INTRODUCTION

A programmatic outline for the King Fahd Middle East Studies Program was presented in a proposal made by the Dean of Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences to the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education Foundation in 1993. A committee of the Fulbright College Cabinet reviewed the implementation of the program in 1997. In fiscal year 2000-2001, numerous changes were instituted in the configuration of the program. Most of these changes were in line with recommendations made in the 1997 review. They were designed to restore budgetary credibility to the MEST program, to increase its academic standing both nationally and internationally, to integrate all components of the program into a coherent structure, and to affirm a posture of political neutrality and academic independence. Although academic independence is a fundamental principle of the modern system of higher education, it cannot be taken for granted in the field of Middle East Studies. As any long-term member of the Middle East Studies Association can attest, the field has been fraught by attempts on the part of outside governments and institutions to influence the policies and directions of academic organizations and funded programs. It is important for the administration of the University of Arkansas to be aware of the continued potential of such a threat and to take precautions to avoid outside influences, whether overt or covert. From the perspective of University of Arkansas planning for 2010, the changes instituted this year in the MEST program confirm the role of the King Fahd Program as a key partner in the task of creating a student-centered research university of national stature. These changes include the enlargement of the MEST core faculty, the hiring of visiting MEST faculty from the U.S. and abroad, a thorough budgetary and administrative reorganization, and the expansion of program office space. Although the program continues to follow the outlines of the 1993 proposal in general terms, these and other changes have rendered much of the original document obsolete.

Items that have been superseded because of the expansion and development of the program since 1993 include the following:

1. **Saudi-Arkansas Partnership Language.** The original proposal gives the impression that a formal Saudi-Arkansas “partnership” was created in 1993. Since no existing memorandum of understanding governs such a partnership between Saudi Arabia and the University of Arkansas with respect to the main endowment of the King Fahd Program, this “partnership” can only be regarded as informal. Memoranda of understanding do exist between the University of Arkansas and Saudi Arabia concerning the Arabic translation endowment and relations between the University of Arkansas, the Saudi Ministry of Education, and four Saudi universities: King Saud University, King Abdulaziz University, King Faisal University, and King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals. However, these memoranda are of a general nature and do not bind the University of Arkansas to an exclusive partnership with Saudi Arabia. Nor do they
limit the scope of the MEST program in any way. The endowment principal presently resides in an account established and maintained by the University of Arkansas Foundation. Despite certain terminological usage in the 1993 proposal, neither these funds nor the income generated from them can properly be understood as “Saudi.” The endowment principal belongs entirely to the state of Arkansas and cannot be transferred or reallocated by any outside party. The King Fahd Middle East Studies Program is a unit of Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences in the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and as such is part of an autonomous U.S. university. Neither the government of Saudi Arabia nor any of its representatives has any official role to play in the policies of the program or its future development. Nonetheless, the relationship between the King Fahd Program and Saudi Arabia remains important. The program will continue to maintain cordial relations with Saudi universities as detailed in the above-mentioned memoranda. This should especially be the case for King Saud University, whose president is in regular e-mail contact with the program director. Cooperation between the University of Arkansas and Saudi universities will continue to include faculty exchanges and programmatic support for Saudi students enrolled in UAF degree programs. To help foster this policy of cooperation, a channel of communication has been created between the King Fahd Program and the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, D.C. Our contact at the embassy, Dr. Muhammad Asad, an assistant attaché in the academic section, has been invited to visit the Fayetteville campus and will regularly receive updates of program activities, including annual reports.

2. Budget Allocations. As detailed in the report below, the vast majority of MEST funds are encumbered as salaries and fringe benefits of MEST core faculty and staff, and student support in the form of scholarships, graduate assistantships, and support for summer study. This year, the total of such encumbrances was approximately $1,200,000.00. Because of the recent decline in the stock market, the King Fahd Program endowment stands today at approximately $25 million. If annual income is calculated at 5% of the total, this comes to $1,250,000.00. Subtracting present encumbrances from this figure leaves a total of $50,000.00 for all discretionary spending for academic purposes, including library purchases, visiting speakers, visiting faculty, faculty development accounts, official travel, outreach, and conferences. This is not enough to meet current expenses or to create a world-class academic profile for the King Fahd Program. Although actual income is calculated on the basis of a three-year average of the endowment balance, a significant budgetary problem clearly exists. A major deficiency of the 1993 proposal was its lack of sufficient concern for the well-known types of intellectual initiatives that enrich an area studies program, give such a program national exposure, and contribute to attracting top quality faculty and students. Since relatively little can be done to reduce salary and benefits, the amount of future student support must be weighed in consideration of the wider needs of a major international studies program. Presently, graduate students and undergraduates who are fully supported by the program receive $11,600.00 per academic year. This makes the MEST scholarship second only to the Sturgis scholarship in value. This financial aid should not be seen as an entitlement program for MEST majors, but should instead be a reward for superior academic performance. In fiscal year 2001-2002, scholarships, assistantships, and support for summer study will total approximately $700,000.00. Over the next three years, this amount will have to be reduced gradually, so that the program can meet other educational and intellectual obligations. The fairest way of accomplishing this is to ensure that only the most capable students receive MEST support. On
the graduate student level, department chairs and directors of graduate study must not refer any student for a MEST assistantship who does not meet the standards of students already funded by their departments.

3. King Fahd Center. This year, the program director, supported by a majority of the MEST faculty, submitted a proposal to re-designate the program as the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. This designation better reflects the interdepartmental and interdisciplinary profile of MEST within Fulbright College and also reflects the broadened scope of the program to include North Africa, Islamic Spain, and areas such as Central Asia and South Asia, which are beyond the Middle East proper. Randall Woods, Dean of Fulbright College first set forth this wider scope for the MEST program as a policy statement in 1999. His ideas are reflected in three major initiatives taken by the program in 2000-2001. These initiatives have resulted in partnerships being formed between the King Fahd Program and the Aga Khan Humanities Project in Central Asia (AKHUM), Smolny College and the School of Oriental Studies of the University of St. Petersburg in Russia, and the Ministry of Higher Education in Tunisia. These initiatives expand the program to include Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as North Africa, and will result in memoranda of understanding being signed in 2001-2002. The King Fahd Program will continue to function within the new center structure as the degree-granting unit of the King Fahd Center.

4. Administrative Changes. Both the 1997 report by the Committee of the Fulbright College Cabinet and an appendix to the external review submitted in fall 2000 by Professor Dale Eickelman of Dartmouth College noted a potentially severe problem in the lack of an adequate job definition for the Associate Director. Problems arising from this issue have led to the temporary abolition of the position of Associate Director. In academic year 2001-2002, most of the responsibilities of the Associate Director will be taken over by three committees: Grants and Proposals Committee, Publications and Academic Initiatives Committee, and Outreach Committee. Although the scope of outreach activities expanded somewhat in the past year, it is clear that greater imagination is needed in the field of academic outreach. Summer training programs for local businesses such as Wal-Mart, Tyson, and Procter and Gamble, and outreach initiatives to local schools and other campuses within the University of Arkansas system, need to be developed. To help facilitate the continued development of outreach, a national search will be held in spring 2002 for an Outreach Coordinator. This position will replace the former positions of Outreach Director (an administrative position) and Outreach Coordinator (a staff position).

5. New Office. The creation of a new central office for Middle East Studies in 202 Main has contributed to a more cohesive relationship between MEST and the administration of Fulbright College. Faculty, administrators, and students are able to congregate in the MEST office to discuss issues of importance and interact with each other. The office provides a reception area where brochures, announcements, and other informational materials are available. However, the fact that MEST offices are now divided between two buildings (Old Main and ASUP) creates a potential communications problem that needs to be addressed. This year, the MEST offices in ASUP were often erroneously regarded as a separate administration, focusing on outreach and student affairs. This problem has been rectified by the administrative changes noted above and by a concerted attempt on the part of the MEST director, administrative assistant, and secretary to work out new and more complementary job descriptions for hourly staff. However, the
potential for communications problems will continue to exist until the King Fahd Center is given sufficient space in a single building. In February 2001, the administrators of MEST and Fulbright College made a development trip to Saudi Arabia for this purpose. So far, this trip has yet to produce any tangible results. In the meantime, the program director is actively engaged in looking for other sources of funding, both for a center building and for academic programs. Such outside funding, however, is only acceptable if it comes without programmatic conditions or stipulations.

6. Arabic. Another important problem that needs to be addressed concerns the administration of the Arabic program. As mentioned in the proposal for the King Fahd Center and in the external review by Professor Eickelman, the relationship between MEST and the Department of Foreign Languages remains awkward, and inhibits the adequate coordination of the Arabic program. Although Arabic is the most important single component of the Middle East Studies major and is equally important to all graduate study supported by MEST, FLAN gives little institutional support to Arabic. Although MEST provides the full salary of a research associate professor of Arabic and the greater part of the salary of a professor of Arabic, this commitment has not been reciprocated by FLAN to a degree sufficient to fulfill program needs. Arabic does not figure in FLAN’s latest plans for departmental expansion, and battles had to be fought this year over such petty issues as teaching schedules and classroom assignments. An attempt to rectify this situation was made by creating a MEST Arabic Committee, consisting of the MEST director, the two professors of Arabic, and the Associate Dean of Fulbright College. This committee was able to make ex post facto changes in the spring 2001 Arabic class schedule that FLAN had created without consulting all interested parties. The chair of FLAN and the faculty member responsible for scheduling assisted on this occasion. Since then, however, the MEST Arabic committee seems to have been ignored by FLAN, which continues to assign responsibility for Arabic planning solely within its own departmental structure. This is a recipe for continued chaos. MEST is prepared to fill current gaps in Arabic instruction by hiring visiting faculty from Morocco and other Arab countries. However, this cannot be done unless FLAN recognizes and accepts a permanent role for MEST in Arabic curriculum development and scheduling. More generally, it is unrealistic to expect that a department dominated by Romance Languages and German can adequately oversee the needs of non-Western and less commonly taught languages. It is imperative for the proper functioning of the Arabic program—not to mention future expansion into other Middle Eastern languages such as Hebrew, Turkish, or Persian—that a way be found to rectify this problematic relationship as quickly as possible.

THE KING FAHID PROGRAM

The King Fahd Middle East Studies Program is an interdisciplinary area studies program that offers diverse cultural, intellectual, and educational opportunities for University of Arkansas students. The program offers an undergraduate second major in Middle East Studies, graduate studies in eight departments and programs, summer language study and research, and supports teaching and research by visiting scholars. The program also coordinates with university departments to offer a full range of Middle East courses, supports MEST faculty research, engages in outreach activities, and supports an ambitious program of visiting speakers and workshops. The program (now center) currently maintains relationships with five Saudi universities, Al Akhawayn International University in Ifrane Morocco, and the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education. This year, new relationships were formed with the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., Smolny College and
the School of Oriental Studies of the University of St. Petersburg, Russia, and with four Tunisian universities and institutes through the Tunisian ministry of Higher Education. This summer, MEST is supporting Yussef Shebib, an undergraduate intern at the Middle East Institute. In spring 2001 MEST supported Mohammed Daadaoui, a Moroccan graduate student in Political Science, who interned at the French embassy in Washington, D.C. In 2001-2002, memoranda of understanding will be signed with the Russians and the Tunisi ans, and a new link will be forged between the University of Arkansas and the American University in Cairo. In May 2002, the King Fahd Center will sponsor a major international conference at Al-Akhawayn University titled: “Convivencia and Lost Paradieses: the Image of al-Andalus in Spanish and Islamic Literatures.” Besides providing an opportunity for interaction between scholars from Arkansas and Morocco, major international scholars from Yale University, Duke University, the University of Barcelona, and other major institutions have committed to attend. University of Arkansas Press and Al-Akhawayn University Press will jointly publish the conference proceedings.

The MEST Core Faculty

The core faculty of the King Fahd Program was expanded considerably in 2000-2001. This was done so that MEST students could take greater advantage of the intellectual resources already offered at the University of Arkansas. The names of faculty added to the program in 2000-2001 are underlined:

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

2. Rokia E. Cornell (Research Associate Professor of Arabic Studies) Arabic language pedagogy, Quranic studies, women in Islam, linguistic and cultural aspects of Berber nativism.

3. Vincent J. Cornell (Professor of History and Director of the King Fahd Program) Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, history of Islam in North Africa and Iberian peninsula, Islamic Mediterranean and Middle East, Islamic theology and philosophy, Sufism, Islamic law, Islamic modernism in Middle East and Southeast Asia.


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

6. Najib Ghadbian (Assistant Professor of Political Science) Politics of the Arab world, Islamic movements, international politics of the Arabian Gulf.

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

8. Adnan Haydar (Professor of Arabic) Arabic language pedagogy, comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, oral poetics.
9. Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English) Comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, women’s studies, orientalism.

10. Gwen Okruhlik (Assistant Professor of Political Science) Comparative politics, political economy, democratization and development in the Middle East, specializing in the Arabian Peninsula.

11. Thomas Paradise (Associate Professor of Geography) Geomorphology, cultural geography, human impact on cultural resources, weathering of architectural monuments, geography of Middle East, geological and geographical studies of Petra, Jordan.

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

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

14. William F. Tucker (Associate Professor of History) Medieval Middle East history, Shi’ite Islam, ecological and environmental history of the Islamic world, socioeconomic history of the premodern Mediterranean.


16. Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) will be added to the core faculty in 2001-2002 because of her extensive involvement in Middle East Studies and her development of the first Middle East Public Administration graduate program.

In fall 2001, Professor Mohammedali Muzaffari of the University of Dushanbe, Tajikistan, will hold a visiting appointment in the Humanities Program. He will teach a course on “The Concept of the Person in Vedanta, Sufism, and Schopenhauer.” Muzaffari is being supported by the King Fahd Program as part of the partnership with the Aga Khan Humanities Project in Central Asia.

In spring and fall 2002, Professor Saida Benani of Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco, will be on campus as a visiting scholar studying Islam in America. She will be supported by MEST as part of the agreement between the University of Arkansas and the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education.

**Faculty Development Support**

MEST continues to support faculty development as in the past, with new written guidelines governing the use and reimbursement of funds. Each core faculty member receives $4,000.00 in development funds, which are distributed at the start of each fiscal year. There is no “roll-over” of funds and a full accounting of expenses is required, following University of Arkansas Foundation guidelines. These funds have allowed faculty members to travel to conferences, conduct research, and purchase books and other materials.
Faculty Committees

As part of their participation in the program, MEST core faculty members will serve on the following committees in academic year 2001-2002:

1. Executive Committee: V. Cornell, Dean C. Adams

2. Grants and Proposals: Swedenburg (chair), R. Cornell, Paradise, Halman, Reid, V. Cornell (ex officio)

3. Publications and Academic Initiatives: Gordon (chair), Kahf, Swedenburg, Larry Malley (Director of UA Press), V. Cornell (ex officio)

4. Outreach: Paradise (chair), Gordon, Swedenburg, Ghadbian, Reid, V. Cornell (ex officio)

5. Arabic: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Haydar, C. Adams

6. Undergraduate Awards: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Haydar, Paradise

7. Graduate Awards: V. Cornell (chair), Gordon, Swedenburg, Ghadbian, Farah

8. Web Site and Publicity: Paradise (chair), R. Cornell, Halman, K. O’Callaghan (ex officio).

Faculty Advising

MEST faculty members are now assigned as advisers to MEST majors. If possible, faculty members are assigned students who have second majors in their departments or in related fields. For example, History majors are assigned to MEST faculty in History, Anthropology majors to MEST anthropologists, etc. At present, each faculty member advises approximately four MEST majors. They are to meet with their advisees each semester to ensure adequate progress through the major and to help the students devise a coherent course of study. This summer, tracking sheets will be made up to help keep the MEST office informed of advising decisions.

Visiting Speakers and Special Events

In academic year 2000-2001, MEST more than tripled the number of invited guest speakers, compared with the previous academic year:


October 27, 2000—“Media and Policy in the Middle East,” brown-bag lecture by Najib Ghadbian.

October 30, 2000—“The New Palestinian Intifada: Beyond the Headlines,” forum sponsored by MEST and led by Ted Swedenburg, Joel Gordon, and Najib Ghadbian.


February 8, 2001— “Middle East Challenges for the Bush Administration,” Ambassador David L. Mack, Vice President, Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C.

February 19, 2001— “From Whiteness to Hyphenation: Integration Strategies of Middle Eastern and Japanese Immigrants in Brazil,” Jeff Lesser, Emory University. Lecture co-sponsored by MEST and Latin American Studies.


February 27, 2001— Poetry readings by Fuad Rifka, noted Lebanese poet.


April 6, 2001— “Praising Satan from the Pulpit: Beyond the Stereotypes of Islamic Esoterism,” Omid Safi, Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.


April 23, 2001— “Lane’s Description of Egypt,” Jason Thompson, American University in Cairo.


Other Invited Guests:

Dale Eickelman, Robert Lazarus Professor of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, and former president of the Middle East Studies Association, for external review of the Middle East Studies Program.

Rafique Keshavjee, Director of the Aga Khan Humanities Program in Central Asia, gave a presentation on AKHUM and discussed avenues of possible partnership and cooperation.
Adnan Soufi, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, discussed endowment and administrative development guidelines.

David Hirsch, Middle East Studies Bibliographer, UCLA, to review MEST library needs (report appended).

Masatochi Kisaichi, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, discussed Islamic and North African Studies in Japan and possible avenues of cooperation between Sophia University and the University of Arkansas.

Carlisle Willard, Director of Information Technology, Duke University, for consultation on an NEH grant proposal for Humanities.


Nabiha Jerad, University of Tunis I, consulted on proposed cooperation between the University of Arkansas and Tunisian universities.

Faris Bdeir, Yarmouk University, Jordan, archaeological assistant for Jordan Field School, to receive technical training by Jerome Rose.

February 11-15, 2001 — Visit of Moroccan delegation to sign memorandum of understanding between the University of Arkansas and the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education. Members of the delegation: Omar Fassi-Fihri (Secretary of State in Charge of Scientific Research), Abdessattar El Amrani-Jamal (General Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education-Executive Training and Scientific Research), Said Belcadi (Director of Scientific Research and Cooperation), and Mohammed Dahbi (President of the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange).

May 12, 2001 — Commencement speech by Queen Noor of Jordan. Although Middle East Studies did not initiate the invitation for Queen Noor, MEST provided logistical and planning assistance for her visit.

**Program Development Trips**

The program director, MEST and other university faculty, and university administrators made four development trips during spring semester, 2001. All of these trips had the goal of expanding the program, either by creating new links with institutions in the Arab world and beyond, or by obtaining new outside funding for a King Fahd Center building.

1. **Saudi Arabia.** In February V. Cornell, M. Farah, R. Woods and C. Adams were summoned to Saudi Arabia on the understanding that money was forthcoming for the construction of a new building to house International Studies and Middle East Studies on the UAF campus. This trip was at the invitation of Prince Abd al-Aziz ibn Fahd, son of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. During their time in Riyadh, the group met with Prince Faisal ibn Salman and visited King Saud University and research institutions in the Riyadh area. The group did not meet with Prince Abd al-Aziz until the last hour of their sojourn in the country. No clear commitment for funding was made by the prince during this interview and no commitment has been made by the prince since that time. The odd circumstances of the visit have raised questions about its motivation among some of the participants and a majority of the MEST faculty. In a phone conversation that took place in May,
Dr. Muhammed Asad, our new contact at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, indicated to the program director that Prince Abd al-Aziz himself was not fully aware of our program or the purpose of our visit. This information only deepens the mystery surrounding the trip.

2. St. Petersburg, Russia. In March, V. Cornell, C. Adams, and D. Kelley (Director of the Fulbright Institute of International Relations) traveled to St. Petersburg to establish relations with Smolny College and the University of St. Petersburg. This trip was arranged through the mediation of Dr. Rafique Keshavjee, Director of the Aga Khan Humanities Program. Smolny College, which is part of the University of St. Petersburg, is the first liberal arts college in Russia. It was established in partnership with Bard College and grants joint Bard-Smolny degrees. The George Soros-funded Open Society Institute called in AKHUM to assist in the development of Smolny humanities programs. During this visit, the group met with Valery M. Monakhov, Director of Smolny College, Nikolay Kosopov Dean of Smolny, Dina Khapaeva, Deputy Director for International Affairs, a Bard College representative, Rhett Bolen, the director of the Open Society Institute, and Ivan M. Stobline-Kamensky, Dean of Oriental Studies and Nikolay Dyakov, chair of Middle East Studies at the University of St. Petersburg. At a final dinner hosted by Smolny College, the group also met the President and Vice-President of the University of St. Petersburg. It became clear during this visit that the University of Arkansas and the King Fahd Center have a unique opportunity in St. Petersburg. Apart from Bard College, no other U.S. university has a formal presence in that city. The administrators of Smolny College were very excited about prospects for faculty exchange, and the transmission of expertise in humanities education and administrative techniques. Smolny has already put through a request to the Fulbright Commission in Russia to reserve two teaching fellowships for UAF faculty in academic year 2002-2003. These fellowships will be in the fields of democratization and analytical philosophy. Through the resources and mediation of the King Fahd Center, UAF will offer visiting professorships to selected Smolny and St. Petersburg faculty. A St. Petersburg summer program, run jointly by Smolny-Bard and the University of Arkansas, and open to students from around the U.S. is also envisioned. The focus of the program would be on St. Petersburg as a gateway to the new Russia and Eastern Europe. The MEST program has much to gain from this relationship. One million of St. Petersburg’s inhabitants are of Muslim origin. The oldest mosque built by a European government for its Muslim citizens is in St. Petersburg. The city provides excellent opportunities for field research and access to the ‘Tsar’s collection of Islamic manuscripts, which is still maintained in St. Petersburg. Oriental Studies at the University of St. Petersburg offers instruction in 90 oriental languages, including all of the languages of the Muslim world. It is an ideal place to send advanced graduate students for language instruction, particularly in less well known languages, such as Ottoman or Central Asian dialects of Turkish or Persian. The administrators of Smolny College, along with the chair of the Department of Middle East Studies at the University of St. Petersburg are scheduled to visit the Fayetteville campus during the last week of August 2001. A second trip to St. Petersburg to sign memoranda of understanding is scheduled for late September 2001.

3. Tunisia. In April, V. Cornell, R. Cornell, L. Coon, C. Adams, R. Wolpert (Music), and J. Davis (FLAN specialist in IT and foreign language learning) went to Tunis to meet with representatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and administrators of Tunisian universities. The host of the group was Dr. Jamil Chaker, formerly chair of French at Université de Tunis I, and now head of international relations at the ministry. The group held discussions with ministry officials and faculty and administrators from Université de Tunis I including the president, Abderraouf
Mahbouli, faculty and administrators of Université de Tunis El Manar (the Tunisian science and technical university) and its president, Youssef Alouane, the administrators of Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes and its director, Abdelmajid Bedoui, and the director of Institut de Musique à Sousse (part of Université du Centre). The director of the Sousse music institute, Mohammed Zein El Abidin, brought the group to Sousse and hosted them for a day and night at the institute’s expense. As a result of this visit, MEST and the University of Arkansas expect to sign memoranda of understanding with these Tunisian institutions. Music Professor R. Wolpert has been invited to a conference in Sousse in October on “The Epistemology of Music.” During the same month, Jamil Chaker will visit Fayetteville to discuss a proposed Center for the Comparative Study of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. This center, based in Tunis, would be a joint Tunisian-Arkansas project. MEST faculty member Ted Swedenburg has teamed up with Tunisian professor Nabiha Jerad and a Moroccan colleague on a project studying the effects of tourism on national identity and self-image. He also expects to visit Tunisia in October. Plans have also been made with the cooperation of the humanities and social sciences faculty at Université de Tunis I to hold an international conference in late spring 2003 on “Spaces and Memories in the Mediterranean.” Tunisia offers nearly limitless opportunities for MEST and the University of Arkansas. First, Tunisia is turning rapidly toward the U.S. and the English language. The government of Tunisia is prepared to pay airfare and salary (at Tunisian professorial level) for any UAF faculty member or advanced graduate student willing to teach 20 hours per week of English on a semester or year-long contract. With the exception of the University of Colorado (in language only) and University of Michigan (in archaeology), no other American universities have an official presence in Tunisia. Tunisia is willing to host the MEST archaeological field school if problems arise in Jordan. The quality of Tunisian faculty is among the highest in the Arab world. With the creation of the proposed center for Mediterranean and Atlantic studies, Tunisia would make an excellent southern anchor for the University of Arkansas’ Mediterranean Studies program. Tunisia would also make an excellent site for a semester abroad program that could complement the existing semester abroad in Rome. Either Sousse or Tunis could be possible sites for such a program, although Sousse would be preferable because of its smaller size, combined with a rich cultural and historical heritage and advantageous location on the Mediterranean. Finally, the Institut Bourguiba offers an excellent alternative for Arabic language training that could supplement the summer language program in Morocco. Like Morocco, Tunisia also promises to be a rich source of visiting faculty in a number of MEST-related fields.

4. Morocco. In May, V. Cornell and R. Cornell accompanied the Arkansas Arabic students to Morocco. During this trip, they had several days of conversations with administrators at Al-Akhawayn University, including President Rachid Ben Mokhtar, Provost Abdellatif Bencherifa, Dean Driss Ouauouicha, Dean of Students Cherif Bel Fekih, and Director of International Programs Amy Fishburn. R. Cornell participated in a two-day workshop with Arabic faculty on distance learning and techniques of Arabic instruction. She was greatly impressed by the quality and commitment of Arabic faculty at Al-Akhawayn and was greatly encouraged by the summer Arabic program, especially for undergraduates. Discussions were also held about improving the implementation of the Arabic program. In discussions with Abdellatif Bencherifa, V. Cornell finalized plans for a trip to Ifrane by CEHP faculty member Kit Brooks. Professor Brooks will visit Ifrane for 3-4 weeks in October to prepare a needs-assessment for the outreach center maintained by Al-Akhawayn in the city of Azrou. Cornell made it clear to Bencherifa that the King Fahd Center could not subsidize the Azrou center financially, but was willing to lend specialized
assistance when needed. He also noted that the primary interest of the University of Arkansas and KFC was in supporting Al-Akhawayn University academically and intellectually. Dr. Bencherifa was in full agreement with this view. Bencherifa also promised to provide housing, facilities, and logistical support for the planned international conference, “Convivencia and Lost Paradises: Visions of al-Andalus in Spanish-Language and Islamic Literatures.” This conference will be held at the end of May 2002. Cornell and Bencherifa also discussed other joint projects, such as a proposed partnership between University of Arkansas Press and Al-Akhawayn University Press. Bencherifa also promised to facilitate the opening to UAF of the important Roman site of Volubilis. This site, the former Roman capital of Morocco, is in great need of preservation. Bencherifa envisioned a number of research opportunities for faculty and graduate students in Geo-sciences, which included mapping the site and developing a model for preservation. This commitment was echoed in Rabat during discussions with Said Belcadi, who promised to facilitate meetings at a future date with representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Culture. In Rabat, V. Cornell and R. Cornell met with the members of the Moroccan delegation who visited Fayetteville for the signing ceremony in the spring: Bel Cadi, Omar Fassi-Fihri, Abdelsattar El Amrani Jamal, and Mohammed Dahabi. Minister of State Fassi-Fihri in particular assured the Arkansas visitors that the signed agreement with Morocco would not be one-way, but would be of equal benefit to both parties. Subjects discussed included implementation of the Arkansas assistantship for Moroccan graduate students, cooperation in archaeology and geo-sciences, and the possibility of a program in entrepreneurship at Université de l’Economie in Casablanca. V. Cornell promised to contact Rhett Bolen, head of the Open Society Institute in Budapest, to see if there might be an interest in creating programs in North Africa when OSI pulls out of Eastern Europe two years from now. While in Rabat, the Cornells also met with Ahmed Toufiq, Director of the Bibliothèque Générale et Archives and Omama Lahreche, chair of Spanish at Université Mohammad V in Rabat. They were informed that the majority of Moroccan scholars of Andalusian studies are boycotting the new Center for the Study of al-Andalus and Dialogue between Civilizations, of which the University of Arkansas is an institutional member. This boycott is because the majority of scholars working in Andalusian studies, including Spaniards, have allegedly been excluded from meaningful participation. Although at this point it is probably best to continue to include this center among the sponsors of the May 2002 conference, the information provided in Rabat is troubling. MEST should carefully consider whether it intends to provide further financial contributions to this center in the future.

King Fahd Program Institutional Memberships

American Institute of Maghrib Studies
American Institute of Yemeni Studies
American Research Center in Egypt
Middle East Institute
Middle East Outreach Council
Middle East Studies Association
National Council for Social Studies
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar
Syrian Studies Association

Outreach
In academic year 2000-2001, outreach was dominated by three activities, all held in spring 2001: the Sixth Annual South Central States High School Model Arab League, the first South Central States University Model Arab League, and the Fourth Annual Middle East Elder Hostel Symposium. In addition, the program supported the participation of six undergraduate students and Professor Najib Ghadbian in the National Model Arab League in Washington, D.C. Copies of the programs for these activities are appended at the end of this report.

1. High School Model Arab League (March 2-3, 2001) was attended by students and teachers from 10 high schools. Two high schools (1 from Texas and 1 from Wisconsin) were from outside of Arkansas. The program was co-sponsored by MEST and CEHP, which provided classrooms and auditorium space for country meetings. The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations sent a representative. There was active participation by members of the MEST core faculty, visiting faculty from the Arab world, and MEST students, mostly from the Arab world or of Arab background.

2. University Model Arab League (March 29-31, 2001) was attended by students and faculty from 10 colleges and universities in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The keynote speaker was Scott Ritter, former Chief Weapons Inspector, U. N. Special Commission on Iraq. Reid Wilborn, from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, also participated. There was also active participation by MEST faculty and students, as with the High School Model Arab League.

3. Elder Hostel Symposium (April 1-6, 2001) consisted of a series of lectures by MEST and CEHP faculty on various aspects of Middle East Studies.

4. National Model Arab League (April 2001) At this meeting, MEST students represented the United Arab Emirates. Two students were elected committee chairs, and one student was elected vice-chair. Beyond the MAL events, the students met with the State Department Desk Officer for the UAE and were given a guided tour of the French embassy by MEST intern Mohammed Daadaoui. They also met with Arkansas fourth district representative Asa Hutchinson.

The Model Arab League programs were undeniably successful and should be continued as part of the King Fahd Center’s outreach activities. On the understanding that outreach activities would increase significantly in 2000-2001, the program director gave free rein to the Director of Outreach in his use of program funds. Among other expenditures, approximately $11,000.00 was spent to subside hotel rooms and transportation for participants in the two Model Arab Leagues. Discussions held by the program director with several outreach coordinators during the year revealed that such subsidies are unprecedented for Model Arab League programs. One could argue that instead of stimulating a genuine interest in Model Arab League, the impression was given that the University of Arkansas would give any institution that wanted to participate in Model Arab League a free ride. Decades of development research have shown that a grant of aid is not respected unless the recipient feels he or she has to earn it. Elsewhere in the U.S., high schools and colleges raise money for travel by engaging in communal activities such as car washes, bake sales, candy sales, etc. Under the circumstances, one could ask, given the unprecedented level of
funding, why were these Model Arab Leagues not better attended, especially on the high school level? Sending six MEST students and a professor to the National Model Arab League in Washington cost less money than subsidizing the hotel rooms of nearby participants. MEST should continue to support the on-campus costs of Model Arab Leagues as legitimate outreach expenses. But MEST should not continue to subsidize travel and hotel costs of out-of-town participants. The argument that subsidizing such activities attracts high quality students to the University of Arkansas is questionable. This year, only two high school seniors who participated in MAL (one from Fayetteville and the other from Russellville) were of sufficient quality to earn MEST scholarships.

It is also the opinion of the program director that the Elder Hostel Symposium should not be considered a high-priority outreach activity. The number of participants in the symposium was relatively small, and the probable payback in terms of the present or future influence of the participants does not justify the time expended by MEST faculty. It would be far more beneficial to engage MEST faculty in academic outreach activities, such as organizing panels and working groups that could visit other colleges and universities in Arkansas, or even by arranging speakers on the Middle East for local high schools. Creating summer training sessions on the Middle East for secondary school teachers or executives of international businesses such as Wal-Mart, Tyson, or Procter and Gamble would also be more beneficial and cost-effective.

**BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES**

The program director could only begin examining the MEST budget in December, after hiring an administrative assistant. Prior to that time, the director had no office (because furniture had not been delivered) and had to work out of a table at ASUP or the Arkansas Union coffee house. When the director and administrative assistant began to investigate budget and expenditures, they found a situation that could only be described as chaotic. MEST funds had been put into numerous cost center accounts, many of which were obsolete, the budget was not balanced, and no regular procedures were in place governing reimbursements, the granting and distribution of student funds, or grants given to faculty both inside and outside Middle East Studies. To make matters worse, no archival materials were available in the MEST office and no yearly budgeting appears to have been done for the income generated by the program endowment. College and university administrators were also in the dark about MEST procedures and expenditures. This will continue to a limited extent into next year because all MEST documents prior to July 1, 2000, are in the hands of the University Counsel. In close cooperation with Adam Motherwell, budget officer of Fulbright College, the most serious budgetary problems were rectified in only seven months. Today, the MEST budget is balanced, obsolete or inactive cost center accounts have been closed, the distribution of student funds has been put into the hands of the Financial Aid office where it belongs, rules and regulations have been established governing undergraduate scholarships, and the program is committed to following university and Foundation accounting procedures. Most importantly, the program is now able to project estimates for most expenses for the coming year. By the end of next academic year, the King Fahd Center will be able to budget all program expenses accurately and in advance.

The Middle East Studies program has covered all costs for the 2000-2001 fiscal year and produced a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The new proficiency in budget management has relieved Fulbright College of the need to waste valuable time and resources in dealing with MEST issues.
This should be recognized as a significant contribution to the college and the university. Fine-tuning budgetary practices, implementing new policies and procedures, and adhering to established university policies have created a budgetary transparency that allows the program director, MEST faculty, and university administrators to have a better understanding of the program and its accomplishments.

Budget management is now controlled through the director’s office with the assistance of the MEST administrative assistant. Under this new centralized system, the program is able to provide an updated and accurate accounting of all assets and expenditures. MEST core faculty members are provided detailed, periodic updates of their faculty development accounts. Students holding scholarships and assistantships can receive information about their balances, whether income tax is owed, and whether enough money is left over to cover other expenses, such as summer school. Through the implementation of an accurate accountability system for the large budget of the MEST program, funds can be allocated to special or unforeseen expenses in a more efficient manner.

**Faculty and Staff Salaries and Benefit Support (Total: $669,014.00)**

The program income contributes a large percentage of the salaries of eleven faculty members from seven departments within Fulbright College and the College of Education and Health Professions: (History) Cornell, Gordon; (Anthropology) Swedenburg; (English) Kahf; (Geo-sciences) Paradise; (Foreign Languages) R. Cornell, Haydar; (Political Science) Okruhlik; Ghadbian; (Humanities) Halman; (Curriculum and Instruction) Farah.

Until March 31, 2001 funds from the program supported the salary of James Farley of CAST.

The Arabic Translation account was transferred to MEST this fiscal year. It presently funds the major portion of the salary of Translation Program director John DuVal as well as his faculty development account. It also subsidizes the publication of books that win the Arabic translation award (now re-designated as the Arkansas Arabic Text Translation Award). The cost for publication is $25,000.00 per title. The award has been divided into two components: an award for modern Arabic literature and an award for pre-modern Arabic literature. The next award for modern Arabic literature will be given in fall 2002. The members of the jury for this award are Miriam Cooke (Duke University), Marilyn Booth (University of Illinois), and Farouk Mustafa (University of Chicago).

The program income also contributed a percentage of the salaries for the following Fulbright College administrators and staff: C. Adams, A. Motherwell, and S. McFarland. McFarland will be off the MEST account next year, and the amounts subsidizing the salaries of Adams and Motherwell will be reduced.

In addition to the faculty and administrators listed above, the program contributed this year to the salaries of one half-time outreach coordinator (Farah), one administrative assistant (Wall), one full-time secretary (Anderson), one half-time secretary (Romulus), and two hourly employees (Nawas and Bani Abdelrahman). In fiscal year 2001-2002, the position of outreach coordinator will be eliminated and a senior graduate assistant (C. Bunch) will replace the half-time secretary. Hourly positions will no longer be semi-permanent, but will be utilized as needed.

A significant addition to program expenditures is in the form of fringe benefits, which are paid by the program for all staff positions, as well as for faculty hired under MEST auspices. This amounts to 27.5% of each salary covered.
Graduate Assistantships and Benefits (Total: $232,842.00)

Included in program income salary support are graduate assistantships and graduate fringe benefits. In fiscal year 2000-2001, twenty assistantships were awarded to graduate students from the following departments: Anthropology, Drama, Environmental Sciences, English, Geo-sciences, History, and Political science. Three graduate students in English and Comparative Literature were funded by the Translation Program. A list of graduate assistants funded in 2000-2001 is appended to this report.

Undergraduate Scholarship Support (Total: $233,000.00)

In fiscal year 2000-2001, undergraduate scholarship support from MEST program income included 5 full scholarships for MEST majors, 6 full scholarships for non-majors, 11 partial scholarships for MEST majors, 7 partial scholarships for non-minors and non-majors. As part of the agreement between the University of Arkansas and Al-Akhawayn University, one exchange student from Al-Akhawayn received spring semester funding to cover tuition, fees, insurance and housing. One student from the University of Arkansas received partial support from MEST to study at Al-Akhawayn University in the fall. One undergraduate in History received a $25,000 scholarship to attend the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. One minor received partial scholarship support.

A total of 46 undergraduate students fell under the King Fahd Program umbrella. Twenty-eight students were enrolled as MEST majors and 8 students were enrolled as MEST minors. The remaining 11 students were neither majors nor minors but received MEST scholarship funding anyway.

Under new guidelines for undergraduate scholarships instituted this year, all scholarship recipients must be declared MEST majors. MEST minors and non-MEST majors will no longer be allowed to compete for MEST scholarships. In addition, MEST majors must declare second majors that relate in some way to Middle East Studies or have a legitimate Middle East Studies component. For example, a scholarship recipient may now major in geo-sciences and MEST, because the Middle East is an important region of study in the fields of geology, cartography, and geography. A scholarship recipient may no longer major in MEST and physics, biochemistry, computer science, or engineering because there is no Middle East component in these fields. Simply coming from the Middle East does not qualify a student for a MEST scholarship. This last rule was proposed by a faculty member at a MEST faculty meeting and was approved by a consensus of the MEST faculty. Grades, class standing, ACT scores, and financial need are all taken into consideration by the undergraduate scholarship committee. Preference for scholarships will be given to permanent residents of the state of Arkansas and then permanent residents of other states in the U.S. Residents of foreign countries will be considered for undergraduate scholarships only after the pool of qualified Arkansas and U.S. residents has been exhausted. This last rule does not apply to candidates for graduate assistantships.

In May 2001, four undergraduate scholarship recipients graduated from the university. All four graduates received honors. Muhammad Arrabi will be working for Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington. Rebecca Longstreth has been accepted into the master’s program at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. Shorekh Kooshesh has secured a position at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. Calvin Clark is taking some time off from his studies and is investigating his options. A full list of undergraduate scholarship recipients is appended to this report.
Additional Student Support (Total: $75,566.00)

Eighteen students, including both graduates and undergraduates, received additional funding for summer research trips, study abroad, conferences, and other related activities.

Two students were supported to assist J. Rose with the summer 2001 Jordan Field School.

Five undergraduates and two graduate students were awarded summer scholarships to study and participate in the Jordan Field School with J. Rose.

Five undergraduates and five graduates were awarded summer scholarships to study Arabic at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco. Student lists and details are appended to this report.

Funds Made Available to Other Faculty Members

W. Schwab of Sociology received funding assistance for travel to Jordan to prepare a USAID grant proposal. J. Rose received MEST funding to help support his archaeological research in Jordan and Egypt. T. Paradise received funding from MEST to support two graduate assistants who will help him conduct research into the effects of tourism on the monuments of Petra, Jordan.

In addition, MEST maintains a $20,000.00 fund, replenished each fiscal year, to support visiting researchers in scientific fields that are not directly related to Middle East Studies. This fiscal year, the program supported H. Naseem (Electrical Engineering) to bring visiting scholars A. Al-Dhafiri (Saudi Arabia) and F. Amanullah (Saudi Arabia) to campus. It also supported J. Akeryod (Mathematics) to bring visiting scholar K. Alhami (Jordan), and R. Gupta (Physics) to bring visiting scholar B. Sahlabi (Jordan).

Library Purchases (Total: $50,000.00)

In fiscal year 2000-2001, a budget of $50,000.00 was given to Mullins Library for the purchase of books and periodicals in Middle East and Islamic Studies. This budget will be maintained in fiscal year 2001-2002. David Hirsch, Middle East Studies Bibliographer at the University of California, Los Angeles, visited the campus in the fall to assess the current state of the Middle East collection and to provide suggestions for its expansion and augmentation. His review is appended at the end of this report.

In a series of discussions with the administrators and staff of Mullins Library, it was decided to focus first on undergraduate and graduate research needs. Following this strategy, it was decided to devote fiscal year 2000-2001 to purchases of books in European languages and subscriptions to the most important periodicals in Middle East Studies, making advantageous use of publishers’ back lists whenever possible. Nearly 700 titles were added to the Middle East collection in this way. The program director also explored the possibility of a one-time purchase of the library of Professor Mahmoud Ayoub of Temple University, one of the foremost senior scholars of Islamic Studies in the U.S. Upon receiving a full catalog of his collection and negotiating with Ayoub, however, it was determined that the per-unit cost of his collection was too expensive.

Today, Mullins Library has a well-rounded collection of titles in Middle East Studies and Islamic Studies that is adequate for undergraduates and most graduate students. The library has been authorized to purchase all new titles in Middle East and Islamic Studies from university presses in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Orders on approval are also sent from Brill and Harassowitz in Europe. French and Spanish book dealers will be added to this list next year. In
addition, MEST faculty members send suggestions for book purchases to the MEST office. These suggestions are forwarded to the library, which purchases them according to availability of funds in the budget. Reference works, such as The Encyclopedia of Islam, Index Islamicus and CD-Rom collections are also purchased and kept up to date. Next year, Mullins will begin purchasing works in Arabic from dealers in the Middle East and North Africa. An Arabic-speaking graduate student will be designated to help catalog these works, either on an hourly basis or as part of an assistantship.

The list of periodicals presently on hand in the library is already quite complete. Approximately ten new titles will be added in fiscal year 2001-2002. Current periodical subscriptions are as follows:

1. Al-Ahram Weekly
2. Al-Islam
3. Al-Siyasah al-Duwaliyah (International Politics)
4. Al-Taqrir al-Iqtisadi al-‘Arabi (Arab Economic Digest)
5. Al-Jadid: A Record of Arab Culture and Arts
6. The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences
7. Ancient Near Eastern Studies
8. Arab Studies Quarterly
9. Arabica
10. ‘Arabiyya: Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic
11. Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arabic Literature
12. Biblical Archaeology Review
14. Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
15. Critique
16. Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies
17. Al-Hayat (Life)
18. International Journal of Middle East Studies
19. Der Islam
20. Islamic Culture
21. The Islamic Quarterly
22. Journal of Arabic Literature
23. Journal of Islamic Studies
24. Journal of Palestine Studies
25. Journal of the American Academy of Religion
27. Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt
28. Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society
29. JUSUR, the UCLA Journal of Near Eastern Studies
30. Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt
31. Al-Majallah (The Periodical)
32. Malaf al-Ahram al-Istratiji (Al-Ahram Strategic File)
33. Mamluk Studies Review
34. Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Cultures in Confluence and Dialogue.
35. Middle East Economic Digest
36. Middle East Insight
37. Middle East International
38. The Middle East Journal
39. Middle East Policy
40. Middle East Report
41. Middle East Studies Association Bulletin
42. The Minaret: The Islamic Magazine
43. The Muslim World
44. Near Eastern Archaeology
45. Nour (Light)
46. Al-Qantara (Spanish Journal of Islamic Studies)
47. Revue des Etudes Islamiques
48. Studia Islamica

OTHER CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

Catalog Update. In 2000-2001 the Middle East Studies listing in the course catalog was revised to reflect changes in the program. The revised text is as follows:

Courses related to Middle East Studies are offered by the following faculty: Professors Haydar (Foreign Languages), Cornell (Foreign Languages); Adler (Philosophy); Farah (Education, Outreach), Gordon (History), Tucker (History), Cornell (History), Coon (History); Kahf (Comparative Literature); Okruhlik (Political Science), Ghadbian (Political Science), Reid (Political Science); Rose (Anthropology); Swedenburg (Anthropology), D’Alisera (Anthropology); Paradise (Geography).

Students interested in the Middle East and wishing to maximize their potential for academic, business, professional, or government careers related to the area may earn a major in Middle East
Studies with a required second major in an approved area such as Anthropology, Economics, Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Journalism, and Political Science. New students entering the program are required to notify both the major adviser and the MEST director of their intention to participate. Freshmen and sophomores considering this program are advised to begin their study of a Middle East language as early as possible.

Students may also earn a minor in Middle East Studies.

**Program Requirements**

To attain a major in MEST, the student is required to have a second major in an approved area such as Anthropology, History, Political Science, Geography, Foreign Languages, Comparative Literature, Journalism, or Economics. Up to 9 hours of approved courses in this major may be counted toward the MEST major.

**Total Hours Required:** (30 semester hours) Students must complete a minimum of 12 hours in MEST core courses, 3 hours in the MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003), 6 hours of Arabic beyond the 12 credit College language requirement, and 9 hours of Middle East-related electives, subject to the approval of the MEST major advisor and the MEST director. No more than 9 hours of MEST core courses can be in a single discipline.

**Arabic Requirement:** (6 hours of MEST credit) Students must complete 18 hours of Arabic, of which 6 must be beyond the 12 hours of foreign language required by the College. Courses completed in approved summer intensive Arabic programs or an approved study abroad program in an Arabic-speaking country may substitute for all or part of this requirement.

**Middle East Studies Colloquium:** (3 hours) Students must complete at least 3 hours in the Middle East Studies Colloquium (MEST 4003). The Colloquium may be repeated with a change of subject for a maximum of 6 credits, with the 3 additional credits counted as non-departmental electives with the program.

**Electives:** (9 hours) Students must complete at least 3 hours in Middle East-related courses in addition to the Arabic requirement and the Colloquium. To count for MEST credit, courses must be approved by the student's MEST major advisor and the MEST director. Individualized readings, directed research courses, or courses in a second Middle Eastern language such as biblical Hebrew or Aramaic may count as electives. In addition, the following distribution requirements apply:

Elective must be selected from at least two separate departments;

No more than 3 hours of coursework presented for the second major outside of MEST core courses will count toward the MEST minor.

**Current MEST Core Courses**

ARAB 4213 Introduction to Arab Culture
ANTH 3123 Anthropology of Religion
ANTH 4023 Seminar in Egyptology
ANTH 4123 Ancient Middle East
ANTH 4533 Middle East Cultures
ANTH 4913 Topics in the Middle East
ANTH 4803 Historical Archaeology
ANTH 4256 Archeological Field Session
ANTH 4253 Peoples and Cultures of World Regions
ECON 4533 Comparative Economic Systems
GEOG 4033 Geography of the Middle East
GEOG 2103 Emerging Nations
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 Mongols and Mamluks 1250-1520
HIST 4393 The Ottoman Empire and Iran 1300-1700
HIST 4413 Women and Family in the Middle East Since 1800
HIST 4433 Social History of the Modern Middle East
HIST 4483 Diplomatic History of US 1890 to 1960
HUMN 4203 World Religions
MEST 4003 Middle East Studies Colloquium
MEST 4003H Honors Middle East Studies Colloquium
PLSC 3523 Politics of the Middle East
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 Poetry)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Modern Arabic Literature in Translation)
WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Women and Arabic Literature)

Requirements for a Minor in Middle East Studies:

Total Hours Required: (18 semester hours) Students must complete a minimum of 9 hours of MEST core courses, 3 hours in the MEST Colloquium (MEST4003), and 6 hours of Arabic beyond the 12-credit College language requirement.

Arabic Requirement: (6 hours of MEST credit) Students must complete 18 hours of Arabic, of which 6 must be beyond the 12 hours of foreign language required by the College. Courses completed in approved summer intensive Arabic programs or an approved study abroad program in an Arabic speaking country may substitute for all or part of this requirement.

Middle East Studies Colloquium: (3 hours) Students must complete at least 3 hours in the Middle East Studies Colloquium (MEST 4003). The Colloquium may be repeated with a change of subject for a maximum of six credits, with the three additional credits counted as non-departmental electives within the program.

Electives: (9 hours) Students must complete at least 9 hours in addition to the language requirement and the Colloquium from among the following or in individualized courses under faculty participating in the program. Students choosing to take individualized reading or directed research as a part of the minor must obtain the approval of the MEST director and their major advisor. In addition, the following distribution requirements apply:

1. Courses must be selected from at least two separate departments;
2. A maximum of 3 hours may be submitted from courses presented for the major.

Revision of MEST Scholarships and Scholarship Requirements

Beginning in academic year 2001-2002, the configuration of MEST undergraduate scholarships will be changed. These changes were instituted in order to limit the abuse of the scholarships that occurred in the past, and to ensure that only the highest quality students would receive these awards. While the original categories of full and partial scholarships were retained, the length of scholarship funding was restricted to four years and two years, respectively. Most MEST majors who qualify for a scholarship will now receive two-year scholarships, for which they would apply in their sophomore year. To qualify, students must have declared a MEST major before applying, and obtain letters of recommendation from at least two MEST core faculty members. These rules are designed to ensure that students who receive MEST scholarships are fully committed to the field of Middle East Studies. Four-year scholarships will be given to entering freshmen of superior quality. Such students must be of the caliber to compete for other major university-wide scholarships, such as the Sturgis Scholarship. Only two entering freshmen qualified for the four-year scholarship in academic year 2001-2002. In addition, scholarship recipients must be reviewed for continuation of their scholarships each year. The fact sheets given to applicants for the two-year and four-year MEST scholarships are reproduced below:

Four-Year Scholarship Information

1. The Four-Year Middle East Studies (MEST) Scholarship Award is for $11,600.00 (full scholarship) or $6,000 (partial scholarship) each year for four years.

2. Four-Year Scholarships will be given only to the best incoming freshmen with an interest in Middle East Studies. SAT or ACT scores, high school GPA, class rank, recommendations, and financial need will all be taken into consideration. Priority will be given to Arkansas residents first, then to students from elsewhere in the USA, and then to students from outside of the USA.

3. Out-of-state tuition will be waived for non-Arkansas students. In-state tuition and fees will be deducted from each $11,600.00 full scholarship. Tuition will not be deducted from the $6,000 partial scholarship and must be paid by the student. The remaining funds are to be used as student stipends.

4. Federal income taxes will be deducted from your stipend. Unless you have significant outside income, you can get most of these deductions back if you file your income taxes. The King Fahd Program will not provide extra funds to cover your tax bill.

5. Students may use their stipends to cover housing and other living or educational expenses in compliance with University regulations.

6. National Merit Scholarships and other partial corporate or state scholarships (except those awarded from state funds by units of the University of Arkansas) can stack on top of the MEST scholarship. Middle East Studies funds should be used only after other tuition scholarships and funds have been exhausted. Applicants who already have a full scholarship that provides both
College of Arts and Sciences before applying for this award. At present, the MEST major must be declared as part of a dual major with one of the following disciplines offered by Fulbright College: anthropology, history, geo-sciences, journalism, political science, foreign languages, economics, international relations, or other majors approved by the MEST Director.

4. Out-of-state tuition will be waived for non-Arkansas students. In-state tuition and fees will be deducted from each $12,000 full scholarship. In-state tuition will not be deducted from the $6,000 partial scholarship and must be paid by the student. The remaining funds are to be used as stipends to cover housing and other expenses in compliance with University regulations.

5. Federal income taxes may be deducted from your stipend. Unless you have significant outside income, you can get most of these deductions back if you file your income taxes. The King Fahd Program will not provide extra funds to cover your tax bill.

6. Other partial corporate or state scholarships (except those awarded from state funds by units of the University of Arkansas) will stack on top of the Two-Year MEST Scholarship. Middle East Studies funds should be used only after other tuition scholarships and funds have been exhausted. Applicants who already have a full scholarship that provides both tuition and stipend (such as the ROTC scholarship) are not eligible for the $11,600.00 full scholarship, but they may apply for the $6,000 partial scholarship.

7. Two-year Scholarship recipients must complete a MEST major in good standing and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 at the University of Arkansas to ensure continued support. If the GPA drops below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, the scholarship will be withdrawn. The scholarship will also be withdrawn if the student does not complete the MEST major.

8. Scholarship recipients must maintain full-time status at the University of Arkansas, according to the guidelines printed in the undergraduate catalog.

9. Scholarship recipients must consult with their MEST major advisor before registering for classes. Your MEST major advisor and the MEST Director must approve any changes in your class schedule.

10. Withdrawing from all of your courses in any semester will result in the immediate revocation of your scholarship. The only exception will be for cases of medical or personal leave approved in writing by the university. In cases of approved leave, the scholarship will be suspended while the student is out of school and will be resumed as soon as the student returns to class on a full-time basis.

11. Scholarship funds may be used for junior-year abroad study at a university in the Middle East or North Africa. The MEST Director and the Study Abroad Office must first approve the proposed program of study.

12. Scholarship funds may also be used for summer language-study programs in the Middle East, subject to the approval of the MEST Director and the Study Abroad Office.
tuition and stipend (such as the ROTC scholarship) are not eligible for the Four-Year MEST scholarship.

7. MEST Scholarship recipients must declare and complete a Middle East Studies Major in Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. At present, the MEST major must be declared as part of a dual major with one of the following disciplines offered by Fulbright College: anthropology, history, geo-sciences, journalism, political science, foreign languages, economics, international relations, or other majors approved by the MEST Director.

8. MEST Scholarship recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 at the University of Arkansas to ensure continued support. If the GPA drops below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, the scholarship will be revoked.

9. Scholarship recipients must maintain full-time status at the University of Arkansas, according to the guidelines printed in the undergraduate catalog.

10. Scholarship recipients must consult with their MEST major advisor before registering for classes. Your MEST major advisor and the MEST Director must approve any changes in your class schedule.

11. Withdrawing from all of your courses in any semester will result in the immediate revocation of your scholarship. The only exception will be for cases of medical or personal leave approved in writing by the university. In cases of approved leave, the scholarship will be suspended while the student is out of school and will be resumed as soon as the student returns to class on a full-time basis.

12. Scholarship funds may be used for summer-study and junior-year-abroad programs in the Middle East, subject to the approval of the MEST Director and the Study Abroad Office.

Two-Year Scholarship Information

1. The Two-Year Middle East Studies (MEST) Scholarship Award is for $11,600.00 (full scholarship) or $6,000 (partial scholarship) for the junior and senior years of study, starting in fall semester of the junior year.

2. The Two-Year MEST Scholarship is in recognition of academic merit and future potential in the fields of Middle East or Islamic Studies. It will be awarded only to declared MEST majors of superior ability at the University of Arkansas. SAT or ACT scores, GPA, class rank, and faculty recommendations will all be taken into consideration. Financial need will also be taken into consideration when determining full or partial scholarship awards. First consideration will be given to Arkansas residents and then to students from elsewhere in the USA or abroad, but only if they have superior academic records at the University of Arkansas. Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 will not be considered for the Scholarship.

3. Students should apply for the Two-Year MEST Scholarship in their sophomore year, when they declare their majors. Applicants must have declared a Middle East Studies Major in Fulbright
ATTACHMENT A

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP SUPPORT AY 2000-01

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<td>basri basri</td>
<td>hist</td>
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<tr>
<td>farid al salim</td>
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<tr>
<td>lahmuddin</td>
<td>hist</td>
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<tr>
<td>r bracy</td>
<td>hist</td>
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<tr>
<td>clea bunch</td>
<td>hist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valor pickett</td>
<td>hist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syndee moyers</td>
<td>plsc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jennifer bean</td>
<td>plsc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m daadaoui</td>
<td>plsc sprg-intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ghadir zannoun</td>
<td>engl translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rachel wiest</td>
<td>anth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dori gould</td>
<td>anth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# ATTACHMENT B

## MEST FUNDED MAJORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dept/Comments</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jay Borecky</td>
<td>hist/mest</td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Clark</td>
<td>ec/germ/hhrs/mest</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Hughes</td>
<td>hist/mest</td>
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<td>Justin Kelly</td>
<td>anth/mest/hhrs</td>
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<td>Reka Laszlo</td>
<td>ir/mest</td>
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<td>Justin Leflar</td>
<td>ir/mest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Manatt</td>
<td>jrlm/mest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meredith Mayes</td>
<td>ir/mest</td>
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<td>Carlton Saffa</td>
<td>plsc/mest</td>
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<td>Joseph Shaw</td>
<td>ir/mest/relst</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jennifer Zimpel</td>
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<td>Travis Holmes</td>
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<td>Abood Shebib</td>
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### Receiving 4 year Scholarships - NOT Majors or Minors in MEST

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad Arrabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naim El Far</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nadeem A Akbar</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firas Azrai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ala Hassan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibrahim Mubarak</td>
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### Receiving 2 year Scholarships - NOT Majors or Minors in MEST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shoreh Kooshesh</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toula Abuhamdan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muneeb Arrabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fayez El Far</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safiya Ghori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oussama Mubarak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristy Sorenson</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loubna Moubtassim(special spring only)</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
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</table>

## MINORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>DEPTS</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Longstreth</td>
<td>cmse/muminor/gradg</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Pockrus</td>
<td>mibio/willchmajors</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>