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King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies

2008

Annual Report, 2008

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies

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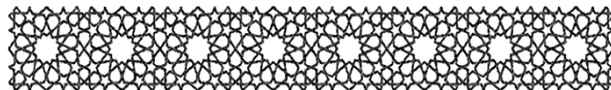
ANNUAL REPORT

***MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM and the
KING FAHD CENTER for MIDDLE EAST & ISLAMIC STUDIES
at the University of Arkansas***

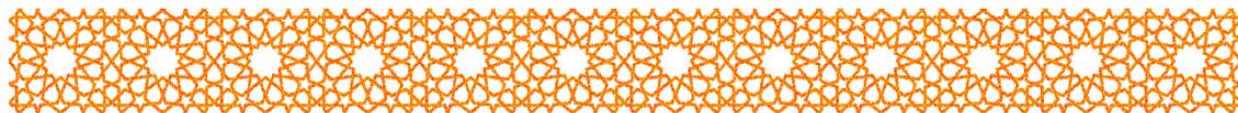
Interim Director Tom Paradise

July 2008

King Fahd Center
for Middle East &
Islamic Studies



KING FAHD CENTER OVERVIEW



This has been a good year for University of Arkansas' MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM – it currently has a solid budget surplus, interest and enrollment in MEST-support and endorsed classes is high, undergraduate study abroad and graduate student research support is at its highest, faculty morale is at a new high, and our outreach and invited lectures have seen an increased interest from the campus, community, and region. In addition, the presence of MEST Faculty as media pundits increases every year with core faculty interviewed and discussed on Good Morning America, CNN, al-Jazeera, ABC-News, Dutch, Jordanian, Italian and French television, newspaper interviews in the Washington Post, London Times, LA Times and Domenica Corriere (Italian's leading weekly national magazine and continuing agency advisement with the US State Department, FEMA, Amideast, UNESCO, WHO and various governments including the UAE, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Israel and Turkey.

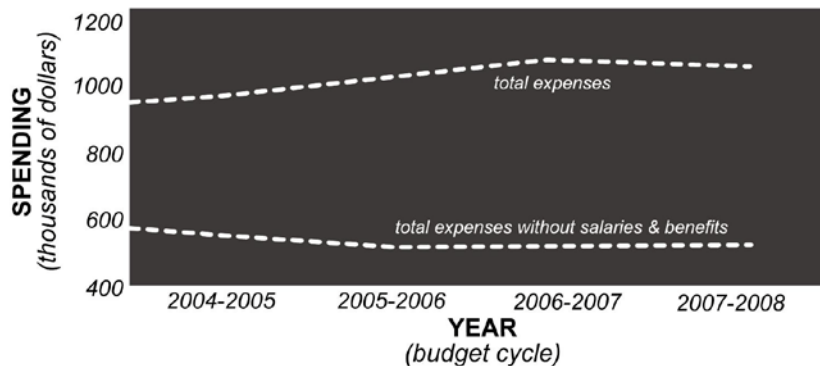
Although the original endowment for the creation of the King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies was \$20 million (1994-1996), the King Fahd endowment has increased to \$28.3 million, up from \$27.5 million last year through Foundation investments and through the astute budgetary cuts in the Fahd Center and Middle East Program, for an increase in the endowment of 3%. Although the recently adjusted endowment principal interest was decreased to 4.5% (4.9% before 2006), this brought the Middle East Program revenue to approximately \$1,319,000 up from \$1,195,000 for 2006-2007 (an increase of 10.3%). The MEST Translation & Language Endowment totaled \$2,815,234 in 2007-2008. With total expenses over the past twelve months totaling \$1,014,000 compared with \$1,025,000 in 2006-2007, the Program decreased spending by \$11,000, while the endowment grew by \$800,000. This gave the Fahd Center and Middle East Program a budgetary credit of \$304,496 (2007-2008) – an astounding amount in light of past overspending during previous Program and Center budget cycles and administrations.

Although the Program and Center funding still remains constrained due to constantly escalating faculty and staff salary increases (including raises for raises, and cost of living increases), MEST has successfully absorbed those extra expenditures through astute budgetary restrictions and changes in Program assistantship and scholarship policies. This situation was predicted in the previous fiscal year's report for 2007. The Fahd Center continues to suffer from an over-commitment to salary subsidies inherited from previous administrations however some of these have been restricted or removed. In fact with one non-tenured faculty member's relocation, the Center saved more than \$50,000 for 2007-2008 from his relocation alone. Over the past year, the Middle East program paid \$622,000 in salary and benefits support for nine faculty members, three instructors and two staff members, only up

slightly from \$620,000 in 2006-2007. The ratio of faculty and staff salaries and benefits to endowment revenue dropped to 47% in 2008, from 67% (2006), representing a good sign as to the overall budget assessment and use. While graduate assistantship expenses decreased to \$215,900, down from \$246,000 in 2007 and \$260,000 in 2006. Undergraduate support decreased to \$36,000 for six regular semester undergraduate scholarships, and an additional \$7,500 spent for undergraduate study abroad scholarships, for a total of \$43,500 (down from \$72,000 in 2007 from \$59,000 in 2006). With this decrease in undergraduate spending and the decrease in graduate student assistance, the Center and Program was able to spend less than in previous years, while the overall revenue increased by roughly \$800,000 – a goal of efficient budget management and Foundation investment.

To provide the necessary financial cushion as the Center moves into the next budgetary cycle in 2008 and beyond, it will be necessary for the Center to maintain thrifty spending with its new, tighter

spending policies. At the advice of the past Provost Smith and Fulbright College Dean Bobbitt, the Center had taken steps to cut its commitment to graduate assistant funding to 21-22 assistantships, from 26 in the previous



year (2006), and from more than 35 in past years under prior administrations (2005). Total graduate assistance (GA) funding was reduced by five assistantships (or approximately \$60,000) in 2007 to our current distribution. Center and Program faculty and chairs in affiliated departments were notified of this change in spring 2007. In addition, rather than continue with flexible graduate assistant funding, MEST has implemented a new policy that designates a specific number of GA slots per MEST-affiliated departments. Under this new arrangement, the Departments of Anthropology, History, and Comparative Literature have annual allotments of five GA slots each, while Geosciences and Political Science will have three GA slots per year – totaling twenty-one to twenty-three (21-23) GA positions for MEST related departments in the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences. In addition with the growth of the Environmental Dynamics (ENDY) PhD Program in Anthropology and Geosciences, MEST hopes to obtain two more slots for its program. This will bring our total of GAs up to 22-23 in 2009, however it will ensure an equitable distribution of MEST support in its related Fulbright departments and programs. This new arrangement was implemented to permit better planning within each department and the overall Program and Center, while allowing more efficient book-keeping in MEST.

However, because of prudent supervision of Center funds and expenses, the King Fahd Center continues to maintain a high level of scholarly activities and program initiatives. Not only was the Center able to maintain last year's \$10,000 commitment to Professor

Jerry Rose's Archaeological Field School and excavation in Amarna, Egypt, additional support was given for student participation in a continuing Syrian archaeological project supervised by Anthropology assistant professor Jesse Casana for \$10,000 with last year's funding of \$6,500. Jerry Rose ran a successful and highly subscribed program during the spring months of 2008. In fact, enrollments of trained excavators continue to be so high that Professor Rose has turned the Excavation and Field School into an important research project televised on the National Geographic Channel.

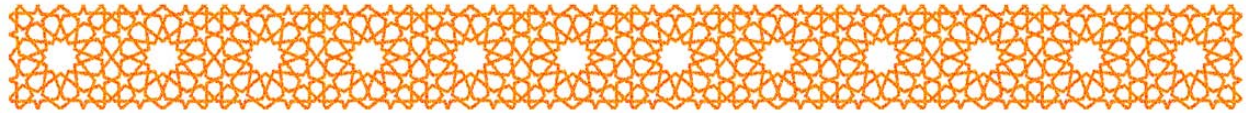
The Fahd Center has also maintained its \$20,000 annual commitment for the purchase of books on the Middle East, North Africa and Islam for Mullins Library as well. With additional purchases in multi-media, new films and visual media have been added to the already important MEST Collection in the Mullins Library. MEST continues to remain dedicated to supporting the creation of a vital campus library collection committed to Middle East, North African and Islamic topics and themes by supporting all core and affiliated MEST faculty in their library book requests. Each faculty member has \$800 to spend for their specific Middle East and North Africa research needs at the Mullins Library, bringing an additional total of \$16,000 for related library purchases – making MEST's contribution to the University of Arkansas' Libraries \$35,000-\$40,000.

Also, the Fahd Center was successful in moving the *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture* (JILC) to the University of Arkansas with the assistance of affiliated faculty member Professor Steve Sheppard of the Leflar School of Law. This two-year pilot project is a partnership between the King Fahd Center and the Law School and promises to provide a model for similar partnerships between the Center, Fulbright College, and other colleges across campus. Contracts have been signed between the Fahd Center and Routledge Publishers (London, UK). Routledge is excited about the prospect of handling such an esteem journal. In 2007, Law Professor Steve Sheppard negotiated with Routledge (on behalf of MEST) to publish and distribute the Journal. Routledge stated that it fit well with its central publications. So far, the journal has continued to publish on a regular schedule with international contributions from leading scholars in the field of Islamic Law or Shari'a and related culture. MEST will continue its minimal support of the Journal through the Leflar Law School through 2009 with an annual funding support of \$5,000.

In addition, Center and MEST with core faculty Professor Adnan Haydar (FLAN) successfully negotiated with the Syracuse University Press to publish the winner of our University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. In addition, the Center also worked with the Public Administration Program, the Department of Political Science, and Walton College of Business to extend the terms of the two State Department grants that currently fund projects in Tunisia (\$190,000 and \$105,000). The Mahdia Institute of Management Project, administered by Walton College, was particularly successful and the Public Administration Program project with University of Tunis I is now back on track with the appointment of a new dean of the school of management at that university.

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

STUDENT AFFAIRS



Undergraduate Students

Six (6) undergraduates scholarships: \$36,000 (one full and five partial)

Four (4) undergraduate language study abroad funding: \$4,750 (proposal-based)

Five (5) undergraduate UofA Study Abroad funding: \$7,500 (need/merit-based)

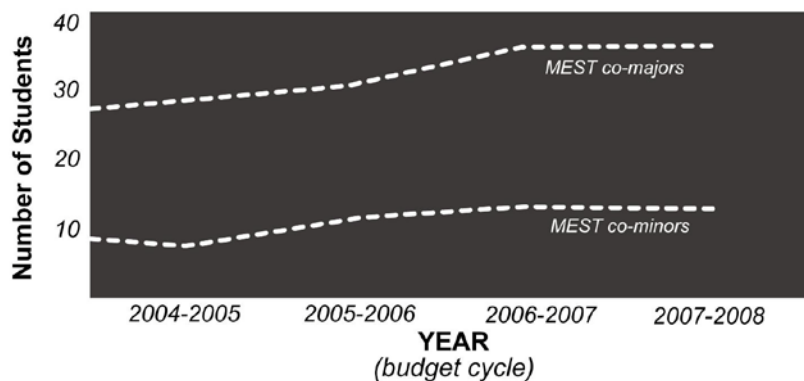
In academic year 2007-2008 the King Fahd Center supported 6 undergraduate MEST majors on full or partial scholarships totaling \$36,000. Although Study Abroad funding has been conventionally based upon merit, MEST has created an additional funding opportunity that is proposal-based, so that students without traditional funding sources are able to receive funding specifically in language studies for undergraduate or for the completion of their MA, MS or PhD research for graduate students. This new opportunity for undergraduate has created a more competitive environment amongst the best students, and limited scholarship awards to declared majors with a 'proven track record' before their junior and senior years (high GPA, MEST participation and advisor consultation). The Center also granted an increased number of partial scholarships to MEST majors with high GPAs and a noted dedication to Middle East and North Africa Studies – in the past fewer full scholarships had been granted, while now more partial scholarships were awarded.

In 2008, there were 37 MEST double majors, up from 36 in 2007 and 28 in 2006. The number of MEST minors remained the same at 11, but rising dramatically from 5 in

2005! Thirteen (13)

MEST majors – or roughly one third -- are Honors students as well, up from 10 last year in previous year! Moreover, when our undergraduate GPAs are examined, newly admitted MEST majors exhibit GPAs between 3.7 and 4.0, while previous years saw GPA levels often between

3.1 and 3.5. Our new cohort of MEST has some of the highest GPAs across campus with a mean GPA of 3.7+ in general, up from 3.3 in the previous years. Our honor's students in MEST continue to maintain an outstanding GPA of 3.8!



Undergraduate Student News

Jenaleigh Petersen (*Senior, ANTH-MEST*) received a Critical Language Scholarship (CAORC) to study intensive Arabic in Jordan in Summer 2008.

Melissa Tuttle (*Senior, IR-PLSC-MEST*) received a Critical Language Scholarship (CAORC) to study intensive Arabic in Jordan in Summer 2008.

Eric Webb (*Senior, PLSC-MEST*) will study in Muscat, Oman in Fall 2008. He will be participating in an SIT program which includes intensive Arabic studies and a workshop on Political Culture and Development. His overseas studies is supported in part by SIT and the Middle East Program at the University of Arkansas.

Emily Voight (*Senior, ANTH-MEST*) received a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Arabic in Oman in Summer 2008.

Graduate Students

Twenty-one (21) Graduate Student Assistantships: \$215,900
three (3) Graduate student proposal-based funding: \$8,900

The total funding for graduate assistants was \$215,900 down from \$246,000 in 2007, and considerably less than in prior years at \$260,000 (2005-2006), and \$300,000 (2004-2005). This can be attributed to prudent cutbacks in the number of assistantships granted, down from thirty-one (31) in 2005. The demand for funding exceeded what was available, and with increased standards (GPA, SAT/ACT, GRE scores), several well-qualified students were turned down for funding, although in many instances their abilities were recognized by the Fulbright Honors Program and Honors College and funding was found there. MEST savings were instituted by granting several partial assistantships than in the past and more research-related funding for graduate students. This is a new direction for MEST funding so that supplemental language studies and research-related travel may be partially supported. With only 21-23 graduate students now slotted for departmental assistantships, more proposal-based requests will be solicited in the future. In February 2008, seven proposals were submitted to MEST for summer research support with only three selected for a total of \$8,900 in support. These proposal-based funding opportunities have proven to be effective in stimulating both a personal investment in thesis research and fomenting a solid academic (and competitive) environment. Between 2005 and 2008, eleven (11) graduate proposals (8-12pp), costing an average amount of \$2500 each, all succeeded in supporting students to complete theses or dissertations at sites in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Pakistan and Egypt. This year's graduate proposal-based requests ranged from \$1,900 to \$3,400. With individual graduate assistantships costing \$12,000+ versus \$2,000-4,000 for a supported research proposal, this new funding opportunity for

graduate students represents a better investment with more ‘bang for the buck’, and students complete important international research, bringing notoriety to Arkansas and assistance to their country of study – an important role for the King Fahd Center. All students that have completed these proposal projects have gone on to Ph.D. programs, agency or private sectors jobs.

The King Fahd Center continues to maintain the same rigorous standards for graduate student performance that were established in previous years. The Center expects graduate committees to track student progress throughout the year and the length of funding strictly follows Graduate School guidelines. Last year, five (5) students were informed that their funding would end in spring 2007, while another five graduate students were admitted into the Program and awarded new graduate assistantships. The Center and Program continue to adhere to Graduate School guidelines for funding, which stipulates 4 semesters for MA students and 6-8 semesters for Ph.D. students is their maximum funding cycle. Departmental directors of graduate studies and members of graduate committees are encouraged to make sure that MEST supported students in their departments move through their programs as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

The Center and Program will continue to provide support for MEST graduate students (or those in related research) to present papers at regional, national, or international conferences whenever possible. MEST supported five (5) student presentations this year in San Diego, Birmingham, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Dublin, Ireland.

Graduate Student News

Altaf Abro (*PA/AG*) finished his dissertation research in Pakistan investigating the role or perception on water use and water policy. His research is supported through MEST’s new proposal-based funding program.

Ben Adams (*ANTH*) entered the University of Arizona where he will be working on his PhD in Anthropology where he has been asked to teach Elementary Arabic. Ben co-majored in MEST and Anthropology at Arkansas and studied Arabic abroad in Lebanon through MEST support.

Chris Angel (*GEOS*) was invited to speak at the UNESCO-ICOMOS World Congress in Dublin, Ireland on his innovative research in southern Jordan on *Bedouin urban planning in Umm Sayhoun: from nomadic to sedentary in twenty years*. On his MEST-supported trip to Jordan in 2007, his findings were discussed before the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities.

Charles Argo (*HIST*) accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of History at Ball State University in Indiana. Dr. Argo was supported by full MEST assistantships over three years.

Farid as-Salim (*HIST*) has accepted a tenure-track teaching position in the Department of History at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. As-Salim received full MA and PhD support through MEST while at Arkansas.

Krista Casada (*FLAN*) is currently completing her dissertation research and writing on Arabic and comparative literature.

David Chadoir (*ANTH*) is currently in Dubai working on his dissertation research on clan structures in contemporary Gulf States society. He completed his MA while on full MEST support at Arkansas and is currently conducting research in the UAE on MEST's new proposal-based funding program.

Ron Fulmer (*FLAN*) studied Arabic at Arkansas and spent a summer in Lebanon studying intensive Arabic. He recently passed his U.S. State Department oral examination and was offered a position as Arabic Translator/Interpreter in Iraq.

Lauren Galle (*ANTH*) received a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Arabic (CAORC) in Oman in Summer 2008.

Kristen Mullins (*ANTH*) received a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Arabic (CAORC) in Oman in Summer 2008.

Sarah Holland (*MEST*) was recently hired by Senator Mark Pryor's office in Washington DC as an assistant cultural liaison. She completed her undergraduate BA in MEST and Political Science through full undergraduate MEST scholarships and Study Abroad support.

Stephanie Kirkland (*GEOG*) received a six-year scholarship (\$145,000) for her PhD research at York University, Toronto, Canada. Kirkland's research on Cultural heritage tourism in Tunisia was supported through a Center and Program proposal-based funding. It is one of the largest purses given in North America as a graduate scholarship.

Suncem Kocer (*ANTH*) won the 2008 Best Student Paper Award of the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association. Her paper is entitled "Media Production and Transpolitics: Kurdish Ethnographic-Documentary Filmmaking in Turkey." The award comes with a \$500 bonus. She completed her MA in Anthropology at the University of Arkansas in 2005, and is currently working on a Ph.D. in the Department of Communication & Culture at Indiana University.

Michele McKee (*GEOS*) was awarded a MEST summer research grant to complete her field research on the perception of environmental quality in the Wadi Rum Wilderness Preserve of Southern Jordan. She is currently in the region collecting data, interviewing individuals and sweating in the hot Levantine Sun.

Tricia Nellessen (ANTH) received a scholarship from MEST to study intensive Arabic in Yemen in Summer 2008.

Sanaa Riaz (ANTH) recently returned from her field research in Pakistan. She was awarded a MEST proposal-based research grant to complete her PhD research on "Perception of Islamic education in Pakistani madrasas". Ms was awarded a \$20,000 grant from The American Association of University Women International Fellowship. Accepted as an AAUW International Fellow. She presented a paper, "Private Islamic Schools in Karachi: A New Educational Paradigm?" in April at the Aga Khan University Institute of Educational Development's International Conference on "Status of Educational Reform in Developing Countries" held in Karachi, Pakistan.

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

Nadine Sinno (COMPLIT) presented a paper "*The Power of Place & Space: Constructing Identity & Selfhood in Ahdaf Soueif's "Eye of the Sun"*", International symposium on Minorities & Minor Literatures (Summer 2006). Ms. Sinno was funded through the Fahd Center and is currently completing her dissertation research.

Maysoun Thawaba (GEOS) graduated with a MA in Geosciences and MEST was recently hired a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst with the Urban Planning Authority in Palestine. Maysoun Thawaba's research was funded though a partial King Fahd Center assistantship.

Salem Abdulateef Thawaba (ENDY) was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the College of Architecture, Engineering and Urban Planning at Birzeit University, Palestine. Dr. Thawaba received a full KFC assistantship that was used for his fulltime teaching load in the Arkansas Arabic Program. His work and expertise is widely recognized in Levantine urban design and planning.

Study Abroad Funding & Opportunities

The King Fahd Center provided \$10,000 in support since 2006 for the Archaeological Field Schools in Jordan and Amarna, Egypt, directed by MEST-affiliated faculty member Jerry Rose. 2007 marked the 13th year of Professor Rose's involvement with Yarmouk University in Jordan and the Joint Bioarchaeological Field School, in which U.S. and Jordanian students work together on Tell Ya'mun, a major archaeological site in northern Jordan. In recognition of his work in Jordan, Rose also holds the title of Senior Researcher in the Department of Anthropology at Yarmouk University. Last year's project expanded collaboration between the University of Arkansas and Yarmouk University to include the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Yarmouk. In addition, Jerry Rose's work in Egypt continues to reach

broad audiences with his recent interviews with National Geographic and the New York Times newspaper. His work continues to bring attention to the Middle East Program, Fahd Center and University of Arkansas.

It is possible that the Syrian archaeological research project directed by Jesse Casana will eventually replace the Tell Ya'mun project as the site of the Arkansas' Archaeological Field School. Although the key to Center and Program funding is student involvement and experience, it is recognized that such experience can come in different varieties, and that a field school is not the only way to provide it. By involving trained student researchers instead of opening participation to all interested, Dr. Rose can bring a greater level of expertise to the Tell Ya'mun project and can significantly improve results while not denying Arkansas students the opportunity to participate in significant archaeological research.

MEST also supported MEST affiliated faculty member Jesse Casana (ANTH) during the summers of 2006, 2007 and 2008 where University of Arkansas students participated in a second *Archaeological Research Project in Syria*. The majority of this project was funded by the American Schools for Oriental Research (ASOR), of which the Fahd Center is an institutional member. The King Fahd Center contributed an additional \$10,000 toward these 6-week projects (up from \$4,700 last year), which involves excavations at the Tell Qarqur in western Syria. The Center contribution went towards the purchase of equipment and supplies, transportation, and meals for student participants. With the possible transformation of Jerome Rose's Tell Ya'mun project from an Archaeological Field School to a research project, it is envisioned that this second project in Syria might develop into a field school along the lines of the Yarmouk project that has long been funded by MEST.

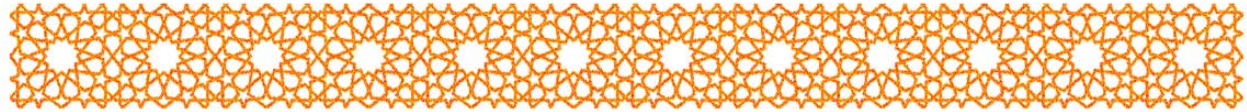
Due to the recent political instability and the subsequent U.S. State Department travel warnings across parts of North Africa and the Levant past funding for Language Study Abroad has been suspended and/or redirected. In past years, the Fahd Center provided \$10,000-15,000 for summer funding for Arabic Language Study Abroad participation in Morocco (Al-Akhawayn University) and Lebanon (Lebanese-American University), however Lebanon remains unstable on the US State Department warning list. However, students interested in Arabic language study abroad will continue to have a choice of five programs in which to participate, subject to the travel warning restrictions: Bourguiba Institute in Tunis, Tunisia, University of Jordan in Amman, University of Yarmouk in Irbid, Jordan, Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane and the Meknes Language Institute, Morocco and the American University in Cairo. Eventually, a new option for summer study may be the School of International Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This will depend on cooperation agreements between the University of Arkansas and Hebrew University and the potential participation of interested students. In addition, opportunities are being studied for Turkish language study abroad in Istanbul, Turkey with one Arkansas student currently enrolled in that program.

To take funding in a new direction at the Fahd Center, it will continue to provide funding for study abroad, but will begin to prioritize funding according to the overall quality of their projects and cost-benefit return for funds spent. Starting in the fall 2007, all students applying for research or study abroad funding must have submitted a detailed and professional proposal with an accurate budget and justification before

being considered. The Center is committed to continue funding the Jordan and Syrian field school and archaeological research projects, and study abroad opportunities in Arabic Language studies. The Center and Program now consider requests for special funding for undergraduate and graduate students on a case-by-case basis, however, with the newly required detailed proposal and budget. Based on this new approach to Study Abroad funding through MEST, fourteen (14) students were supported through the Center for language and regional studies during the summers of 2007 and 2008. Kendall Byers represents the first student to have studied Turkish overseas, since it is not yet offered at Arkansas. The study centers included

American University in Cairo, University of Jordan, Yarmouk University (Jordan), University of the Bosphorus (Boğaziçi) (Istanbul), and the Meknes Language Center (Morocco)

CURRICULUM & FACULTY ASSESSMENT



Curriculum changes created in 2005 were then implemented in 2006, and are now in place having been added to the 2007 edition of the Catalog of Studies. Three new classes have been added the core requirement for the MEST degree. *Gateways to the Middle East* course (MEST 2013), *Islamic Civilization* (HIST 3033) and *Geography of the Middle East and North Africa* (GEOS 4033) are now required options for all MEST majors and are offered on a regular basis. Through the help of MEST-affiliated faculty and Dave Dawson, the Director of Fulbright Advising, the final and more simplified requirements for a MEST major are now as follows:

Requirements for the MEST Major (30 hours): MEST 2013 (*Gateways*) or HIST 3033 (*Islam*) or GEOS 4033 (*Geography*) (3 hours) + MEST 4003 (*Middle East Studies Colloquium*, 3 hours) + 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement (ARAB 2013) + 9 hours in one MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies) + 9 hours in a second MEST-related discipline (as listed in the Catalog of Studies). The list of MEST-affiliated courses follow:

ANTH 3123 Anthropology of Religion
ANTH 3033 Egyptology
ANTH 4123 Ancient Middle East
ANTH 4513 African Religions
ANTH 4533 Middle East Cultures
ANTH 4913 Topics in the Middle East
ANTH 4256 Archeological Field Session
ARAB 4213 Introduction to Arab Culture
ECON 4533 Comparative Economic Systems
GEOG 2003 World Regional Geography
GEOG 4033 Geography of the Middle East
GEOG 410v Middle East & North African Resources (only)
HIST 3033 Islamic Civilization
HIST 4353 Middle East 600-1500
HIST 3043 History of the Modern Middle East
HIST 3473 Palestine and Israel in Modern Times
HIST 4373 Mongol and Mamluk 1250-1520
HIST 4393 The Ottoman Empire and Iran 1300-1722
HIST 4413 Women and Family in the Middle East Since 1800
HIST 4433 Social History of the Modern Middle East
HUMN 4203 World Religions Middle East
HUMN 4253 Modern Jewish Thought
MEST 4003 Middle East Studies Colloquium
MEST 4003 H Honors Middle East Studies 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 The Middle East in World Affairs
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Modern Arabic Literature)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Arab Women Writers)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Classical Arabic Literature)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Modern Palestinian Literature)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Love & Eros in Middle Eastern Literature)

Requirements for the MEST Minor (18 hours): MEST 4003 (*Middle East Studies Colloquium*, 3 hours) + 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement (ARAB 20013) + 9 hours of MEST courses in one or more disciplines
note: with the an increasing number of Francophone countries converting Islamic states or republics (i.e. Mali, Algeria), the influence of Israel on the Middle East situation, and the new role of Turkey in European and global economic development and politics, MEST is considering French, Hebrew and Turkish as additional languages for the MEST major or minor courses of study. These options will be evaluated in the upcoming year.

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

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

Faculty Assessment procedures were standardized for academic year 2006-2007. This was done due to uneven commitments of time and effort by MEST affiliated faculty members and because of the need to clarify exactly what is expected for the retention of MEST benefits, such as development accounts, support for individual research projects, and salary supplements from the MEST endowment. The proposed Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment (see Appendix I) is based on the self-assessment form for faculty and administrators that is currently used by Fulbright College. The MEST faculty assessment differs from that of the College by changing the relative ranking of contributions as follows: (1) Teaching, (2) Service to the King Fahd Center, and (3) Research. MEST core faculty whose salary is paid in full or in part by

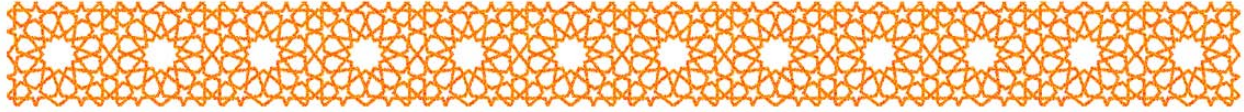
the Center and Program endowment will be required to teach MEST 4003 (*MEST Colloquium*) on a rotating basis. Core faculty members are also required to serve as undergraduate student advisors and research supervisors, and are expected to develop MEST-related courses in their departments. The new faculty assessments also put a strong emphasis on service to the Center and Program, including the expectation to give lectures, recruit visiting speakers, participate actively on MEST committees, and engage in extra-curricular activities such as outreach, the Fahd Center Newsletter, and MEST-related university or college service activities. Besides publications, the research component of the new faculty assessment also stresses grantsmanship, including grant proposals submitted and awarded both individually and with Fahd Center assistance or participation.

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

New Classes for 2008-2009

MEST will be experimenting with a post-doc teaching position as well. Using the standard of \$1000/credit to teach, MEST will be offering three classes in Fall of 2008 and in Spring of 2009. Visiting Harvard and Penn PhD Candidate Spencer Allen will be offering new classes never before taught at the University. Gaps in early Christian and pre-Islamic classes are obvious, so classes will be offered will include Early Christian History (0-300AD), Historical Geography of Jerusalem, Introduction to the New Testament, and the Bible in Modern Music. Spencer Allen's prior teaching has been lauded at both Harvard and Penn and his research innovative and important, so MEST is thrilled and honored to have him for the year to teach. This should prove to be an important, effective and pioneering opportunity of the University.

KING FAHD CENTER DEVELOPMENT



Ann Rhea Collection of Near Eastern Antiquities

In 2005-2006, the Center was offered a large donation (worth approximately \$100,000.00) of Near Eastern antiquities from Mrs. Ann Rhea of Atlanta, Georgia. The gift was formalized and the materials were handed over to University of Arkansas representatives late in 2005. The collection includes dozens of whole ceramic vessels, thousands of potshards, and hundreds of ancient coins, as well as metal objects, glass fragments, stone tools, and jewelry, dating from the Paleolithic period (c. 18,000 BCE) through the Medieval Period. Mrs. Rhea lived in Saudi Arabia from 1960-1972, during where developed a deep interest in the archaeology and history of the region. Unlike most private collections of ancient artifacts, which usually come from the antiquities market, Ms. Rhea gathered these materials herself from archaeological projects on which she participated. These sites were in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bahrain, Jordan, and Lebanon, making the collection a significant and scientifically valuable assemblage.

Mary Suter, Curator of the University Museum collections, has been processing and cataloging the complete collection and plans are underway to publish an announcement of the acquisition once all accessions have been catalogued, making the artifacts available to students and scholars for analysis and publication.

Partnership with Hebrew University

During the summer of 2005 Fulbright College Dean Bobbitt, Associate Dean Adams and past Center Director Cornell traveled to Israel for talks with administrators of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the premier center of higher education in Israel. Officials of Fulbright College have long been interested in a partnership with an Israeli university as part of an ongoing Mediterranean focus for International Studies. Bobbitt, Adams and then Director Cornell met with Steve Kaplan, Dean of Humanities at HU, Jaime Kapitulnik, Provost of the Rothberg School of International Studies, and Haim Rabinowitch, Rector of Hebrew University. Plans are being made to invite the Dean of Humanities and Provost of the Rothberg School to the University of Arkansas. The developing UA-HU connection also promises to be valuable for study abroad. The Rothberg School, which conducts its classes in English, attracts students from over 70 countries and has fully developed semester abroad and summer programs, including a highly regarded program in Middle East Studies. Costs at HU are nearly equivalent to those at UA and Arkansas students would be able to spend a semester in Jerusalem for nearly the same cost as at Arkansas, except for airfare. Hebrew University also provides a diverse international educational environment.

Lebanese-American University of Science and Technology

In 2006-2007, past Provost Bob Smith hosted President Hiam Sakr and Provost Nabeel Haidar from the American University of Science and Technology (AUST) in Beirut, Lebanon. Chancellor White and President Sakr signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step in exploring collaborative efforts to promote student and faculty exchange. President Sakr and Provost Haidar were later taken to lunch and a small reception with then-Associate Director Tom Paradise, hosted by the King Fahd Center to further discuss exchange-student needs and possible faculty opportunities. The Center is currently investigating these potential relationships as soon as US State Department travel restrictions on Lebanon are lifted.

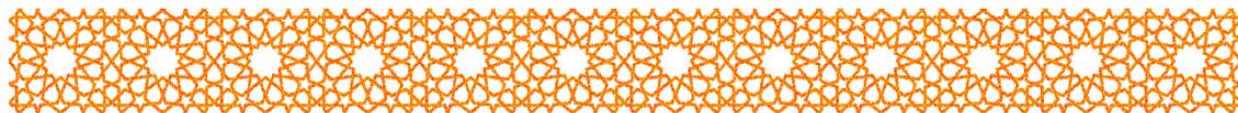
University of Cairo and the American University of Cairo Library Group

Last year, ten librarians from Egypt toured five American libraries that hold prominent Middle East and North African collections. The visiting librarians and library administrators spent two days touring the Mullins Library, chatting with Arkansas staff and faculty about our Middle East collections of books, journals, films, slides and mixed media. MEST Director Tom Paradise invited the visitors to a lunch supplied by Panera Bread Company to discuss collections trends, use and future needs – it was a hit!

CASA (Center for Arabic Study Abroad)

The Fahd Center was recently given a board member status with the CASA Program at the University of Texas–Austin. CASA offers advanced level training in Arabic language and culture to qualified American students at its two locations at the American University in Cairo, Egypt and at the University of Damascus, Syria. CASA represents some of the most advanced Arabic Language training in abroad and MEST is fortunate to be active in its decision-making and future. Adnan Haydar represented MEST at the MEST meeting in Austin in the Spring, 2008

KING FAHD CENTER PROJECTS



Iraqi Book Drive (Collaboration with US Army Bravo Company)

Fighting across Iraq has destroyed most of its libraries so Bravo Company Battalion stationed in Bayji, Iraq, (near Tikrit) in conjunction with the Middle East Program collected books to help restock their local community libraries through donations of American textbooks. Coordinated by Interim Director Tom Paradise with MEST students and librarians in Bayji and Tikrit, the University of Arkansas was able to collect and send more than 700 books, weighing more than a ton. With mailing a US APO address, postage was paid through solicited donations, shipping over a total of 21 large and heavy boxes. MEST students helped collect, separate, clean, and box the 700+ books. The University of Arkansas' Iraqi Book Drive represents one of the largest contributions to the libraries in Bayji and Tikrit.

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

US State Department grant for a three-year project ending in Spring 2006 but petitioned and extended to 2007. Project Co-PIs are Todd Shields, Chair of Political Science, Margaret Reid, and Donald Kelley, Director of the Fulbright Institute for International Relations. The Fahd Center facilitated all links between the Arkansas team and the Tunis team through its previous relationships with the Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Tunisia, Jamil Chaker.

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

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

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

will make four-week visits at the same time. In 2006-2007, four University of Arkansas faculty members will go to Tunisia to teach intensive seminars in topics appropriate for the development of the emergency management program.

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

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

ALO-State Department grant for a two-year project ending in 2005-2006. This grant was won in partnership with the Walton School of Business; PI: Joseph Ziegler, Chair of Economics and Director of International Programs. This program received permission for a one-year extension from the Academic Liaison Office of the U.S. State Department, due to the reorganization of the University of the Center and its reestablishment as the University of Monastir, University of Sousse, and University of El Kairouane. The project has resumed under a new administration in both Monastir, which was not part of the original project, and the Institutes of Management Sciences in Mahdia and Sousse, which are now part of the University of Monastir and University of Sousse, respectively.

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

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

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

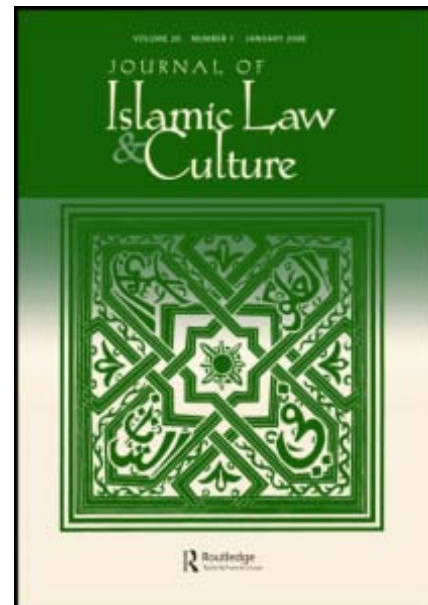
Fulbright Persian Instructor

In fall 2003, Kay Pritchett, Chair of Foreign Languages and Fahd Center past-Director Cornell collaborated in writing a Fulbright grant application to secure an instructor in the Farsi (Persian) for 2004-2005. Fulbright cancelled this program to re-open it in 2005-2006. The University of Arkansas was selected once again as a recipient, and a Persian instructor from Tehran by the name of Babak Mahdavi was chosen to offer Persian at the university. Even though Mahdavi’s application was accepted by the U.S. State Department, the Department of Homeland Security refused to issue him a visa for unexplained reasons. Consequently, the Persian course was cancelled once again. Current Interim Director Paradise, Dean Adams and FLAN Chair Turner are currently negotiating with Fulbright to see if a Persian instructor for 2008-2009 can be supplied by another foreign university (i.e. St. Petersburg State University (MOI). It is hoped that it will be easier for a Russian or Central Asian to obtain a visa (than for an Iranian).

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture (JILC)

In 2005-2006, the University of Arkansas School of Law agreed to take on the Journal of Islamic Law & Culture (JILC) in partnership with the King Fahd Center in a two-year pilot project. The journal was previously published by De Paul University Press in Chicago. Professor Steve Sheppard of Arkansas’ Leflar School of Law is the associate journal editor and recently negotiated with Routledge Press to take over publishing and distribution of the journal.

Dr. Aminah McCloud, Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Islamic World Studies Program at De Paul University in Chicago will continue as co-editor. Leflar Law School students will comprise the editorial staff. The King Fahd Center has provided work space and equipment for the student editorial staff in 105 MAIN and on the third floor of ASUP. In addition, the Center has budgeted \$5,000 for two years to pay any costs of the journal that are not covered by subscriptions. This amount may be raised up to a ceiling of \$10,000 in case of emergency only. The Editorial Board of the journal has also been revised and expanded to increase its international scope including Islamic and cultural specialists from countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Bosnia, United Kingdom, and France.



The Journal is slowly bringing a new notoriety to the University of Arkansas's Middle East Program and Leflar School of Law. The Journal represents the only publication of its kind addressing Islamic law (shari'a and fiqh) and various aspects of culture. Subscriptions have increased and Arkansas as an Islamic center of study and think-tank has developed. The MEST Office has continually handled phones class from other Universities, professionals, and agencies regarding the issues addressed in the Journal. In addition, Arkansas Law School students compete annually to join the Editorial board. We all should be proud that this publication is in our hands.

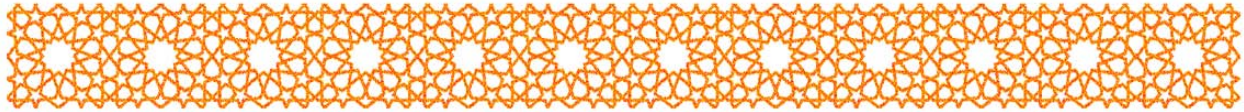
Friends of Nekhen

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

Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Tunisia

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

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES



MEST-sponsored Visiting Speakers & Special Events

In academic year 2007-2008 the following speakers and events were sponsored or supported by the King Fahd Center and Middle East Program:

FALL 2007

- September 14, David Romano, Department of International Studies, Rhodes College: *"Is Turkey Still Secular? Explaining the latest elections", Old Main 525*
- October 5, Barry Kemp, Cambridge University: *"Nefertiti's City"*
- October 26, Ghazi Walid-Falah, University of Akron: *"Geographies of Marginalization, non-Muslim Palestinians", Ozark Hall 25*
- October 29, Robert Vitalis, University of Pennsylvania: *"America's Kingdom: the Saudi Oil Frontier", Giffels Auditorium*
- November 29, Jonathan Adelman, University of Denver: *"Israel among the nations, Israel's new diplomacy with Russia, China, India, eastern Europe", Giffels Auditorium*

SPRING 2008

- January 18-19, Thorne Anderson, renown Iraqi photojournalist, *Umembedded Project: A Collection of Iraq Photographs* (two lectures, slide show and book-signing), 300+ people attended, Ozark and Kimpel Halls.
- January 28, Chris Toensing, editor, Middle East Report: *"The Iraq Surge one year on", Giffels Auditorium*
- February 5, Mohja Kahf, University of Arkansas: *"The Muslim woman and the pity committee: a close reading of the victim stereotype", Giffels Auditorium*
- April 7, Paul Silverstein, Reed College: *"Berbers and/as Jews, Masquerade politics in southeastern Morocco", Giffels Auditorium*
- April 25, Lisa Pollard, University of North Carolina-Wilmington: *"from housewives & husbands to curcholds and whores: martial-political anxieties in Egypt, 1919-1948", Giffels Auditorium*

"Iraq: What's to be Done?" a regularly held student-faculty forum with MEST core faculty facilitators, Drs. Najib Ghabbian, Joel Gordon, and Ted Swedenburg as facilitators.

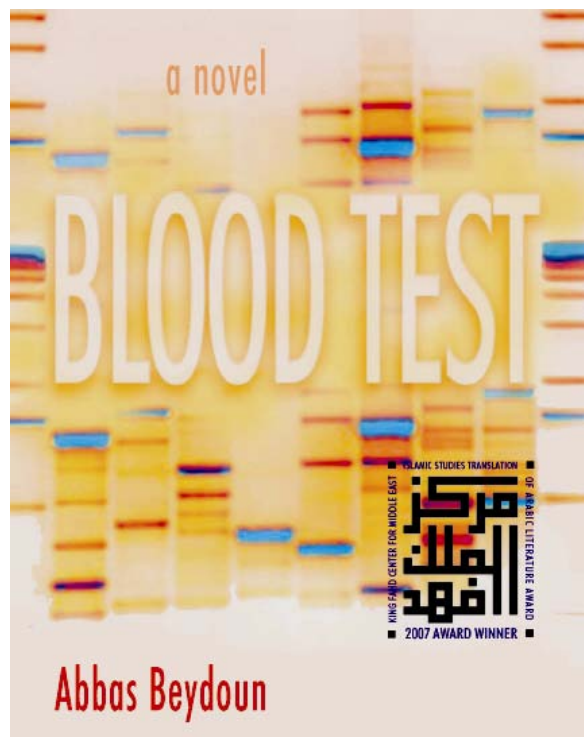
Arkansas Arabic Translation Award

The Arkansas Arabic Translation Award carries a \$5,000 award for the translator, with an additional \$5,000 also awarded to a living original author. Submissions are solicited for significant works of 19th-21st Century Arabic literature, broadly defined to include fiction, non-fiction works in the literary tradition, and academic works of note.

The 2007 winner of the Arkansas Arabic Translation Award was Abbas Beydoun, widely known throughout the Arab world as a leading poet, journalist, and literary critic. His writing is infused with the politics and culture of his native Lebanon. In *Blood Test*, his first novel, Beydoun recounts the efforts of a young man to explore his own history and identity through his encounters with the family and friends who surround him. The sudden death of his father prompts him to follow the physical and psychological traces he left behind, a journey that raises as many questions as it answers. The young man's search for a sense of belonging and rootedness leads him both forward and back as the narration travels in time and place over two continents and several generations.

Abbas Beydoun was born in 1945 and studied literature at the Lebanese University. He is the author of five volumes of poetry and is the cultural editor of Al-Safir Newspaper in Lebanon. *Blood Test* received ecstatic reviews in Lebanon and the Middle East before it was translated by Max Weiss.

The Ahmad Ibn Abi Diyaf translation was the last translation award winner published by University of Arkansas Press for 2005. In fall 2004, past-Director Vincent Cornell attempted to renegotiate the terms of the agreement between the King Fahd Center (Cornell) and University of Arkansas Press, Director Larry Malley for the publication of award winners. The original agreement governing publication costs had lapsed in 1998 and the Press was recalcitrant in renegotiating more favorable terms to the Center. At that time and by mutual agreement between Cornell and Malley, it was decided to terminate the relationship between the King Fahd Center and University of Arkansas Press after the publication of the 2005 award winner. No award was given in 2006 and submissions for 2008 are currently being accepted.



King Fahd Center Web Site

In spring 2004, the Fahd Center hired a professional web designer to produce a new web site for the King Fahd Center. Over a period of approximately three months, web designer Derrick Von Schlegell with Tom Paradise designed a handsome and simple web site that met all specifications required by Fulbright College. In addition to the website (www.uark.edu/depts/mesp), a digital newsletter titled *ALHAM* 'Inspiration' was designed and created by Kelley O'Callaghan and Tom Paradise, to provide advice, direction and assistance to the campus, community and region. This web site contains information on the center, including lists of faculty and courses, programs of study, requirements for MEST majors and minors, and instructions for those applying for scholarships, assistantships, and graduate programs. There are also links to King Fahd Center institutional partners and library resources, such as the Kenneth Brown Collection of Middle East and North Africa books in the Mullins Library. On-line copies of the last issues of *ALHAM* are also available online.

In Fall 2008, the Fahd Center website was taken out of the hands of Von Schlegell and given to the Center's website, Chris Angel for maintenance and changes. The site is updated on a regular basis and has received accolades from its simple design and detailed information from students, faculty, staff and outside users.

King Fahd Center Newsletter

The first edition of *ALHAM*, the King Fahd Center's online newsletter was released in autumn 2002. Originally designed by Kelley O'Callaghan and Tom Paradise, these issues cover news and events throughout the academic year, plus related course offerings. The King Fahd Center newsletter has become an important source of information and our 'ambassador' of the King Fahd Center to the US and abroad. At first, the earliest issues were published and mailed to other Middle East Programs across the US and abroad, but this quickly became too costly: subsequent issues have been made available online. During the summer of 2007, a team of undergraduate students with graphics training finished the fifth edition and it currently the most recent issue available (www.uark.edu/depts/mesp/newsletter/newsletter_S2008.pdf).

King Fahd Center Institutional Memberships

- *American Institute of Iranian Studies (Trustee 2006-2007)*
- *American Institute of Maghrib Studies (Board Member 2006-2007)*
- *American Research Center in Egypt*
- *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)*
- *Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Consortium (Board Member 2007+)*
- *ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)*
- *Middle East Studies Association*
- *Muslim Networks Consortium*
- *National Council on US-Arab Relations*

- *Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)*
- *The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARI)*

Fahd Center & Middle East Studies Outreach

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

A significant aspect of King Fahd Center outreach is its participation in the national Model Arab League, held every spring (April) in Washington, D.C. This year, the Arkansas delegation was led by Political Science Professor Najib Ghabdian representing the Tunisian Republic. The student committee included Nicholas Robbins, Head Delegate (IR-MEST), Cole Bockenfeld (IR-MEST), Will Watson (IR-MEST-PLSC), Homa Quazilbash (IR-MEST), Uzma Ahmad (IR-MEST), Daniel Staggs (IR-ROTC-MEST), Melissa Tuttle (IR-PLSC-MEST), and Routh Evelyn Standridge (IR-MEST). MEST undergraduate students Will Watson and Cole Bockenfeld both received the "Honorable Mention Outstanding Delegate" Awards – Cole for the Economic Affairs Committee and Will for his Palestinian Affairs Committee. A report on this year's meeting follows:

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

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

The University of Arkansas King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies sponsored the MAL country of the Tunisia 2007. The Arkansas UAE delegation was led by political science professor Najib Ghabdian. Before the conference, the delegation met weekly to examine and discuss the political climate in that country. Each delegate researched his or her topics and wrote resolutions to present at the conference. Students were interviewed at the

conference by Abu Dhabi television and answered questions on Tunisian economic policies and outlined the delegation's position on purchasing settlements in the Palestinian occupied territories. After the conference, the delegation visited a number of embassies in Washington DC, where they were hosted by several officials.

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

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

Mullins Library Development

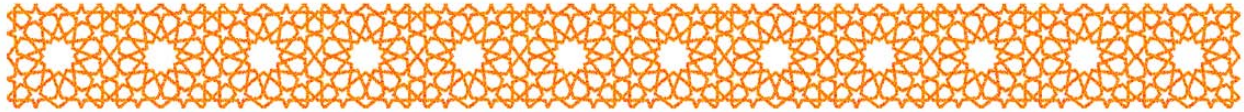
The King Fahd Center continues to budget \$20,000 annually to provide books, subscriptions, and other materials for Mullins Library. These procedures were implemented in 2006-2007 as in the previous two years. To be as fair as possible for the needs of all Center-affiliated faculty and their disciplinary interests, each affiliated faculty member was allotted \$800 to order library materials for the year. The remaining funds are used to cover journal subscriptions and to pay for occasion windfalls. A recent emphasis has been placed on the purchase of maps of North Africa and the Middle East, in addition to books in Judaic Studies outside of Europe and the U.S. Beth Juell and Jan Dixon, Mullins Library representatives to MEST have been especially helpful in determining various Mullins needs in filling the Mullins Middle East & North Africa Collection.

Venerable Geshe & Rinzin Dorjee: Fulbright's visiting Tibetan Monks

The King Fahd Center was pleased and honored to assist in supporting two visiting Tibetan monks, Geshe and Rinzin Dorjee from August 2006 through the Summer of 2007. They taught a number of classes in the Fulbright College and the Center was able to support their stay through their use of the MEST Apartment on Lafayette Street, in addition to paying the apartment utility bills during their stay. The monk's classes were filled and the student accolades for them were overwhelming. It was through Center and Program support that Fulbright College and students were able to participate in this unique experience. The Center has also facilitated the monk's recent purchase and move into a nearby Fayetteville house. It is hoped that the monks will become 'permanent' spiritual leaders in our community, and regular instructors in Fulbright. As a nice surprise, Geshe Thupten Dorjee, a faculty member in Fulbright

College, won the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Award from the Arkansas Alumni Association.

PROGRAM & CENTER FACULTY



MEST Core Faculty: *Fulbright College*)

The core faculty of the King Fahd Center presently includes the following faculty members in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences. Core faculty members represent professor who teach at least one MEST class or class equivalent at least once each year. These faculty members include:

Jesse Casana (Assistant Professor of Anthropology), Archaeology of Turkey and the Middle East

JoAnn D'Alisera (Associate Professor of Anthropology), Islam in Africa, Anthropology of Religion, Muslim transnational communities

Najib Ghabbian (Associate Professor of Political Science), Politics of the Arab world, Islamic movements, international politics of the Arabian Gulf

Joel Gordon (Associate Professor of History), Modern Middle East, Egypt in the Nasser era, popular culture, Middle East media studies.

Adnan Haydar (Professor of Arabic), Arabic language pedagogy, comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, oral poetics

Paula Haydar (Instructor of Foreign Languages), Arabic Language, Modern Arabic Literature

Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English), Comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, women's studies, Orientalism

Thomas Paradise (Professor of Geosciences, Interim Director of the King Fahd Center), Cultural & physical geography, human and natural impacts on cultural and natural resources, architectural deterioration, geography of the Middle East & North Africa

Jerome Rose (Professor, Chair of Anthropology), Biological Anthropology, bio-archaeology, forensic anthropology, archaeology of Jordan and Egypt

Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology), Cultural anthropology of the Middle East, social and critical theory

William Tucker (Associate Professor of History), Medieval Middle Eastern history, Shiite Islam, history of Islamic world and the Mediterranean

MEST-Affiliated Faculty: (*Fulbright College*)

Charles Adams (Associate Professor of English, Associate Dean of Fulbright College), North Africa in American Literary Culture, North Africa and the Middle East in the Western Imaginary

Jacob Adler (Associate Professor of Philosophy), Judaic Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Languages (Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic)

Lynda Coon (Associate Professor of History), Early Christianity in the Arab world and Mediterranean basin, Late Roman Empire, sainthood in late antiquity, gender and sexuality

Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science), Director of the Public Administration graduate program

Rembrandt Wolpert (Professor of Music, Director of the Center for the Ethnomusicology of Asian and Middle Eastern Music), Chinese and Silk Road musical traditions

MEST-Affiliated Faculty: (*non-Fulbright College*)

Stephen Sheppard (Associate Professor of Law), International Law, Laws of War and Conflict, Associate Editor and Law Advisor for staff of *The Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*

Mounir Farah (Professor of Education), Curriculum and development, diplomatic history of the modern Middle East

Faculty News, Grants, Awards & Publications

Mounir Farah (*EDUC*) continues his advisement and supervision on four Jordanian textbooks (9th grade Civics & National Education, 9th grade history of Arab & Islamic Civilization, 5th grade Social Studies, and 2nd grade Social Studies) all published by the Jordanian Ministry of Education this year. At the Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies (Little Rock, November), Professor Farah gave a lecture on 'Politics and Educational Reform in the Middle East'.

Najib Ghabbian (*PLSC*) continues to do political analyses on *Al-Jazeera* and *Al-Hurra* television news networks. In addition Dr. Ghabbian, Joel Gordon (*HIST*) and Ted Swedenburg (*ANTH*) ran a bi-weekly forum on current affairs in the Middle East as "Diwan Baghdad". The forum was well-attended. It is anticipated that they will continue with this important service to the Fayetteville and campus community. In addition, Dr. Ghabbian continues to coordinate and supervise our Model Arab League team and program winning both awards and accolades from the local community and

the national circuit. The University of Arkansas team continues to win titles and acclaim every year due to his work and dedication.

Joel Gordon (*HIST*), *Oneworld* Publications just published Dr. Gordon's new book Nasser: Hero of the Arab Nation to wide acclaim. In addition he continues to publish critical materials on modern Egypt including "*The Slaps felt around the Arab World: Family and National Melodrama in 2 Nasser-era Musicals*" in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, "*Egypt since 1919*" in the New Cambridge History of Islam and "*River Blindness: Color and Ethnicity in early Nasser Era Cinema*" in Narrating the Nile (Lynne Rienner). Professor Gordon is consistently active in his outreach and professional presentation including two presentations at the Middle East Studied Conference (MESA): "*The Cairo in Yusuf Chahine's Bab al-Hadid*" and "*Reviving Copts: Imagining a Past, Creating a Future*".

Joel Gordon continues to act as a vital editor and/or board member for many related presses, organizations, universities and agencies including the American Research Center in Egypt, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Israel Science Foundation, Ben-Gurion University, and Bar-Ilan University. He remains an significantly active member of the MEST faculty overseeing a number of committees and decision-making circumstances including Diwan Baghdad – Middle East Forum, Nadi Cinema (the Middle East Film Club). He currently supervises two (2) PhD students in MEST-related research projects and dissertations.

Adnan Haydar (*FLAN*) continues to publish translations of important Arabic literature. His "Two Poems by Adonis." were published in *The New Yorker* (May 12, 2008). He also received Arkansas' "Apple Teaching Award" for excellence in teaching. Professor Haydar directed, developed, and taught at the Arabic Language Institute "BAALI" in Beirut, Lebanon. Professor Haydar and his wife, Paula Haydar are both consistently active in outreach at the student level including Arkansas' unique Arabic Speech Contest. This year's winners include:

Elementary Arabic: Ashley Taglieri, William Watson, Brittney Kugler and Rough Evelyn Standridge.

Intermediate Arabic: Simon Reid, Keukeu Abdullah

Advanced Arabic: Fatma Hasanain, Ahmet Akturk

While hosting a number of Arabic language circles at Common Grounds Café in Fayetteville and his home, Dr. Haydar is also currently overseeing two PhD candidates in Comparative Literature, Krista Casada and Qusai Aldebyan. Professor Haydar continues to oversee the prestigious University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award for \$5000. The award continues to draw international attention and acclaim.

Mohja Kahf (*ENG*). Professor Kahf's latest book The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf, was just named to the BookSense Summer Reading groups list of favorites! BookSense is an association of Independent Booksellers where only 'indie' bookstore owners can nominate books. She continues to publish widely including "From Her Royal Body the Robe was Removed: The Blessings of the Veil and the Trauma of Forced Unveiling in

the Middle East" in The Veil: Its History, Lore, and Politics ed. by Jennifer Heath by UC Berkeley Press (2008).

Dr. Kahf presented "On Writing on Islam and Gender in the West." at the Modern Language Association Conference (MLA) in Philadelphia. In past year she has made over forty book club appearances, book signings, readings from the book, radio and print interviews about the book. Mohja Kahf was interviewed by NPR on the popularity of her new book. Some of her recent interviews include venues as Stanford University in Palo Alto, California on Muslim American Literature (May), Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington for International Women's Day (March), University of Washington, Seattle on interfaith exploration (March), Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina (February), and at Indiana University, South Bend (January).

She has been interviewed in such notable newspapers as the Washington Post and the New York Times within the past year.

Tom Paradise (GEOS) continues to conduct internationally acclaimed research on the landscape and architecture of Petra, Jordan. Now in his 18th year of research in this famous, ruined city, his field research was assisted by Chris Angel, a MEST-supported Geography graduate student. Chris worked with Dr. Paradise and the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism in digitally mapping the village of Umm Sayhoun – the Bedouin village created above Petra when the B'doul tribe were removed from the park when it received its UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 1980s.

Professor Paradise also published the opening chapter of the Geologic Society of America's (GSA) new book Stone Architecture & Deterioration on the classical architecture of Petra, Jordan. He is also an editor and contributor to the upcoming Encyclopedia of Culture & Society having written the chapters "Algeria", "Morocco", "Tunisia", "Libya" and "Egypt", and well as chapters in the Encyclopedia of the Environment: "US Mining Law of 1872", "OPEC", "US Department of the Interior", "Mining", "US Bureau of Reclamation", "US Geological Survey" and the "US Antiquities Law of 1906" (Facts on File 2007).

In addition, Dr. Paradise's leading-edge research on Islam, risk behavior and earthquakes was recently published in a series of papers in the International Journal of Environmental Hazards (Elsevier), and the Journal of North African Studies (Taylor & Francis). The popularity of the publications brought about more than 300 online e-article downloads in one week. His expertise on the topic of Middle East and North African geography, architecture and culture is regularly sought by newspapers, radio and TV. His international reputation as a Middle East cartographer thrives as well since he was recently commissioned to complete the National Map of Yemen, in addition to various for the Royal Air Force of the Kingdom of Jordan.

Paradise's expertise on Petra was recently sought by ABC-News for an April special on Petra and the Middle East on 'Good Morning America'. In addition, his work on Petra was used and cited this year on NPR, PBS-Television, the Discovery Channel and Domenica Corriere (Italy's national weekly magazine). Professor Paradise is also a regular consultant to NHNZ, the primary documentary producers for the Discovery Channel, TLC, National Geographic, PBS (US), NHK (Japan), France 5 and NDR (Germany) networks.

Jerry Rose (ANTH) and his wife, Dolores L. Burke published the edited volume, Sa'ad: A Late Roman/Byzantine Site in North Jordan (Yarmouk University Publications). The Kind Fahd Center sponsors a study abroad archaeology field school in Jordan each summer in collaboration with Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.

Last summer the Center co-sponsored the excavation of Late Roman and early Christian tombs at the site of Natfieh in north Jordan, under Dr. Rose's supervision. Jerry Rose directed a field school for seven American students who were joined by one faculty and three staff members of Yarmouk University and employed 13 local workers. During the summer of 2007, Professor Rose worked with seven students for their 13th season in Jordan.

This past spring the Fahd Center funded the excavation of the New Kingdom site of Tell Amarna (14th Century BCE) also under the expert guidance of Jerry Rose. The MEST-supported excavation was filmed by the BBC for a television documentary and was cosponsored by the Egypt Exploration Society, co-directed by the renown Egyptologist Professor Barry Kemp of Cambridge University.

Professor Rose continues to publish widely including his research in Jordan and Egypt in ASOR (Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research) and AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association). MEST is also proud that he was awarded 2007 Teacher of the Year, Presented by the University of Arkansas Student Alumni Board and Associated Student Government.

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) continues to maintain his international reputation as a pundit on Modern Middle East and North African culture. He presented an invited lecture "*Rock 'n' Roll, Feminists, and Gay Pickups in Yusuf Chahine*" at Tennessee Tech University. Swedenburg's lecture "*Rai Music in France*" was presented at the workshop "Sounds from la Cité: Franco-Maghrebi Music" at the University of Chicago (October). He also published "Imagined Youths" in the Middle East Report 245 (Winter 2007).

Professor Swedenburg also serves as a reviewer of Middle East National Resource Centers and Title VI Council (USDOE). The council oversees all DOE applications and disbursements for ALL of the major Middle East Centers in the US. Along with Dr Gordon (HIST), Professor Swedenburg was invited to present at the International Conference on culture in the Middle East in Essouira, Morocco in the Spring.

Dr. Swedenburg served as a visiting professor in Middle East Studies at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheva, Israel in Summer 2008 and taught a graduate seminar "Introduction to Middle East Anthropology." He has also maintained his reputation as a Middle East pundit on Middle East culture with interviews conducted with NRC Dutch TV, NPR, PBS, Columbia News Service, Swedish National Radio,

Bill Tucker (HIST) continues to publish in his field of expertise including aspects of Medieval Islam and Persia. Cambridge University Press published his book, Mahdis and Millenarians; Shi'ite Extremists in early Muslim Iraq in 2008. He recently finished two new sections for the Encyclopedia of Medieval Islamic Civilization: "Floods" and "Weather" (Routledge).

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

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

Faculty Development Support

MEST continues to support faculty development. Because of effective budget restrictions, faculty development accounts for 2006-2007 have been increased to \$3000 annually. Committee chairs with heavy time commitments, such as the Center Director, and Chair of the Publications and Translation Award Committee, receive supplements to their development accounts commensurate with the extra time necessary to carry out their duties.

Core faculty members may now apply to the King Fahd Center office for funding directly (if monies are available) through the submission of a detailed proposal and budget, to fully or partially support, or facilitate research or conference participation. Faculty formats will require more detail than the requirements for student proposal submission, with proposal plan from 10-20 pages in addition to fully justified budgets. The task of proposal-writing alone can help all researchers sort out their needs, methods, and potential problems. The task of proposal-writing can be an excellent filter for those seeking support without a defined direction or method (see Appendix). It is hoped that this type of conventional proposal submission will become a standard procedure of most Center and Program funding opportunities in the future, for faculty and students alike. The Center will provide funding support for visiting scholars to attend professional conferences when applicable and for scholars visiting the Arkansas campus for brief stays for research and teaching, or for longer stays like Fulbright award visitation or a semester teaching within an affiliated department. Dr. Swedenburg’s research on emerging youth music in Palestine (Summer 2008) was the first of its kind to be supported through the Center.

Faculty Committees (2007-2008)

As part of their participation in the program, MEST-Fahd core faculty members are assigned to serve on at least one committee. Committee assignments are changed for each new academic year. The latest committee assignments for 2006-2007 were as follows:

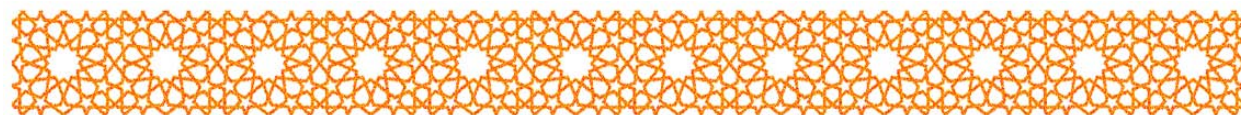
1. Executive Committee: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Smith and Adams
2. Publications & Translation: Haydar (Chair), Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
3. Outreach: Ghabdian, Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
4. Arabic: Haydar, Haydar, Joan Turner (FLAN Chair)

5. Undergraduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Farah
6. Graduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Farah
7. Media (Website, newsletter): Paradise, Suz Wall (MEST administrative assistant), Nani Verzon (MEST graduate student representative), Simon Reid (MEST undergraduate student representative)

Faculty Advising

Center faculty members are assigned as advisers to MEST majors. Whenever possible, they are assigned students who are pursuing second majors in their departments or in related fields. Each faculty member advises approximately four to five MEST majors. The faculty members meet with their advisees each semester to ensure adequate progress through the major and to help the students devise a coherent course of study. Tracking sheets are now available to help keep the MEST program informed of advising decisions.

SUMMARY



Since the unexpected departure of past-Director Vince Cornell late in 2006, the King Fahd Center and the Middle East Studies Program has been at an important watershed. As similar programs across the US struggle with federal funding for conventional concentrations on politics, this has been the ideal time to invest in our future by examining our own unique resources in expertise and capability in Arabic, regional studies, culture and resources, in addition to our strengths in politics, policy and history of the region. Ignoring our distinctive strengths has been unwise, so it is hoped that the Center is utilizing these assets by offering graduate assistantships in broader areas, however specific to North Africa and the Middle East. Moreover, past support has not required this regional (i.e. Levant) thematic focus (i.e. Islam), so this new direction support has yielded stronger benefits with less support for faculty, graduate and undergraduate research. This makes our new direction a 'win-win' environment for our faculty and students, the Fulbright College and University, and the community of Northwest Arkansas and the region – a goal of our original endowment and charter.

Like other prominent American programs or centers at universities like Georgetown, Michigan, or Texas, these programs have traditional emphases that target political landscapes mostly supported through Title VI funding. Even though our endowed program is developing a strong reputation in these fields, we are overlooking some of our brightest students and faculty and their innovative research in other fields that have related regional foci. With emerging fields such as natural resource management (water), media and cultural heritage (music, historic preservation), and regional, vernacular literature, our Program is becoming the only one of its kind in the US to have these promising regional studies and pundits. In addition, in tandem with our growing Arabic Program, we would broaden our Middle East language base to include Farsi (Persian) and Turkish – all in the hopes of affording new study and research opportunities here and abroad.

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

Overall student enrollment in MEST or MEST-related classes is strong and participation in MEST-related activities is healthy. MEST classes show an increase in enrollment; Geography of the Middle East & North Africa (GEOG 4033), was first offered in 2001 with 12 students, now sees enrollment from fifty students during its evening classtime. Majors and minors are slowly increasing as well, however as a second or third major, locating all majors is often a task. In addition, MEST classes however are attended by students in all Fulbright degree programs as well as those students seeking international work in Engineering, Business and Education.

Lectures, art exhibits, forums, and concerts sponsored by the Fahd Center are increasingly anticipated, and well-attended, while camaraderie amongst MEST majors,

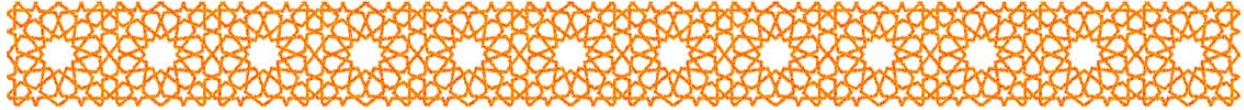
minors and graduate students is at a new high. MEST-sponsored lectures for example, by a leading Biblical historian, Iraqi photojournalist, or political specialist, sees attendance of more than three hundred students, faculty and residents, covered by the regional media on TV and in the newspapers. MEST was also fortunate to obtain the noted war correspondent and photo-journalist Thorne Anderson, to speak about his Pulitzer-nominated book on the Iraq War, *Unembedded*, a talk covered by local and state newspapers, while NPR interviewed while on campus.

Although the King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies has been severely affected by university budgetary restraints in the past, students in and/or supported by the Middle East Program and Fahd Center continue to excel in their studies, research and activities, while our affiliated faculty continue to create and teach a creative and germane curriculum, conduct related outreach, and carry out important and relevant research. Undergraduate GPAs have jumped from a mean of 3.2 to 3.7, and the number of honors students has doubled and trebled in the past three years!

Moreover, local, regional, national and international visibility continues to grow as our reputation as an up-and-coming Middle East research and information center matures. It is essential that we continue to mold a core of Middle East, Mediterranean and Islamic scholars that continue to create a dynamic nucleus for research, outreach and service, grant-writing, and teaching, and we are on course. With the departure of Vince Cornell and his wife, it would benefit the Center and Program to look at adding to our new faculty core with possible hiring to support teaching, research and 'punditry' in Turkish studies, Christian history, Islamic Law and Medieval history, to name a few new trends. Effective reduced spending and an increasing endowment-related revenue will continue to assure a healthy budget in addition to a flexible program. With our successful budgetary restraints over the past years, in conjunction with new foci the Center and Program's future is bright. With a vision that includes supplementary Middle Eastern languages like Hebrew, Turkish and Persian, possible added faculty in core or affiliated positions, increased community visibility through lectures and visiting scholars, increased camaraderie at undergraduate and graduate student levels, and a new collaboration among faculty, staff and students, and a new national level of expertise and televised punditry, the King Fahd Center and Middle East Program will thrive and become a beacon of Middle East education and scholarship in Northwest Arkansas, Arkansas, US and one day, the World.



APPENDIX



King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies
Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment
Fiscal Year 2006-2007
(due date: October 1st each year)

Name: _____

Department: _____

Rank: _____

Teaching Activities

Middle East or Islamic Studies courses taught during year (give course number, name, enrollment and evidence of teaching effectiveness, e.g., Purdue item 200: "Overall, this instructor is among the best teachers I have known.")

Most recent year in which you have taught MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003).

Most recent year in which you have taught Gateways to the Middle East (MEST 2013).

Individual Instruction

List MEST majors or graduate students directed in independent study courses

List honors' theses directed

List honors' thesis committees

List master's thesis committees

List master's theses directed (list student names)

List doctoral dissertation committees

Names of students defending dissertations during year:

Advising

Program Advising:

List names of MEST majors advised

List names of graduate students advised

Other advising activities

Curriculum Development (new courses created and/or taught, projects or areas where you helped to strengthen or develop curricula or courses in MEST.

Honors, awards, and activities not mentioned above:

Service

MEST-related lectures, seminars, and forums

Visiting speakers recruited

MEST Committee participation

Student recruitment (majors and graduate students)
MEST-related extra curricular activities organized and conducted (MAL, Arabic Speech Contest, etc.)
MEST-related study-abroad programs directed or conducted
Program development activities
MEST-related University or College service activities (study-abroad fair/honors activities, etc.)
Outreach activities and media interviews
List contributions to King Fahd Center Newsletter

Research, Scholarly, Artistic, Creative Activities

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

Comments:

KING FAHD MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM & CENTER GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH SUPPORT APPLICATION

Total amount requested \$ _____

name _____ email address _____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project timetable _____

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

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

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

** Each applicant must include a r sum  or curriculum vita not to exceed **three** pages including all previous or active funding greater (MEST and other), recent publications, presentations (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.

All completed funding requests must be submitted to the King Fahd Center (Old Main #202) by February 8, 2008 (3pm) for the spring semester, or September 12, 2008 (3pm) for the fall semester. Any late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

excellent examples of proposal-writing formats and suggestions:

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

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES & CENTER FACULTY RESEARCH FUNDING APPLICATION

amount requested \$ _____

name _____

email and contact phone number: _____

department/position _____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project dates _____

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

- completed proposal (see guidelines below) ***
- proposal bibliography**
- fully itemized budget**
- complete budget justification**
- condensed curriculum vita (resume) of applicant (2-3 pages)****

* All proposals must include a project proposal that includes an abstract, introduction, study site description, methods involved, a review of prior research, anticipated results, conclusions and implications, in-text cited references and possible venues for the publication of findings roughly 8-12 pages (16 pages max). In addition, a project budget and full item justification must be included in your proposal package to MEST.

** Each applicant must include a résumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater from all sources (i.e. federal, state, college and MEST), recent publications, presentations, (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.

All completed funding requests must be completed in full and submitted to the King Fahd Center (Old Main #202) to be considered for research support.

examples of proposal-writing formats and suggestions:

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

Scholarship Application Information

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

All prospective MEST undergraduate Scholarship applicants must have secured admission to the University of Arkansas and J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences prior to the review of their application materials. The following application materials should be submitted to the Undergraduate Scholarship Awards Committee, King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies, 202 Old Main, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701

Your application must include the following:

- 1) *The enclosed application form, including the statement of educational aspirations;*
- 2) *A list of MEST-related classes taken thus far;*
- 3) *The results of the SAT or ACT examinations (a photocopy of official scores is acceptable);*
- 4) *Two student evaluations completed by at least one MEST faculty member (core or affiliated) and another faculty (at University of Arkansas or from another University if you are transferring). The list of MEST faculty is available at the MEST website at www.uark.edu/depts/mesp/faculty_and_staff.htm. These letters or forms should be placed in separate envelopes and sealed with the evaluator's signature across the seal on the reverse. The letters should be returned to the applicant so that it may be submitted as one large packet to the Fahd Center Office with all other application materials. DO NOT have your letters of support sent directly to the MEST office.*

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15

Revised 01-2008

Scholarship Application Information

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Name _____
Last First Middle

SID# _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Telephone _____ email _____

Expected Graduation Date (semester and year) _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

For the following, you may attached a separate sheet

a) Area(s) of Academic Interest:

b) Academic/Artistic Awards or Prizes:

c) Participation in Special Schools or Institutes:

d) Extra-Curricular Activities:

e) Community Service and Leadership:

f) Special Considerations (details of financial need, or any other considerations you feel are important to your application for a MEST scholarship.):

Scholarship Applicant Evaluation

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Please provide a frank and candid assessment of the applicant's current level of academic performance and his/her potential for future academic growth. Of particular relevance is the student's demonstrated interest in the Middle East and/or North Africa. In addition, personal integrity, maturity, character may be used in your discussion. Feel free to attach a separate letter of recommendation to this form, otherwise you may fill out the information on the form reverse.

The MEST Scholarship Program

Selection for a Middle East Studies scholarship is reserved for the most intellectually curious and academically superior students. Scholarship recipients must declare and complete a Middle East Studies major in order to retain their scholarships. They must also maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 during their period of study at the University of Arkansas. Evidence of achievement in school and community leadership, participation in special schools or institutes in the U.S. and abroad, and recognition through academic awards or prizes are important criteria for selection. Financial need is also taken into consideration.

Name of student _____

Printed name of Evaluator

Title and relationship to applicant

Signature

Telephone number

Street address

email of evaluator

State, zip code

Date

Please complete this form and seal it in an envelope, signing it across the seal. Then return it to the student applying for the MEST Scholarship. The student must send all of the application materials including this letter of recommendation to the Undergraduate Scholarship Awards Committee, Middle East Studies Program, 202 Old Main, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701 by March 15th (or the closest workday).

King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies

Statement of Educational Aspirations

*J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS*

“We must seek through education to develop empathy, that rare and wonderful ability to perceive the world as others see it.”

-- J. William Fulbright

Explain how this quotation pertains to your desire to participate in the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Arkansas and how it may relate to your goal after graduation and/or your career.

Please restrict your answer to no more than two pages.