Theory and Method in Paleoethnobotany* (Colorado).

He presented 'Deserts of Magan: Settlement, Subsistence and Metal Production at Saruq al-Hadid, Dubai, UAE' at the American Schools of Oriental Research 2012 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL (November 2012) and 'The CORONA Atlas Project: Orthorectification and Regional Archaeological Prospection of Declassified Satellite Imagery' at the Association of American Geographers 2013 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA (April 2013). He co-organized and chaired a panel on 'Landscapes of Settlement in the Ancient Near East' for the 2012 ASOR Annual Meeting.

Professor Casana is Chair of the Damascus Committee of the American Schools of Oriental Research and an expert panelist for the NASA Space Archaeology Program. He oversaw the completion, this AY, of 1 PhD dissertation (Tuna Kalayci) and 2 MA theses (Emily Bitely and Elise Jakoby).

Mounir Farah (Professor of Curriculum and Instruction)

Last summer Professor Farah visited Syria and Lebanon to broaden his understanding of the current situation. In early June he participated in a 4-hour meeting of journalists and intellectuals. During the last ten days of June 2012 he delivered a series of lectures on Middle East affairs and held workshops for nearly 100 educators at Vitatus Magnus University in Vilnius, Lithuania. He also visited Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and met with faculty members in the political science and area studies departments.

In May-June 2013, Professor Farah traveled to Lithuania to deliver a series of lectures at Vitatus Magnus University and to meet with professors of political science and international relations to discuss plans for developing programs in Middle East studies. In addition to analyzing current affairs, he presented 4 talks on American education and educational reforms in Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

In Northwest Arkansas he spoke to the Great Decisions chapter in Fayetteville about current issues in the Middle East. He moderated the Geography Bee at McNair Middle School in Fayetteville. He continues to advise numerous students from the Middle East in the College of Education and Health. During AY 2012-13 he advised 11 PhD candidates and chaired 2 PhD committees for students from Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He also taught a course on methods of teaching non-Western cultures, a course on multicultural issues, and one on comparative international education. He was named Outstanding Faculty Member by the Office of Sponsored Student Programming, the Graduate School and International Education.

He serves on the State's board of directors for social studies and on the board of the Geographic Alliance, and is an active member of the national Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC).

Najib Ghadbian (Associate Professor of Political Science)

Professor Ghadbian was on leave for half of AY 2012-13 while he ran the offices of the Syrian National Council in Washington, DC and New York City as special representative to the United States from the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces.

He served on the executive committee of a think-tank project, 'The Day After: Supporting a Transition to Democracy in Syria,' that was co-sponsored by the US Institute for Peace (USIP) and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), a European think tank based in Berlin. He was a member of two working groups, those on 'Interim Governance Arrangements' and Rule of Law, Elections and Constitutional Design'. He was a primary contributor to the section on electoral reform produced by the project and co-edited the Arabic edition. His essay on 'Opposition Activism under Bashar Asad' will appear in a forthcoming volume on *Bashar al-Asad's First Decade*.

Professor Ghadbian spoke on the current political situation in Syria at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris, France (July 2012); the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association in Moscow, Russia (August 2012); the Second Annual International Conference for the Afro-Middle East Center in Pretoria, South Africa (August 2012); the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies in Ankara, Turkey (October 2012); the Arab Forum for Alternatives in Cairo, Egypt (October 2012); Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar (November 2012); the Foreign Policy Initiative BH in Sarajevo, Bosnia (December 2012).

He attended the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Syria in Paris, France (July 2012); the 8th Manama Dialogue in Manama, Bahrain (December 2012); and the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People in Marrakesh, Morocco (December 2012).

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

Professor Gordon has an essay on the depiction of piety in recent Egyptian cinema under review as part of a forthcoming edited volume on *Islamism and Cultural Expression* (Routledge). He has submitted 2 other essays, on filmmaker Youssef Chahine and ‘crosscutting borders and genres’ in Middle East film, to refereed journals. He is gathering essays for a collection on Gamal Abd al-Nasser that he is editing for Cambridge University Press and serves as a chief consultant for an NEH funded documentary on Nasser that is currently under production by filmmaker Michal Goldman. He published book reviews in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*.

In December 2012 he spoke on ‘The United States and the Arab Spring’ at Qaid-e Azim University in Islamabad, Pakistan. In January 2013 he attended the First Symposium of Saudi Scientific Chairs in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In April 2013 he delivered two lectures – ‘Yousef Chahine: Life as Cinema/Cinema as Life’ and ‘3 Tales of Obsession: Crosscutting Regional Classics and Borders’ – at Tel Aviv University as a guest of the Department of Middle Eastern and African History and the Moshe Dayan Center. He traveled afterwards to Egypt to visit Tahrir Square for the first time since the January 2011 revolution.

Professor Gordon chaired a panel on ‘Blurring Nationalism and Religion in the Early 20th Century Middle East’ at the 2012 Middle East Studies Annual Meeting that was co-organized by his PhD students, Ahmet Akturk and Matt Parnell. He co-organized a panel for the forthcoming MESA meeting with Deborah Starr of Cornell University. He currently serves on the advisory board for the Bridging Cultures Program sponsored by the American Performing Arts Presenters and funded by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts. He has agreed to serve on an Outside Advisory Board for the Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Professor Gordon currently supervises 2 graduate students working towards the PhD in History and serves on the dissertation committee of a Georgetown University student. Yulia Uryadova defended her dissertation on the Ferghana Valley in the decades prior to the Russian revolution and graduated in Fall 2012. Ahmet Akturk defended his dissertation on Kurdish nationalism in Mandate Syria in May 2013 and will commence a tenure-track position in history at Georgia Southern University. Matt Parnell is currently in Egypt finalizing dissertation research with a fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt. He also serves on the thesis committees of 4 other History PhD students, and is expecting 3 incoming PhD students for AY 2013-14.

Adnan Haydar (Professor of World Languages)

Professor Haydar, collaborating with Paula Haydar and Nadine Sinno (UA PhD 2009) of Virginia Tech, completed work on *Haki bil-Lubnani*, their textbook for Eastern Arabic (Lebanese) dialect. The text will be published by Georgetown University Press as a companion volume to *Al-Kitab*, the leading text for Modern Standard Arabic in this

country. Final revisions were submitted in January 2013 and the expected publication date is this coming December.

His article, 'From Tradition to Innovation: Khalil Hawi's Path to Modernity', appeared in *Al-Abhath* 58-59 (2012), 67-74, a refereed journal published annually by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the American University of Beirut. He and Michael Beard (University of South Dakota) translated for Wordwithoutborders.org 'Funeral for Walt Whitman' by the Egyptian poet Abdel Mun'im Ramadan, which appeared at <http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/funeral-for-walt-whitman>.

He organized, secured funding, hosted, and introduced the Lebanese Zajal Verbal Duel at the Beit Miri Folklore Festival that was sponsored by the King Fahd Center. In conjunction with this event, he gave 3 television interviews that aired on the Lebanese stations MTV, TeleLiban, and Al-Jadid concerning oral poetry in Lebanon.

As director of the Arkansas Prize for Arabic Translation, he oversaw the publication of the 2011 winner, 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 on the Arabic evaluation committee for the US State Department Critical Languages Scholarship Program, and is the UA representative on the board of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad.

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. He developed a graduate seminar on Pre-Islamic Poetry that was offered in Fall 2012 and will be reprised in Fall 2013.

This past year he served on 1 CLCS dissertation committee and directed 1 undergraduate Honors thesis. He continues to advise numerous undergraduate and graduate students, helping place them in study abroad and overseas and domestic language programs, and advising students on graduate and post-graduate options. In AY 2012-13 he (along with Paula Haydar) won the Outstanding Mentor Award from the UA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards.

He co-organized (with Paula Haydar) the Arabic speech competition. They authored and submitted a proposal for a federally funded Undergraduate Arabic Flagship Program. Although the proposal was not approved, it provided added impetus toward securing a major in Arabic in the department of WLLC.

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Arabic)

Professor Haydar's translation of June Rain (Bloomsbury Qatar), the acclaimed novel by Jabbour Douahi, is set for publication in October 2013. Her translation (with Nadine Sinno) of *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* by Lebanese novelist Rashid al-Daif has been accepted by the University of Texas Press and is forthcoming. *Hakki bi-Lubnani*, the Lebanese colloquial textbook she co-authored with Adnan Haydar and Nadine Sinno will

be published in December 2013. This text is a companion volume to *al-Kitab*, published by Georgetown University Press, the leading textbook for Modern Standard Arabic in this country.

She attended the zajal oral poetry event in Lebanon in July 2012 sponsored by the King Fahd Center and began transcribing the recorded event for research purposes. During AY 2012-13 she completed her comprehensive exams and defended her dissertation proposal on 'The Art of Verbal Dueling in Lebanon'. She expects to attain her PhD in Comparative Literature at the UA in the coming AY.

Professor Haydar continues to advise undergraduate and graduate Arabic students and direct them toward study abroad, graduate school and postgraduate options. With Adnan Haydar, she drafted a proposal for a federally funded Undergraduate Arabic Language Flagship. She also co-organized the Arabic Speech competition, held in conjunction with the Fulbright College Language Festival in April 2013. This year the UA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards recognized Professor Haydar as an Outstanding Mentor.

Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English)

Professor Kahf published/posted the following poems: 'Holding Fatima to the Light' (arablit.wordpress.com/2012/09/25); 'Rivers of Blood: No Metaphor' (blackbirdpressnews.blogspot.com/2012/10); 'Our Name is Blood' (sherifzuhur.wordpress.com/2012/11); 'The Fallen Protester's Song' and 'For the Free Syrians Behind Bars' (universeofpoetry.org/syria). Her poem, 'The Spiced Chicken Queen of Mickaweah, Iowa', will be published in the July issue of *Subaru*, a leading commercial Japanese magazine. A stanza from 'A Woman Dear to Herself' will head a chapter in the forthcoming *Women and Middlehood: Halfway Up the Mountain* (Balboa 2013). 'Pears in the Time of Burnished Gold' was featured in a January 2013 rebroadcast of the Australian Broadcasting Company program 'Poetica: Taste', originally broadcast in 2011.

She also has an essay, 'Lord, Make Me Not Obvious', forthcoming in a volume on *Muslims and American Popular Culture* (Praeger) and in a special issue of *The Muslim World* on Muslim Feminism. She is currently completing a translation of the work of pre-Islamic poet, Safiah bint Tha'laba, which 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.

Professor Kahf read her poetry at the Levantine Cultural Center in Los Angeles (July 2012) and at the Lewis Center for Arts, Princeton NJ (October 2012), an event sponsored by the Institute for Women and Art at Rutgers University.

She is currently supervising her former MA student, Wawan Yulianto, who began his PhD studies in Comparative Literature in Fall 2011. Another PhD student, Rosario Nolasco-Bell, successfully defended her thesis on "Nature and the environment in Ana Castillo's *So Far from God* and Elmaz Abinader's *Children of the Roojme*."

Tom Paradise (Professor of Geosciences)

Professor Paradise published ‘Cultural Heritage Management and GIS in Petra, Jordan’ in *ArcNews* (2012); ‘Rock Weathering and Stone Conservation’ in Melanie Kingsley (ed), *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology* (Springer 2013); and ‘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).

A number of publications are currently in press: ‘Rock Weathering Assessment of tafoni distribution and environmental factors on a sandstone djinn block above Petra, Jordan’ is forthcoming in *Applied Geography*; ‘Petra: Maps, Magic and Science,’ *ESRI News* (forthcoming); ‘Sandstone Deterioration, Nature, and Tourism: Lessons learned from Petra, Jordan,’ in G Chatelard (ed), *Proceedings from the Conference Desert and Man*. ‘Paleo-fluvial reconstruction and evidence for a catastrophic flood in Petra in the 5th-6th Century’, is under review for *BASOR: Bulletin of the Schools of Oriental Research*.

He co-authored 2 pieces: ‘The role of fieldwork in rock decay research: Case studies from the fringe’ *Geomorphology* (2013), 1-16, with R Dorn, S Gordon, C Allen, N Cerveny, J Dixon, K Groom, K Hall, E Harrison, L Mol, P Sumner, T Thomposon, A Turkington; and ‘Assisting Cultural Heritage Management with GIS in Petra, Jordan’, *ESRI ArcNews* 34 (2013) with D Comer.

Ongoing projects relate to architectural deterioration analysis and Nabataean urban morphology and celestial alignment in Petra, Jordan and Seismic risk perception in comparative Muslim and Christian community settings in North Africa and Mediterranean countries.

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 is a UNESCO consultant in architectural deterioration and conservation for Jordan, Italy, Morocco, and Egypt.

Professor Paradise is a contributing editor to *Arab World Geographer*, the *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) and an editor of the *Regions of the World* textbook series and *The Middle East* (Harcourt-Brace). He serves as grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, FEMA-Homeland Security, USAID, USIS-USIA, the US State Department, and the US National Park Service.

On campus he coordinates the program for the Geosciences minor in Historic Preservation. He serves on the executive board of Osher Foundation Lifelong Learning Institute based at the UA Global Campus. He chairs the GEOS Personnel Committee and is a committee member for the UA Public Art Commission, UA Study Abroad Scholarship Committee, UA Honors College Scholarship Committee, UA Prestigious Fellowships Committee, and the UA College of Education and Health Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

This summer (2013) he returned to Petra accompanied by 3 of his GEOS graduate students who were supported by the King Fahd Center to carry out research for their PhD and MA theses.

Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Rose continues to carry out research in Upper Egypt, at Amarna, capital city of the 'heretic pharaoh' Akhenaten, and lead a highly regarded bioarchaeology field school. In Summer 2012 he returned to Amarna along with his co-director, a teaching assistant, and 8 students (who were joined by 3 Egyptian student/trainees). In December 2012 he joined a major excavation in progress co-funded by the King Fahd Center and National Geographic (out of a \$19,562 grant awarded in 2012) that unearthed some 400 (total) skeletons for future analysis. This season he led a team of 4 scholars plus 10 students who analyzed a total of 70 skeletons and 13 isolated skulls.

Professor Rose co-authored the following articles and book chapters: JC Rose and G Dabbs, 'Human Bones from the South Tombs Cemetery', *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 98 (2012), 7-9; JC Rose and A Khwaleh, 'Biological Consequences of Migration as Evidenced by Skeletons from the Twelfth Century Frankish Castellum Vallis Moysis, Jordan (al-Wu'ayra)' in G Vannini and M Nuccioti (eds), *La Transgiordania nei secoli XII-XIII e le 'frontiere' del Mediterraneo medievale* (Bar International, Series 2386, 2012), 177-80; JC Rose and R David, 'Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science' *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 71 (2012), 376; JC Rose and L K Sabbahy (eds), 'Paleopathology of the Ancient Egyptians: Annotated Bibliography', *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* 6 (2012); B Kemp, A Stevens, GR Dabbs, M Zabecki, JC Rose, 'Life, Death and beyond in Akhenaten's Egypt: Excavating the South Tombs Cemetery at Amarna', *Antiquity* 87 (2013), 64-78.

He co-authored 3 essays in JE Buikstra and CA Roberts (eds) *The Global History of Paleopathology: Pioneers and Prospects* (Oxford UP 2012): 'Dr Dan: The Life of George Daniel Morris (1906-1985)', 82-88 (w/DL Burke); 'Mahmoud Youssef K El-Najjar (1942-2009), 164-69 (w/AA Shorman); 'The First Dental Pathologists and Paleopathologists', 619-31 (w/S Hillson).

Professor Rose delivered the keynote lecture, 'Bioarchaeology of Ancient Egypt: An Outsider's Personal Adventures and Opinions of Its Past, Present and Future', at a conference on 'The Bioarchaeology of Ancient Egypt' at the American University of Cairo in January-February 2013. He co-presented a poster, 'Orthodontist Needed! Crooked Teeth at the New Kingdom Site of Amarna, Egypt', at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Knoxville, TN (April 2013).

Professor Rose spends considerable energy as program advisor for the UA Pre-dental Program. This past AY he advised 152 undergrad pre-dental students and 30 who were applying to dental school, and 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, as letters must now be

written in June and July (instead of October). In Summer 2012 he wrote 37 committee letters for recommendation. This has paid off remarkably well – an acceptance rate of 65% (24 of 37 applicants). Additionally, Professor Rose serves as faculty sponsor of the UA Dental Club.

He also supervised 2 senior undergraduate honors theses in Biological Sciences. He oversaw 4 graduate student poster presentations at the Annual Meeting of Physical Anthropologists.

Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology)

Professor Swedenburg published ‘Egypt’s Music of Revolt: From Sayyid Darwish to DJ Haha’ in *Middle East Report* 265 (Winter 2012): 39-43. His 2007 MER article, ‘Imagined Youths’ was republished in Jeannie Souwers and Chris Toensing (eds). *The Journey to Tahrir: Revolution, Protest, and Social Change in Egypt* (Verso 2012), 285-294. ‘Palestinian Rap: Against the Struggle Paradigm’ was republished in Walid El Hamamsy and Mounira Soliman (eds), *Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa: A Postcolonial Outlook* (Routledge 2012), 17-32.

He presented 4 scholarly lectures at university campuses in the USA and Lebanon: ‘Revolutionary Music in Egypt’ at a symposium on The Art and Culture of Revolt in the Middle East at the Center for Policy Studies, Case Western Reserve University (September 2012); ‘Egypt’s Music of Revolt, 2011: From Sayyed Darwish to DJ Amr Haha’ at a conference on The New Middle East: Social and Political Change in the Twenty-First Century at the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois-Champaign (October 2012); ‘The International Circulation of Palestinian Kufiyas’ at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut (March 2013); and ‘Beur/Maghrebi Musical Interventions in Contemporary France’ at a symposium on ‘The Southern Shores of the Mediterranean and Beyond: 1800 to the Present’ at the Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota, April 2013.

Professor Swedenburg served as discussant for a session on Aesthetics, Politics, and Religion: The Role of (Performing) Arts In the Arab Uprising at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco (November 2012). He delivered concluding remarks at a conference on After Jews and Arabs: Remaking Levantine Culture 20 Years Later’ that was held at Georgetown University (November 2012). He co-organized the conference with Elliott Colla, Chair of the Arabic Studies Department at Georgetown.

He serves as Program advisor for Afropop Worldwide's Hip Deep Lebanon music project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2012-2013. He is also an editor of the Indiana University Press series ‘Public Cultures of the Middle East & North Africa’ and he serves on the editorial committee of *Middle East Report*.

His PhD advisee, Tricia Nellessen, defended her dissertation ‘The Consciousness of Water: Narrative Flows, Environmental Change, and the Voices of Yemen’ in February

2013 and graduated in May 2013. Another PhD advisee, Ethan Morton-Jerome, was awarded a fellowship from the Palestine American Research Center to support dissertation field research on Palestinian labor on West Bank settlements.

Kenneth L Brown (Visiting Scholar)

Professor Brown is spent October and November 2012 based at the King Fahd Center and working in Mullins Library. He also met regularly with faculty and students and presented a talk on the Syrian poet – and potential Nobel laureate – Adonis. He also gave talks at New York University, UCLA, and the University of Texas. He spent much of Spring 2013 and early Summer 2013 in Marrakesh, Morocco on an artist's residency at Dar al-Ma'mun, where he is working on his manuscript on Mediterranean cities.

FACULTY OUTREACH/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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.

Mounir Farah presented a series of lectures on Arab politics at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania and Jagiellonian Univeristy in Poland. He participated in a major news conference of journalists and intellectuals in Beirut, Lebanon. In Fayetteville he led a session for the Great Decisions discussion group.

Najib Ghadbian has been a regular commentator on al-Jazeera (English and Arabic), al-Arabiya, al-Hurra television stations (both US-based), and other Arab satellite television channels. He gave regular interviews to BBC (London), France 24 (Paris). He also gave interviews to Voice of the Arabs (Cairo), and Russia Today (Moscow). In March 2013 he was interviewed by The Cable, a division of the online Foreign Policy website. He was also featured in an AP article, 'Professor Heads Up Syrian Opposition's US Offices' that ran in the *Washington Post*.

Joel Gordon spoke to TSA agents at Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport about Islam and Muslims as part of their diversity month in October 2012. He lectured on the Arab Spring at Qaid-e Azim University in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2012. He moderated the symposium on the US Constitution and Sharia law on campus in April 2013. In October He was featured in an article in the NW Arkansas Times in September 2012 concerning the global protests over a provocative anti-Muslim film, was quoted in the abovementioned March 2013 AP article on his colleague, Najib Ghadbian.

Mohja Kahf produced three programs in Arabic for Syrian Freedom Waves, a free radio station that broadcasts off the coast of Syria. She is also responsible for SFW Facebook, YouTube and Twitter postings. She also authored a special report for the Friends for a Non-Violent World, 'Then and Now: The Syrian Revolution to Date – A Young

Nonviolent Resistance and the Ensuing Armed Struggle' (March 21, 2013). She was a guest panelist on KPFA Radio (Bay Area) 'Women's Magazine' on November 26, 2012 and on Radio China's 'Today Show' on April 6, 2013.

Ted Swedenburg is on the editorial board of Middle East Report, one of the leading journals of Middle East affairs published by the independent Middle East Research & Information Project.

MEST faculty members also share academic pursuits and expertise beyond the headlines. Joel Gordon's interview on cineaste Youssef Chahine is available on podcast (and YouTube) from the Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University. Adnan Haydar gave interviews on Lebanese oral poetry to MTV, TeleLiban and al-Jadid (Lebanon) and TeleLiban (Lebanese National TV) in July 2012. 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. The Amarna excavations led by Jerome Rose were featured in *National Geographic News* in March 2013.

Faculty members regularly review national and international grant applications for Fulbright, the International Institute of Education, NEH, NSF, the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, the Israel Science Foundation, the National Science Foundation of Switzerland, UNESCO 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 UA 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, and 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. They are presenting their work at the annual meetings of their professional associations. They continue to win major national scholarships and UA awards. Their publishing record – academic articles, book/film reviews, translations, and creative writing – is impressive. They are involved in organizing cultural and academic activities

on campus, in the community, and beyond. And they are moving on to teaching and research positions and/or into prestigious advanced degree programs upon completion of their UA degrees.

Ahmet Akturk (PhD/HIST) defended his dissertation, ‘Imagining Kurdish Identity in Mandatory Syria: Finding a Nation in Exile’, under the supervision of Joel Gordon and will graduate in August 2013. He has accepted a tenure-track job at Georgia Southern University. He published ‘Seeing Celadet Bedirxan on TRT 6’ in *Kürt Tarihi* (2012) and reviews of *Kürt Tarihi*’s first issue (June-July 2012) in the *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter* 17/2 (2012) and Boris James, *Selahaddin ve Kürtler: Haçlılar Döneminde Bir Topluluğun Kavranması [Saladin and the Kurds: Perception of a Group at the Time of the Crusades]* (Avesta 2011) in *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter* 17/1 (2012). An essay on ‘The Kurdish Cultural Renaissance in Exile: The Hawar School’ is forthcoming in *Zend*; a review of ‘Incredible Turk’ (a 1958 Documentary on Atatürk) will appear in *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*.

Akturk co-organized a panel on ‘Blurring Nationalism and Religion in the Early 20th Century Middle East’ and presented ‘Many Faces of Religion: Kurdish Nationalism in French Mandatory Levant’ at the Middle East Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. He taught a mini-course on ‘The Israeli and the Palestinian Conflict’ for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UA Global Campus in Fall 2012. He is a member of the editorial board of *Kurt Tarihi* (Kurdish History), a new journal published in Turkey.

Chris Angel (PhD/ENDY) presented ‘Holistic Assessment of Nabatean Urban Geography and Morphology in Petra’ at a poster session at the Association of American Geographers 2013 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. He published 2 maps, ‘Oblique 3D View of the Valley in Petra’ in *ArcNews* (2012) and ‘3-D View of Petra: Digital Elevation Model with Monuments’ in *Cadalyst* (2012).

Kaveh Bassiri (PhD/CLCS) published poems in *Drunken Boat* (Fall 2012), *Beloit Poetry Review* (Summer 2012), *RHINO* (Spring 2012), and two poems in the anthology *The Forbidden: Poems from Iran and its Exiles* (2012). He published a play, ‘Notebook of Questions’ in *Post Road*, (Fall 2012) and a translation of ‘The Seventh Day’ by Roya Zarrin in *The Massachusetts Review* (Fall 2012). Translations of seven of Roya Zarrin’s poems were featured in the Spring 2013 issue of *ArteEast*. He presented ‘Hybridity and the Making of Persian Poetry in the Abbasid Era’ at the Iranian Studies Conference in Istanbul, Turkey (August 2012); ‘The Text is in the Context: On translating Nima Yushij’ at the American Literary Translators Association Conference in Rochester, NY (October 2012); and ‘Friends/Enemies on the Border: National Identity in Iranian War Cinema’ at the Middle East Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. He also served as moderator for a panel entitled ‘Role and Impact of International Anthologies’ at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs 2013 conference in Boston, MA (March 2013) and read from his poetry.

Bassiri 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. He read his poetry at Ozark Small-Press Poetry Festival in Fayetteville on April 26 and 27 and took part in a book forum organized by the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology on the Literature of U.S. 'Enemies' on February 22, 2013. He is an editor for */One/*, a quarterly journal of literature, art, and ideas and is an advisor for Poet Voices of the Muslim World, a project funded by the Bridging Cultures program of the NEH. For AY 2013-14 he has shifted into the PhD track in CLCS.

Ali Capar (MA/HIST) defended his thesis 'The History of Nusayris in Ottoman Syria, 1831-1876' and graduated in May 2013. He has been accepted into the PhD program in History at UA and will be working under Nikolay Antov.

Sanket Desai (PhD/HIST) attended the Middle East Studies Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. He traveled to the British Public Records Office in London, UK in May 2013 with support from the History Department to undertake preliminary doctoral research on Mandate-era Iraq. He is a senator on the UA Associated Student Government (ASG) and president of the Middle East Studies Graduate Association (MESGA). He studied Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon in Summer 2012 with support from the KFC.

Shane Elder (PhD/CLCS) studied Arabic in Summer 2012 with a scholarship from the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwan, Oman.

Nicole Fares (MFA-Trans) published an excerpt of her translation of Sahar Mandour's novel 32 in *Jadaliyya* (February 2013). She also attended the Middle East Studies Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Kaelin Groom (MA/GEOG) published 'Case Hardening Vignettes from the Western USA: Convergence of Form from a Divergence of Hardening Processes' in the *Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Yearbook* (2012) and 'The Role of Fieldwork in Rock Decay Research: Case Studies from the Fringe' in *Geomorphology* (2012). Another essay, 'A Geologic Assessment of Grenada's Carib Stones', is forthcoming in the *International Newsletter on Rock Art*.

Elise Jakoby (MA/ANTH) defended her thesis, 'Considering Kranzhügel: An Exploration into the Structural Variation, Social Production, and Environmental/Spatial Distribution of the Third Millennium "Kranzhügel" Sites', under the supervision of Jesse Casana and graduated in May 2013. She presented 'Considering Kranzhügel: An Exploration into the Structure and Environmental Distribution of the Third Millennium "Kranzhügel" Sites' at the American Schools of Oriental Research 2012 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL (November 2012).

Tuna Kalayci (PhD/ANTH), defended his dissertation, 'Agricultural Production and Stability of Settlement Systems in Upper Mesopotamia during the Early Bronze Age

(Third Millennium BCE)', under the supervision of Jesse Casana and graduated in May 2013. He has accepted a postdoctoral position at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete. He has co-authored articles forthcoming in *Internet Archaeology* and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*.

Sonia Kapur (PhD/PBPL) passed her comprehensive exams and has moved on to dissertation research. Her article 'Health Impact Assessments in India: Exploring a Possible Community Health Policy Innovation' appeared in the *Indian Journal of Public Health Research and Development* (2013) and she co-authored 'Peak-experiences among Indians in mid-life' in the *Indian Journal of Positive Psychology* 3(2012), 217-223. She is Assistant Editor of the *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare*.

Kathleen Kuckens (MA/ANTH) defended her thesis 'The Children of Amarna: Disease and Famine in the time of Akhenaton' under the supervision of Jerome Rose and will graduate in August 2013.

Ethan Morton-Jerome (PhD/ANTH) was awarded 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). His initial fieldwork, commencing in January 2013, was supported by a King Fahd Center scholarship.

Tricia Nellessen (PhD/ANTH) defended her dissertation 'The Consciousness of Water: Narrative Flows, Environmental Change, and the Voices of Yemen' under the supervision of Ted Swedenburg and graduated in May 2013. She currently works for the US Department of State.

Matt Parnell (PhD/HIST) was awarded 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). He has been in Egypt since early May 2013 and will stay into August. Matt also won the James J Hudson Doctoral Prize in the Humanities from Fulbright College. He co-organized a panel on Blurring Nationalism and Religion in the Early 20th Century Middle East and presented 'What is National Unity? Examining *al-Wahda al-Wataniyya* in the Egyptian 1919 Revolution' at the Middle East Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (November 2012). He spoke to the Great Decisions group in February 2013 on the Egyptian revolution. In Fall 2013 he will teach the Modern Middle East history survey at UA.

Ashley Shidner (PhD/ANTH) presented 'Growing up in Akhetaten: A Bio-cultural Approach to Childhood Growth' at a poster session at the Paleopathology Association 2013 Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN (April 2013).

Nicole Smith presented 'A Study of Cribra Orbitalia over Time and Space in the Ancient Nile Valley' at a poster session at the Paleopathology Association 2013 Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN (April 2013).

Yulia Uryadova (PhD/HIST) defended her dissertation, ‘Bandits, Terrorists, and Revolutionaries: The Breakdown of Civil Authority in the Imperial Ferghana Valley, 1905-1914’, under the supervision of Joel Gordon and Tricia Starks and graduated in December 2012. She has been an Instructor in the History Department and has taught Islamic Civilizations, Modern Middle East and Modern Russia. She was awarded a Summer Research Laboratory Fellowship from the Russian, Eastern Europe and Eurasia Center at the University of Illinois-Urbana for Summer 2013 to explore collections of late 19th and early 20th century Central Asian newspapers for her forthcoming book and an article on prostitution and vice that will appear in an edited volume.

Teresa Wilson (PhD/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, covered a residency at ACOR from February to April 2013. She presented ‘Occupational Hazards at Tell el-Amarna: A Case for Repeated Work- Related Traumatic Injury’ with Robin Winneiger (New Mexico State University) at a poster session at the Paleopathology Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Knoxville, TN. In Fall 2012 she taught a course on Forensic Anthropology for the NWACC Criminal Justice Department in Fall 2012. For this coming AY she has accepted an NSF funded fellowship in the GK-12 program.

Wawan Yulianto (PhD/CLCS) presented ‘Trespassing Ethnic and Generic Borders as an Activism’ at the Regional Graduate Student Literature Conference, Kansas State University (March 2013).

PhD Dissertations Defended

Ahmet Akturk (HIST/Gordon), ‘Imagining Kurdish Identity in Mandatory Syria: Finding a Nation in Exile’

Ernest K Betey III – (ANTH/Rose) ‘Population Dynamics in Predynastic Egypt: Pelodemography of Cemetery HK43 at Hierakonopolis’

Tuna Kalayci (ANTH/Casana), ‘Agricultural Production and Stability of Settlement Systems in Upper Mesopotamia during the Early Bronze Age (Third Millennium BCE)’

Tricia Nellessen (ANTH/Swedenburg), ‘The Consciousness of Water: Narrative Flows, Environmental Change, and the Voices of Yemen’

Yulia Uryadova (HIST/Gordon, Starks), ‘Bandits, Terrorists, and Revolutionaries: The Breakdown of Civil Authority in the Imperial Ferghana Valley, 1905-1914’

MA Theses Defended

Nancy Browning (ANTH/Swedenburg), ‘I am Bedu: The Changing Bedouin in a Changing World’

Ali Capar (HIST/Antov), 'The History of Nusayris in Ottoman Syria, 1831-1876'

Elise Jakoby (ANTH/Casana), 'Considering Kranzhugel: An Exploration into the Structural Variation, Social Production, and Environmental/Spatial Distribution of the Third Millennium 'Kranzhugel' Sites'

Kathleen Kuckens (ANTH/Rose), 'The Children of Amarna: Disease and Famine in the time of Akhenaton'

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Fall 2012 Graduates: Stewart Bailey (IREL/MEST), Tyler Prude (IREL/MEST)

Spring 2013 Graduates: Rachel Calandro (IREL/MEST), Stephanie DeMora (IREL/MEST), Emily Hudson (PLSC/MEST), Diana Jarek (PLSC, MEST minor), Nicholas Linn (IREL/MEST), Andrew Newell (IREL/MEST), Christian Peterson (IREL/MEST), Samuel Roberts (IREL/MEST), and Thomas Witty (HIST/MEST)

Summer 2013 Graduates: Saba Naseem (JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor)

General News/Achievements

Sean Bryant (SO, IREL/MEST) was awarded funding to study Arabic at a 7-week Project GO 2013 summer program in San Bernardino, CA.

Preston Caldwell (SR, ECON/PLSC, ARAB minor) studied in Amman, Jordan on the CIEE program in Summer 2012.

Dustin Carroll (SR, IREL), will study Arabic in Amman, Jordan at the ISA in Summer 2013.

Chelsea DelGrande (SO, IREL/MEST/GEOG, ARAB and SUST minors) will participate in the American Institute for Foreign Study program at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey in Summer 2013.

Charles Denny (JR, IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) studied in Amman, Jordan on the CIEE program in Summer 2012. He studied at the University of Jordan in Amman in Fall 2012.

Mary Goodwin (SO, IREL/MEST), will participate in the AMIDEAST Learn and Serve program in Cairo, Egypt, supported by a Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarship and a KFC scholarship.

Elizabeth Heckmann (JR, IREL/MEST) will study Arabic in Meknes, Morocco in Summer 2013 on a CLS scholarship. For Fall 2013 she has been accepted into the CIEE program in Amman, Jordan, funded by an Honors College Study Abroad Grant, a Sturgis Grant and CIEE Gain Scholarship, with supplemental support from the KFC.

JP Huber (SR, GRMN, ARAB minor) studied Arabic in Rabat, Morocco on a CLS scholarship and attended the ‘Arabic Institute for the Next Generation’ program at Harvard University, a 3-week program designed to train future high school and college Arabic teachers, both in Summer 2012. A KFC scholarship helped cover travel/housing.

Jessie Keller (SO, IREL/FRNC, ARAB minor) studied Arabic at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa, Oman with SQ scholarship in Summer 2012.

Saba Kouchehbagh (SO, IREL/MEST) attended Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey in Spring 2013.

Alex Moix (SR, CHEG) attended the API program at the American University of Sharjah, UAE in Spring 2013.

Joshua Moore (SR ANTH/MEST) attended the ‘Arabic Institute for the Next Generation’ program at Harvard University, a 3-week program designed to train future high school and college Arabic teachers in Summer 2012. A KFC scholarship helped cover travel/housing.

Saba Naseem (SR, JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor) studied Arabic in Amman, Jordan on a CLS scholarship in Summer 2012.

Sandra Carrasco Quezada (SR, GBUS/INEG) attended Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey in Spring 2013.

Christian Peterson (SR, ECON/IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) studied in Amman, Jordan on the CIEE program in Fall 2012 utilizing his MEST undergraduate scholarship.

Amanda Reedy (SR, ANTH/MEST) will participate in an Institute for Field Research field school in Fayum, Egypt in Summer 2013.

Russell Reynerson (JR, MRKT) studied in Amman, Jordan on the CIEE program in Summer 2012.

Eric Sharp (SR, IREL/MEST) will study at the ISA program in Meknes, Morocco in Summer 2013.

David Sommi (FM, IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) has been accepted to the University of Wisconsin APTLII total-immersion Arabic program for Summer 2013. He has been accepted for the Butler University Institute for Study Abroad AY program to study at SOAS, University of London, AY 2013 Program

Brendan Sparks (JR, IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) was awarded a scholarship to study Arabic at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa in Summer 2013.

Samantha Vaughn (JR, IREL/FREN/PLSC, ARAB/CHIN/MEST minors) studied in Meknes, Morocco at the ISA ‘Language, Culture and Society’ program in Spring 2013. She will study Arabic in Alexandria, Egypt in Summer 2013 on a CLS scholarship.

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.

At present there are 12 recent PhDs in tenured or tenure-track teaching positions in the United States and abroad:

Mansoor Abbasi (2012) is Assistant Professor of Literature, Melikshah University, Turkey; 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 (2012) is Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages at University of West Virginia; Sanaa Riaz (2011) is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Ashford University; Asaad al-Saleh (2010) is Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature, University of Utah; Abdulla al-Shorman (2002) is Professor of Anthropology at Yarmouk University, Jordan; Nadine Sinno (2009) is Assistant Professor of Arabic, Virginia Tech University; Salem al-Thawaba (2005) is Assistant Professor of Urban Planning & Geography, Bir Zeit University, Palestine.

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) is Visiting Lecturer in Arabic at the University of Kentucky; Farid al-Salim (2008) is Visiting Assistant Professor at University of Memphis.

MA and BA students have gone on to complete higher degrees at other institutions and remain active in academia:

Mohamed Daadaoui (MA 2002) is Associate Professor of Political Science at Oklahoma City University; Matt Malczycki (BA 1997) is Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University; Robert Moore (BA 1996, MA 2002) is Instructor of History at John Brown University; Mahmoud Naamneh (MA 1998) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Yarmouk University, Jordan; John Schaefer (MA 2000) is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Miami University-Middleton.

Alumni News/Achievements

Mansoor Abbasi (PhD/ENGL 2012) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English Literature at Melikshah University in Kayseri, Turkey.

Altaf Abro (PhD/PBPL 2009) is Project Director for the International Development & Relief Foundation (IDRF) in Pakistan.

Charles Argo (PhD/HIST 2004) will publish *Stolen Boys of the Ottoman Empire: The Child Levy as Public Spectacle and Political Instrument* (IB Taurus, Fall 2013).

Michael Bracy (PhD/HIST 2005), Associate Professor of History at Oklahoma State University, attended an NEH 2012 summer seminar on World War 1 in the Middle East at American University.

David Chaudoir (ABD/ANTH) is working as a senior writer in Marketing and Communication for Development Office at the University of Notre Dame.

Clayton Clark (BA/JOUR/MEST, ARAB minor 2012) entered the UA Program in Literary Translation with funding from the King Fahd Center.

Ryan Cochran (BA/PLSC/IREL/MEST 2007) works as an Academic Counselor in the Advising Center for Fulbright College. He plans to defend his MA thesis in GEOS in AY 2013-14.

Mohamed Daadaoui (MA/PLSC 2002) was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma City. His book, *Moroccan Monarchy and the Islamist Challenge: Maintaining Makhzen Power* (Palgrave Macmillan) was published in 2011. He presented 'The Legacy of Maréchal Lyautey and the Modernization of the Makhzen in Morocco' at the Middle East Studies Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Cory Ellis (IREL/MEST; minor ARAB 2010) is in his second year graduate study in International Studies at George Washington University. He was 1 of 14 GWU students studying in Egypt when the 2011 revolution erupted.

Rasha el-Endari (MA/ANTH 2012), a Fulbright Scholar from Syria, completed her MA in December 2012 and has begun the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Toronto.

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

Safiya Ghori (IREL/MEST 2002; JD 2005; MA PLSC 2006) has served as a South Asia Policy Analyst for the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Jason Hermann (PhD/ENDY 2012), a Center-funded student, completed his PhD in December 2012 and has begun a 3-year postdoctoral research position at the Neukom Institute at Dartmouth.

Robert Hintz (BA HIST/MEST 2011) completed his first year of graduate study in International Relations at the University of Denver.

Amy Karoll (MA/ANTH 2012) has entered the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at UCLA.

Ali al-Khwaileh (PhD/ANTH 2009) co-authored 'The Burial Practices in Jordan from the Neolithic to the Persian Period' (co-authored with Abdulla al-Shorman) in the *Estonian Journal of Archaeology* 15/2 (2012), 88-108; and 'Biological Consequences of Migration as Evidenced by Skeltons from the Twelfth Century Frankish Castellum Vallis Moysis, Jordan (al-Wu'ayra)' (with JC Rose) in G Vannini and M Nucciotti (eds), *La Transgiordania nei secoli XII-XIII e le 'frontiere' del Mediterraneo medievale* (Bar International, Series 2386, 2012), 177-80.

Suncem Kocer (MA/ANTH 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.

Mahmoud al-Naamneh (MA/ANTH 1998) was promoted to Associate Professor of Social Anthropology at Yarmouk University in Jordan. He co-authored (with A al-Husban) 'Identity in Old Clothes: The Socio-Cultural Dynamics of Secondhand Clothing in Irbid, Jordan,' *Social Identities* 18/5 (2012), 609-21; and (with M Tarawneh) 'Urbanization and Social Identities in Jordan: The Case of Irbid', *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 42/4 (2011), 61-35.

Manal al-Natour (PhD CLCS 2012), Assistant Professor of Arabic at West Virginia University, published 'The Role of Women in the Egyptian 25th January Revolution' in the *Journal of International Women's Studies* 13/5 (2012), 59-76.

Sanaa Riaz (PhD/ANTH 2011), Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Ashford University, presented 'Urban Response to the Post-9/11 Politico-Educational Environment: The Patronization of Private Islamic Schools in Karachi' at the Middle East Studies Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. She also chaired a panel on Love, Emotion, and Sexuality in Literature. She presented 'Corruption and Pakistan's Urban Educational Culture: The Place of Private Islamic Schools' at the 2012 Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, WI.

Asaad Al-Saleh (PhD/CLCS 2010) published 'Failing the Masses: Buthaina Shabaan and the Public Intellectual Crisis', *Journal of International Women's Studies* 13 (2012), 195-211; 'Fate and Discipline: A Comparative Study of *The Tale of the Heike* and Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*', *MMLA Journal* 45/1 (2012); 'From Coramantein Nobility to Surinamese Slavery: Displacement in *Oroonoko*', *Arab Journal for the Humanities* 119/3 (2012), 223-42; 'The Legacy of Saadallah Wannous and *Soirée for the 5th of June* amidst the Arab Revolts' in Eyad Houssami (ed), *Doomed by Hope: Essays on Arab Theater* (Pluto 2012), 77-91 (originally appeared in an Arabic edition, 2012). His collection of memoirs of the Arab Spring is currently under revision for publication. He presented 'Growing up in the Uprising: The Images of Children in the Syrian Revolution' at the American Comparative Literature Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. He organized and chaired the panel on Images of the Arab Spring.

Mohammad Salem (PhD/ENDY 2011) is Director of GIS & Planning for the City of Ramallah in Palestine.

Farid al-Salim (PhD/HIST 2008), Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the University of Memphis, will publish *Palestine and the Decline of the Ottoman Empire: Modernisation and the Birth of the Palestinian State* (IB Taurus, Fall 2013); and 'Muslim Mothering and Migration' in Dana Owan (ed), *Muslim Mothering: Local and Global Histories, Theories, and Practice* (Demeter 2014).

John Schaefer (MA/ANTH 2000), Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Miami University of Ohio-Middleton, published 'Protest Song Marocaine' in *Middle East Report* 263 (2012)

Abdulla al-Shorman (PhD/ANTH 2002) was promoted to Full Professor at Yarmouk University, Jordan. During AY 2012-13 he published *The Chemistry of Archaeological Human Bone* (Yarmouk University Press 2013); 'The Burial Practices in Jordan from the Neolithic to the Persian period (co-authored with Ali Khwaileh) in the *Estonian Journal of Archaeology* 15/2 (2012), 88-108; and 'Forensic Examination of A Desiccated Body from Jafr Region, Jordan' in the *Canadian Society of Forensic Science Journal* 45/3 (2012), 143-49. He was a visiting scholar at the KFC in June-July 2013.

Nadine Sinno (PhD/CLCS 2009) is starting a new position as Assistant Professor of Arabic at Virginia Tech University. She will publish 'The Greening of Modern Arabic Literature: An Ecological Interpretation of Two Contemporary Arabic Novels' in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 20/1 (Winter 2013). Her translation (with Paula Haydar) of *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* by Rachid al-Daif has been accepted by the University of Texas Press. She presented "'We Want 5 Troops Dead for Each Tree They Cut Down": Lamenting Green Carnage in Arab Women's War Diaries' at the Middle East Studies Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Laila Taraghi (MA/PLSC 2012) presented 'Competing for Relevance: Iran's Internal Struggle to Define the Arab Uprisings' at the Middle East Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. She is entering the PhD program in Public Policy at Portland State University in August 2013 with FLAS funding.

Salem Thawaba (PhD/ENDY 2005) is Assistant Professor of Urban Planning & Geography at Birzeit University in Ramallah, Palestine. He and co-author Husain al-Rimawi recently published *Palestine Urban Geography: Spatial Morphology through History* (LAP Lambert 2012).

Anna Weiser (MA/ANTH/2012) completed her first year in the Anthropology PhD program at Kansas University. She won this year's departmental Mark Kapelman Award, which will help support summer fieldwork at the Crenshaw site in Southwest Arkansas.

James Wesolowski (MA/ANTH 2012) began the PhD program in ENDY at UA.

Melissa Zabecki (PhD/ANTH 2009) co-authored (with B Kemp, A Stevens, G Dabbs, J Rose) 'Life, Death and Beyond in Akhenaten's Egypt: Excavating the South Tombs Cemetery at Amarna' in *Antiquity* 87/335 (2013) 64-78.

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 2011-12 and 2012-13. 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 new avenues of intellectual and artistic as well as political activity. We have monitored the situation closely with a special eye towards locating the best programs for our students. 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 we note the degree to which funding for graduate and postgraduate research abroad has been reduced in the federal budget over recent years. We are, however, glad to report that our local representative in Congress, Stephen Womack, voted this year to maintain funding for American Overseas Research Centers – and that his office (as well as CAORC) approached the King Fahd Center for support in this matter.

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. Like others on campus in similar positions, Mahfuza is regularly required to re-learn accounting and budgeting procedures that are made additionally complicated because of the unique nature of our funding structure.

Our new Program Coordinator, Nani Verzon, has breathed new life into the office, tackling an outdated filing system, redrafting and redesigning vague guidelines and forms, clarifying undergrad advising and coordinating Center public relations, outreach and collaborative efforts on and off campus. A MEST graduate and scholarship recipient, she came in with a solid understanding of the program, but also a healthy sense of what could be revised. Hopefully by this time next year she will be in a fulltime

salaried position, instead of an hourly post.

The MEST faculty has begun addressing a number of long and short-term goals that now appear attainable, given our financial footing and enduring track record. We look forward to playing a key role in an evolving International Studies program on campus as well as a combined IR-Public Service MA degree that has been proposed in conjunction with the Clinton School in Little Rock. We are currently involved in discussions within Fulbright College for a proposed Jewish Studies minor, emphasizing faculty expertise in the history and culture of Arab Jews, historical Andalusia and the classical Ottoman Empire, the history and culture of pre-modern and modern Palestine and Israel, and musical, cinematic and pop cultural traditions in the broader Middle East and Islamic world.

KFC/MEST faculty members are exploring and will be preparing a proposal for a stand-alone undergraduate major in Middle East Studies. Linked to this is the expansion of our Arabic program, with an eye towards a major in Arabic within the department of World Languages, Literatures and Civilizations. Our proposal for a federally funded Undergraduate Arabic Flagship unfortunately was not successful, but it did provide the context for some critical thinking about new directions in terms of course work, faculty enhancement and links to programs abroad. Down the road, our ultimate goal is to expand our Middle Eastern language offerings in the direction of Turkish, Persian and Modern Hebrew.

We will also be exploring avenues toward a Masters Degree in Middle East Studies. The King Fahd Center 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 advanced degrees and/or a means for educators and people in business, government and other fields to develop greater expertise in the region.

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. Our purview is wide, although we recall less happy times when our endowment appeared to be fair game for anyone with the slightest, most tenuous connections to Middle East studies. We continue to aim to utilize our ‘gift’ to further – and grow – an academic agenda that is rooted in area expertise and that reflects the many years of study and fieldwork of which our faculty can boast.

This coming year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of a dedicated Middle East program at the University of Arkansas. It is perhaps fitting, if coincidental, that the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education has undertaken a new initiative to bring together the various professors who hold chairs and the directors of programs internationally – in the US, Europe and Middle East – that have been endowed by the KSA. Such discussions are designed – simply put and unconditional – to open avenues for greater academic collaboration, student and faculty exchange and to put a human face on the virtual world, in which we increasingly live, communicate and share ideas.

We close, as we did last year, on a cautious but optimistic note. 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 continues to face grave threats on a national level. Although the current federal budget allotments for Overseas Area Research Centers have remained stable, this still constitutes a significant drop from earlier years. Title VI, which supports the major Middle East Centers at major research universities, remains in jeopardy and the larger programs remain handcuffed in terms of faculty and student support, and faculty replacement. Support for research abroad is also greatly diminished and pressures for universities and funding agencies to support particular kinds of research that fit agendas that are not always academically driven remain troublesome.

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. We hope to be able to continue, with renewed trust from Fulbright College and University officials, to set our individual scholarly and collaborative curricular agendas as we study and seek to explain a dynamic and changing Middle East.