ANNUAL REPORT
KING FAHD CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES
Academic Year 2001 – 2002

Introduction
As stated in the annual report for the 2000-2001 academic year, structural changes
instituted with the creation of the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies
in 2001 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.” From the perspective of University of Arkansas planning for
2010, the changes instituted with the creation of the King Fahd Center confirmed the role
of MEST as a key partner in the task of creating a “nationally competitive, student-
centered research university serving Arkansas and the world.” This role is formally
expressed in the mission statement of the King Fahd Center, which first appeared on the
program of the international conference, “Convivencia and Lost Paradises: Visions of al-
Andalus in Spanish-Language and Islamic Literatures,” held on May 24-26, 2002 at Al-
Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco:

1. Mission Statement. The King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies is
an informational resource on the Middle East and Islamic world for the state of
Arkansas and the University of Arkansas community. The center cooperates
closely with the programs of Religious Studies, Humanities, and International
Relations in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. It administers an
interdisciplinary major in Middle East Studies and supports graduate studies on
the Middle East and Islamic world in History, Anthropology, Political Science,
Geosciences, and Comparative Literature. The core faculty of the King Fahd
Center comprises seventeen specialists on the Middle East and Islamic world
across a variety of academic disciplines. Institutional associates of the center
include the Aga Khan Humanities Project in Central Asia (AKHUM) and the
Jerusalem-based Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions. The
center currently maintains institutional partnerships with universities in Morocco,
Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Russia. As an academic resource center on the
Middle East and Islamic world, the King Fahd Center is dedicated to fulfilling the
mission of the University of Arkansas: “To develop a nationally competitive,
student-centered research university serving Arkansas and the world.”

2. Budget. Last year’s annual report signaled an upcoming budget problem created
by a steady drop in the King Fahd Endowment balance due to a decline in the
U.S. stock market. In fiscal year 2001-2002, the endowment balance dropped
even further than expected, from approximately $25 million last year to $23.5
million today. In addition, the University of Arkansas Foundation reduced the
percentage of endowment taken as income from 5% to 4.9%. Next year, this
percentage will be reduced to 4.75%. The combination of a lowered endowment balance, the reduced percentage taken as income, and continued commitments to supporting faculty salaries and fringe benefits— not to mention support for undergraduate scholarships and graduate assistantships, faculty development accounts, and the purchase of needed books for the library— has led to a fiscal crisis for academic year 2002-2003. The projected difference between income and committed expenditures for 2002-2003 is only $12,000, an amount far too little to run an adequate academic program as envisioned in the proposal that led to the creation of the King Fahd Center. By cutting expenditures for library book purchases, visiting speakers, workshops, and conferences, the discretionary income available for academic purposes next year can be increased to about $50,000. This represents the minimum required to support a reduced schedule of visiting lecturers, a high school Model Arab League, enhancement programs such as the Arabic Speech Contest, and perhaps one international conference. The center is currently looking for outside sources of funding to help support the planned international conference in Tunisia on “Spaces and Memories in the Mediterranean,” which is supposed to be held in May or June of 2003. In September, the MEST Grants and Proposals Committee will look into new opportunities for US government funding to support specific projects.

The budget crisis of fiscal year 2002-2003 has focused attention on the fact that MEST cannot support faculty salaries and fringe benefits at the present rate and still expect to fulfill its educational and intellectual mission for the university. At the present zero-sum rate of return, even such ordinary changes as the promotion of faculty from assistant professor to associate or full professor would seriously impact program budgets. For this reason, it is imperative that the university and Fulbright College implement the following measure as soon as possible:

a. Increase the departmental share of MEST faculty salaries from $35,000 to $40,000. This would provide at least $40,000 more for the MEST budget, which would offset the projected $30,000 loss in 2003-2004 caused by the reduction of the endowment percentage used for income from 4.9% to 4.75%. The present $35,000 departmental share of MEST faculty salaries was based on the average salary offered to a newly hired assistant professor at the University of Arkansas in the mid-1990s. Since this figure now amounts to approximately $40,000, the departmental share of MEST faculty salaries should be adjusted accordingly and revised periodically as average salaries increase.

Formerly excessive outlays in undergraduate support were reduced considerably in 2001-2002 by raising the academic requirements for undergraduate scholarships and by holding scholarship recipients to strict rules and procedures. These changes were outlined in last year’s annual report. Similar changes will be instituted with regard to graduate assistantships in the 2002-2003 academic year. However, it was also felt last year that because of the looming budget crisis, it was important to demonstrate in 2001-2002 the extent to which the King Fahd
Center could contribute to the academic enrichment and international stature of the University of Arkansas if given the ability to use its income in the most productive ways. The rich variety of activities and programs undertaken in 2001-2002 cannot be duplicated next year because of the current budget crisis. But it should not be forgotten that last year the University of Arkansas was able to make a significant impact on the field of Middle East Studies that was felt throughout the United States and the world at large. A program that was once ostracized by the Middle East Studies Association is now the envy of Middle East programs throughout the country. This positive momentum in the service of the University of Arkansas’ mission and reputation should not be allowed to falter.

3. **Highlights.** In academic year 2001-2002 the King Fahd Center established the University of Arkansas as a major presence in the field of Middle East Studies. The reputations of both the center and the university were enhanced by the increased academic standing of the MEST program and its students, the success of MEST faculty in obtaining major grants and awards, the signing of international agreements of cooperation with Tunisian universities, the signing of agreements of cooperation with St. Petersburg State University in Russia, and by solidifying ongoing relationships with the Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions in Jerusalem and with the Ministry of Higher Education in Morocco. During the past academic year, the center sponsored a major international conference in Morocco and international workshops in Fayetteville and St. Petersburg, Russia. The King Fahd Center was also one of the most active centers in the United States in responding to the crisis of 9-11 and the subsequent war on terrorism (see below under Outreach). Although last year’s attempt to hire an Outreach Director ultimately proved unsuccessful because the candidate chosen for the position accepted the directorship of a new center for international studies at Davidson College in North Carolina, the administration of the center was greatly enhanced by the appointment of Associate Professor of History Joel Gordon as Associate Director of the King Fahd Center. Dr. Gordon, a specialist in the modern history of Egypt, is an internationally known scholar who will be instrumental in establishing formal partnerships between the King Fahd Center and the University of Arkansas and Egyptian universities.

1. **Student Affairs**

**Undergraduates.** The King Fahd Middle East Studies Program (MEST) presently supports 25 undergraduate students on full or partial MEST scholarships totaling $175,400. This represents a savings of approximately $53,000 compared with last year. These savings were achieved by making the requirements for winning and retaining a MEST scholarship more rigorous and by granting fewer full scholarships and more partial scholarships to deserving students. The program also supports 36 MEST double-majors and 6 MEST minors. The average GPA of MEST majors and minors is 3.4, one of the highest average GPAs of any program in the university. Only 3 scholarship recipients currently remain as non-major students. Since non-MEST-majors are no longer eligible for MEST scholarships, these 3 scholarship lines will be phased out upon the graduation of their recipients. Ten MEST majors and minors graduated this spring.
Majors Safiya Ghuri (George Washington University) and Reka Laszlo (American University) were accepted at major law schools in the Washington D.C. area. Other students went on to careers in fields such as computer science or made plans to attend graduate school at the University of Arkansas or elsewhere.

At a current funding level of $11,600 for the full scholarship and $6,000 for the partial scholarship, MEST scholarships are among the most generous scholarships available at the University of Arkansas. They are also among the most prestigious. Scholarships are only given to students of the highest academic ability who major in Middle East Studies. Two-year full scholarship recipients must maintain a university GPA of above 3.5 to qualify. Recipients of this scholarship typically maintain a GPA of approximately 3.8 throughout their final two years at the university. Four-year full scholarship recipients are the cream of the crop of graduating high school seniors from Arkansas who are committed to the study of the Middle East. Typically, no more than two of these scholarships are granted each year. Unfortunately, MEST scholarships have not been adequately publicized by Fulbright College or by the university as a whole. This situation must be rectified so that more students are aware of MEST scholarship opportunities and so that the contribution of MEST students to the overall quality of the University of Arkansas is fully appreciated.

**Graduate Students.** The King Fahd Center currently funds 22 graduate assistantships totaling $280,016. Approximately $60,000 of this amount consists of assistantships for graduate students in the Arabic Translation MFA program, which is supported by a separate endowment. When this figure is taken into account the net total represents a savings of approximately $13,000 when compared with last year. It is expected that these savings will increase after new rules for graduate assistantships are put into place in the 2002-2003 academic year. Henceforth, MEST funding policy will follow the guidelines set by the Graduate School, which allows a maximum of four semesters of funding for students on the MA track and eight semesters of funding for students on the Ph.D. track. As with undergraduate scholarships, requirements for obtaining and retaining assistantships will be made more rigorous and advising procedures will be instituted to make sure that graduate students funded by MEST complete their programs in the time allotted.

MEST graduate students completing their MAs last year were very successful in obtaining appointments to Ph.D. programs in major or prestigious universities. One half of the eight graduating MA students received such appointments: Will Taggert (ANTH) was accepted with funding into the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Robert Moore (HIST) was accepted with funding into the Ph.D. Religion Program at Emory University; Mohammed Daadaoui (PLSC), was accepted with funding into the Middle East Studies Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma; Nidal Daraiseh (ENGL) was accepted with funding into the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program at the University of Texas. In addition to the above students, current Ph.D. student Michael Bracy (HIST) was granted a $25,000 Fulbright-Hayes fellowship for dissertation research in Lebanon.

**Study Abroad.** In the summer of 2002 King Fahd Center scholarships supported 10 University of Arkansas students who enrolled in the intensive, eight-week Arabic summer program at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. The cost to the center
for this support was approximately $50,000. Starting in summer 2003, Arabic study abroad will only be supported for students of superior ability who have completed at least four semesters of Arabic (two years) at the University of Arkansas. In addition, UA students will have the choice of attending the eight-week Arabic program at Al-Akhwayn University or the four-week intensive Arabic program at Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes in Tunis, Tunisia. The King Fahd Center also supported five University of Arkansas students who participated in the summer 2002 Bioarchaeology Field School directed by Prof. Jerome Rose (ANTH) in Irbid, Jordan. The Field School is jointly sponsored by the University of Arkansas and Yarmouk University in Jordan. The cost to the center for this support was approximately $20,000. During their time in Jordan the students excavated a major archaeological site with continuous occupation from the Bronze Age to Islamic times. The summer Arabic programs and Jordan Field School are two of the most important long-term commitments maintained by the King Fahd Center as part of its educational mission.

2. The MEST Core Faculty

The core faculty of the King Fahd Program will be increased by two members in academic year 2002-2003. One faculty member in Political Science was dropped because of the termination of her service at the university. The names of faculty added to the program in 2002-2003 are underlined:

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

2. 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

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

4. Vincent J. Cornell (Professor of History and Director of the King Fahd Center) 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. JoAnn D’Alisera (Assistant Professor of Anthropology) Islam in Africa, Anthropology of Religion, Muslim transnational communities

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

7. Najib Ghadbian (Assistant Professor of Political Science) Politics of the Arab world, Islamic movements, international politics of the Arabian Gulf
8. Joel Gordon (Associate Professor of History and Associate Director of the King Fahd Center) Modern Middle East, Egypt in the Nasser era, popular culture, Middle East media studies

9. Hugh T. Halman (Research Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Islam) Religious Studies, Islam, Comparative Religions, Asian Religions

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

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

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

13. Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) Director of the Middle East Public Administration graduate program

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

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

16. William F. Tucker (Associate Professor of History) Medieval Middle Eastern history, Shiite Islam, ecological and environmental history of the Islamic world, socioeconomic history of the pre-modern Mediterranean

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

In academic year 2002-2003, Professor Mohamed Bounajma of Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, will hold a visiting appointment in the King Fahd Center. He will assist the Arabic program by teaching courses in Elementary and Intermediate Arabic. He will also assist Prof. Rkia E. Cornell and Prof. Bill Brescia of CEHP in applying for a National Defense Education grant to create modules for Advanced Professional Arabic. Dr. Bounajma is supported by the King Fahd Center as part of its ongoing partnership with Al-Akhawayn University.

In 2002-2003, Professor Saida Benani of Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco, will complete her research project on “Communicating Islam in America.” She is supported by MEST as part of the agreement between the University of Arkansas and the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education.
Faculty Grants and Major Publications

1. **Prof. Jerome Rose** (ANTH) received a $267,646 National Science Foundation grant to excavate and analyze remains in Hierakonpolis, 650 miles south of Cairo in Egypt. This birthplace of the ancient Egyptian state contains the earliest Egyptian mummies, Egypt's first temples, and its first industrial breweries. This was the largest award the NSF made in the Anthropology division.

2. **Prof. Vincent J. Cornell** (HIST) Director of the King Fahd Center, and Prof. Donald Kelley (PLSC), Director of the Fulbright Institute for International Relations, received a US Department of Education grant of $60,000 for the project, "St. Petersburg, A Window on the Russia(s)." This grant will fund a month-long workshop of faculty from the University of Arkansas, Bard College, and St. Petersburg State University to be held in summer 2003. This workshop will design a summer academic program in St. Petersburg that will be offered in 2004 by the University of Arkansas and advertised to students throughout the United States.

3. **Prof. JoAnn D’Alisera** (ANTH) received a $40,000 Rockefeller Residential Fellowship at the Center for Ethnicities, Communities and Social Policy, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. She also received a $14,748 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to support the study, "Religious Identity in Conflict: The Sierra Leonean Muslim Community Since 9/11." This is part of a new initiative that will support ethnographic research projects dealing with Muslim Americans and immigrants from Muslim Countries.


5. **Prof. Mounir Farah** (CEHP) published the textbook *World History: The Human Experience* (Washington, D.C.: The National Geographic Society, 2001). This is a tenth edition revision of a previously published work.

Other MEST faculty members published or had accepted for publication articles in leading journals in Middle East Studies or their respective disciplines. They also 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. Two core faculty members had books accepted for publication in spring 2002. These works will be mentioned in the annual report as soon as they are published.

**Faculty Development Support**

MEST continues to support faculty development. 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 are assigned to serve on the following committees in academic year 2002-2003:

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

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

5. Arabic: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Gordon, Haydar, Raymond Eichman (Chair of Foreign Languages), Associate Dean 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, Kelley O’Callaghan (part-time Program Assistant).

Faculty Advising

MEST faculty members are 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. Tracking sheets are now available to help keep the MEST office informed of advising decisions.

3. Visiting Speakers and Special Events

1. September 17, 2001—Dr. Martin Stokes, Associate Professor of Music, University of Chicago, “Turkey’s Tearful Public Sphere: Musical Notes on Zeki Muren.”


4. October 16, 2001 — Concert of Ottoman Turkish Music performed by the Osman Aksu Ensemble, co-sponsored by the King Fahd Center and the Department of Music.

5. November 2, 2001 — Dr. Firuz I. Abdullaeva, Associate Professor of Persian Literature, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia, “Love Lyrics from the Ayatollah: The Mystical Side of Imam Khomeini.”

6. November 11-12, 2001 — Town Meetings on Religion and Violence (see below).

7. November 30, 2001 — Dr. Talat Sait Halman, Professor and Chair, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, “On Wings of Ecstasy: Rumi and the Whirling Ritual.”


9. March 5-6, 2002 — Dr. Jamil Chaker, Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education of Tunisia and former Chair of the Department of French, Université de Tunis I, Tunis, Tunisia, “Introduction à la Renaissance Française: L’Exemple de François Rabelais,” and “La Condition Féminine en Tunisie.”


11. April 3-6, 2002 — University of Arkansas delegation to the national University Model Arab League, Washington, D.C. The delegation, headed by Dr. Najib Ghadbian, consisted of nine students, who represented the Islamic Republic of Mauretania. Students Ray Fulmer and Rom Hashmi received Honorable Mention Awards. The King Fahd Center sponsored the delegation for the second year in a row.

12. April 10, 2002 — Dr. Quintan Wiktorowicz, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Rhodes College, Memphis Tennessee, “NGOs, Collective Action, and the State in Islamic Countries.”

13. April 19, 2002 — Arabic Speech Contest (see below).

14. April 25, 2002 — Concert of Modern Arabic Music by the Marcel Khalife Ensemble, co-sponsored by the King Fahd Center and the Department of Music.

15. April 26, 2002 — Dr. John Iskander, Associate Professor of History, Georgia State University, “Shaykha on Trial: Sanctity, Heresy, and the Role of Islam in Egypt.”


18. May 24-26, 2002—International Conference, “Convivencia and Lost Paradises” (see below).


**Town Meetings on Religion and Violence After 9-11, November 11-12, 2001**

“Religion and Violence: Town meetings to offer a campus and community forum for discussing religion, violence, and suffering were held on November 11-12, 2001. The session on “Religion and Suffering,” was held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, on November 11. The session on “Religion and Violence,” was held at Giffels Auditorium on November 12.

Participants:

1. Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Director of the Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions, Jerusalem, Israel.
2. Dr. Michael Sells, Emily Baugh and John Gest Professor of Comparative Religions, Haverford College, Pennsylvania.
3. Dr. Sulayman Nyang, Professor of African Studies, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
4. Dr. Tobias Winright, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Simpson College, Kansas.
5. Shabbir Mansuri, Director of the Council on Islamic Education, Fountain Valley, California.

Moderator: Dr. Vincent J. Cornell, Director of the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas.

**First Annual University of Arkansas Arabic Speech Contest, April 19, 2002**

The Arabic speech contest, organized by Prof. Rkia E. Cornell with the assistance of Kelley O’Callaghan, was held at the Leflar Law Center in conjunction with a Japanese speech contest held in another room at the same time. Monetary prizes were given for the best presentations. In 2003 the speech contest will be held in conjunction with a workshop to be given by Dr. Mahmoud al-Batal and Dr. Kristen Brustad of Emory University, authors of the most widely used Arabic textbook in the United States.

**International Seminar, “Religion and Human Potential,” May 13-14, 2002**

Location: Mt. Sequoyah Assembly, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
Sponsors: King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions, Jerusalem, and the Abraham Fund, Jerusalem.

This seminar, which was originally to be held in Jerusalem, was moved to Fayetteville for security reasons. The seminar was held in preparation for an international conference of world religious leaders to be held in Europe in late spring, 2003. The King Fahd Center and the Elijah School, along with the Faculty of Religious Studies of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, are joint organizers of the 2003 conference. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation will sponsor the 2003 conference.

Participants:

1. Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Director, Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions, Jerusalem.
2. Dr. Vincent J. Cornell, Director, King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies.
3. Dr. Ashok Vohra, Professor of Indian Philosophy, Delhi University, New Delhi, India.
5. Dr. Richard Hayes, Professor of Buddhism, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
6. Dr. Barry Levy, Dean of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

“Religion and Human Potential” Seminar Program

Monday, May 13

9:00 Opening Ceremony
Greetings:
Vincent Cornell
Dr. Robert Smith, Provost of the University of Arkansas
Alon Goshen-Gottstein
Reading of Messages from Religious Leaders

9:30-10:45 Bishop Prof. Stephen Sykes: “A Christian View of Human Flourishing”

10:45-11:45 Coffee and First Walk

11:45-13:00 Prof. Vincent Cornell: “Islamic Humanism and the Actualization of Human Potential”

13:00 -14:30 Lunch and Rest

14:30-15:45 Prof. Richard Hayes: “Buddhist Pluralism and the Actualization of Human Potential - Hopes and Hindrances”

15:45-16:45 Coffee and Walk 2

16:45-18:15 Workshop 1 - How Would We Envision An Interfaith Academy?

18:15 -19:00 Dinner
19:00-20:00 Group Sunset Walk (walks 3 and 4)
20:00-21:45 Workshop 2 - How Would we envision a Meeting of World Religious Leaders?

Tuesday, May 14
9:00-9:10 Meditation
9:10-10:30 Alon Goshen-Gottstein: “Resources for a Contemporary Jewish Understanding of Human Potential - The Vision of Israel and the Vision of Humanity”
10:30-11:30 Coffee Break and walk 5
11:30 -12:45 Prof. Ashok Vohra: “Person and Polity in Hinduism, Its Relevance for our Times”
12:45-14:00 Lunch and Rest
14:00-16:00 Workshop 3 - Planning for Future Work
16:00-16:30 Break
16:30 - 17:30 Summary Statement - Accomplishments of our workshop
17:45 - 18:30 Press Conference


Co-Sponsors: King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas, USA; Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco; Center for the Study of al-Andalus and Dialogue Between Civilizations, Rabat, Morocco. The King Fahd Center was the primary sponsor of this event.

Location: Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco.

The University of Arkansas Press will publish the conference proceedings. Prof. Vincent J. Cornell and Prof. Kay Pritchett will co-edit the volume. The Center for the Study of al-Andalus and Dialogue Between Civilizations has promised to publish Arabic and Spanish translations of the conference proceedings.

Conference Coordinators:

(University of Arkansas) Dr. Vincent J. Cornell, Professor of History and Director, King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, and Dr. James F. Horton, Associate Professor of Spanish, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Arkansas
Driss Ouazouicha, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco

Conference Program

Friday, May 24, 2002

Opening Session (1400 hrs. to 1800 hrs.)

Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Rachid Ben Mokhtar Ben Abdallah, President of Al-Akhawayn University

Dr. John G. Hehr, Associate Dean, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas

Keynote Address
Juan Goytisolo: “Americo Castro and the Novels of Spain.”

Born in Barcelona in 1931, Juan Goytisolo is one of Spain’s greatest living writers. Because he was a bitter opponent of the Franco regime, his early novels were banned in Spain. In 1956 he moved to Paris. He now divides his time between Morocco and France. A major theme of Goytisolo’s writing is the celebration of Arab culture. This is especially true of his great trilogy: Marks of Identity, Count Julian, and Juan the Landless. He is the recipient of the 2002 Octavio Paz Award, Mexico’s most prestigious prize for literature.

Panel: “Confronting Convivencia: Vision or Mirage?”


Vincent J. Cornell, Director, King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas: “Recalling Al-Andalus: Which Convivencia, Whose Paradise?”

Bensalem Himich, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco: “Sur quelques Figures des Paradigmes andalous.”

Saturday, May 25, 2002

Morning Session (0900 hrs. to 1200 hrs.)

Panel: “Al-Andalus in the Postcolonial Gaze”

Mohammed Miftah, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco: “Isomorphism and its Cultural Implications” (al-Tashakkul wa ab’adhu fi l-thaqafa al-Andalusyya).
Rukhsana Qamber, Quaid-i Azam Chair of Pakistani Studies, University of Barcelona: “Al-Andalus in South Asian Imagination and South American Reality.”

Maria Reina Ruiz, University of Arkansas: “Bajarse al Moro: Lost Paradises or Encountered Hells?”

Luis Fernando Restrepo, University of Arkansas: “Writing Insurgency: The 1568 Alpujarra Rebellion and Colonial Spanish America.”

Afternoon Session (1400 hrs. to 1800 hrs.)

Panel: “Visions of al-Andalus in Spanish-Language Prose”

Oumama Aouad Lahrache, Chair, Department of Spanish, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco: “Jorge Luis Borges y El Andalus.”


Jason Summers, University of Arkansas: “Al-Andalus as Cultural Mirror of Modern Spain: Reflection and Criticism in Goytisolo and Gala.”

Sunday, May 26, 2002

Morning Session (0900 hrs. to 1200 hrs.)

Panel: “Conquests, Reconquests, and Transmutations”

Yeon-Soo Kim, Rutgers University: “Authoritative Translation and Sexuality: Ibn Hazm from Arab to Spaniard.”

Kay Pritchett, University of Arkansas: “Al-Andalus' and 'Middle East': Ethnic Alterity in Works by Two Women Writers of the Transition.”

Ana Benito, University of Arkansas: “Elements of Reconquest: Muslim and Jewish Mothers in Cantigas de Santa Maria of Alfonso X.”

University of Arkansas/St. Petersburg State University Workshop on the Current Field of Middle East Studies, June 26-27, 2002

St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg State University.

Workshop Program
“Universities of Arkansas and St. Petersburg: MEST/Oriental Studies Summer Workshop: Middle East Studies in Russia and USA” (June 26-27, 2002)

June 26 (1000-1200)

Chair: Dean Professor Ivan M. Steblin-Kamenski

2. Dr. Vincent J. Cornell, Director, King Fahd Center, University of Arkansas, “Islamic Studies in the Twenty-First Century (Historiography).”
3. Dr. Vladimir N. Blodin, Vice-Dean, “Culture and Literature of the Arab East: Source Studies.”
4. Research Assoc. Prof. Rkia E. Cornell, Foreign Languages, University of Arkansas: “Competing Approaches to Teaching Arabic: How Do We Define Proficiency?”
5. Dr. Sergey E. Grigoriev, “History, Religion, Culture in Afghanistan; Russian Policy in Central Asia.”

June 26 (1300-1500)

Chair: Associate Professor Sergey E. Grigoriev

1. Dr. Oleg I. Redkin, Head of the Department of Arabic Philology, “Ethnolinguistics, Dialects, and Cultural Studies of the Arab East.”
3. Dr. Sergey M. Ivanov, “Political and Economic History of Turkey; Russia and Turkey.”
4. Dr. JoAnn D’Alisera, Anthropology, University of Arkansas, “Islamic Diaspora Studies.”
5. Post-Grad. Arsen K. Shaginyan, “Caucasian Studies at the University of St. Petersburg.”

June 27 (100-1200)

Chair: Prof. Nikolay N. Dyakov, Dept. Chair of Middle East History

1. Prof. Nikolay N. Dyakov, Head of the Department of Middle East History, “Middle East History; Religion and Culture in the Maghrib.”
2. Dr. Joel Gordon, History, University of Arkansas, “Approaches to Modern Middle East History.”
3. Prof. Evgeniy I. Zelenev, “Public and Political Thought in the Arab East.”

June 27 (1300-1500)

Chair: Dr. Nikolay S. Gorelov

1. Dr. Galina Z. Poumpyan, Head of the Department of Asian and Africa, Russian Academy of Sciences Library, “Arabic Sources on Palestine and the Middle East in the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences.”
2. Dr. Lynda Coon, History, University of Arkansas, “Middle East: Late Antiquity and the Humanities Curriculum.”
4. Dr. Nikolay S. Gorelov, Dept. of Asia and Africa, Russian Academy of Sciences Library, “Medieval European Sources on the Arab East.”
5. Post-Grad. Gumer Isaev, “Geopolitics of the Middle East.”
6. Dr. Mohja Kahf, English and Comparative Literature, University of Arkansas, “Middle Eastern Women’s Literature.”
7. Dr. Najib Ghadbian, Political Science, University of Arkansas, “Political Science in the Middle East.”

4. Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. In fall 2001 the King Fahd Center advertised a call for submissions for the Arkansas Translation Award in Modern Arabic Literature. The ad, which appeared in bulletins, conference programs, and on websites for major Middle East Studies, foreign language, and professional associations, resulted in 23 submissions. Submitted texts included poetry and prose, fiction and non-fiction by literary figures from throughout the Arab world. A committee of three judges was selected for the award:

Dr. Miriam Cooke, Professor of Arabic Literature, Duke University
Dr. Marilyn Booth, Adjunct Professor of Arabic Literature, University of Illinois
Dr. Farouq Mustafa, Professor of Arabic, University of Chicago

The members of the award committee are currently evaluating the submitted texts. The winner of the award will be announced in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington D.C. in November, 2002. Prof. Joel Gordon, Associate Director of the King Fahd Center, has done an excellent job administering the award and presiding over the selection process.

5. King Fahd Center/Arabic Program Newsletter. The first issue of the King Fahd Center/Arabic Program Newsletter appeared in winter 2002. Called Ilham (Inspiration), the newsletter was conceived by Prof. Rkia E. Cornell on the basis of a newsletter she produced at Duke University. Each issue of the newsletter will contain center news, student news, highlights of faculty publications and research, practice texts in Arabic, and
articles of topical interest written by MEST majors and graduate students. Newsletter issues also contain a calendar of events. Layout, design, and printing of the newsletter is done through the King Fahd Center under the direction of Prof. Rkia Cornell and Kelley O’Callaghan. The spring-summer 2002 issue of the newsletter is due to be published at the beginning of the 2002-2003 academic year.

6. Preparation of a Needs-Assessment for the Azrou Outreach Center, Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco. April 8-26, 2002. The King Fahd Center sponsored an extended visit to Morocco by Dr. Barbara E. Hinton, Professor of Education and Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, CEHP, and Dr. Catherine Brooks, Assistant Professor of Education, CEHP. Professors Hinton and Brooks prepared a needs-assessment for the Azrou Women’s Outreach Center, created by Al-Akhawayn University and sponsored in 2000-2001 by a grant from Saudi Arabia and a $12,000 donation by the former King Fahd Middle East Studies Program of the University of Arkansas. A copy of the needs assessment is on file in the King Fahd Center office in 202 Main.

7. Program Development Trips

The King Fahd Center director, MEST and other university faculty, and university administrators made two development trips in the 2001-2002 academic year. These trips were for the purpose of signing agreements with universities in Tunisia and the Russian Federation. The trip to Morocco for the conference, “Convivencia and Lost Paradises,” was extended so that meetings could be held with officials of the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education.

1. Tunisia, March 30-April 6, 2002. The University of Arkansas delegation to Tunisia was headed by Bob Smith, University Provost. Other members included Randall Woods, Dean of Fulbright College, Charles Adams, Associate Dean of Fulbright College, Vincent J. Cornell, King Fahd Center Director, Donald Kelley, Director of the Fulbright Institute of International Relations, Dede Long, Director of Study-Abroad and International Programs, Raymond Eichman, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, Robert Cochran, Director of American Studies, and MEST faculty members Thomas Paradise and Rkia E. Cornell. During their stay in Tunisia, the delegation signed memoranda of cooperation with four Tunisian universities and one institute: Université 7 Novembre at Carthage, Université de Tunis I, Université de Tunis El Manar, L’Université du Centre at Sousse, and L’Institut Bourguiba de Langues Vivantes in Tunis. The delegation also met with the Minister of Higher Education, and the Directors General of the Ministry of Higher Education. During academic year 2002-2003 the King Fahd Center and Fulbright College plan to work closely with our Tunisian partner universities and the Ministry of Higher Education in applying for grants to fund cooperative projects between Tunisian universities and the University of Arkansas. In the summer of 2003 the King Fahd Center and the newly formed Institute for the Comparative Study of the Mediterranean and Atlantic Worlds plan to co-sponsor the international conference, “Spaces and Memories in the Mediterranean.” This conference will be held in Tunis. The
King Fahd Center also plans to sponsor the first group of Arabic students from the University of Arkansas to study High Intermediate and Advanced Arabic at the Institut Bourguiba in summer 2003.

2. **Morocco, May 20-June 10, 2002.** The highlight of this trip was the international conference, "Convivencia and Lost Paradises: Visions of al-Andalus in Spanish-Language and Islamic Literatures," held at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane (see above). After the conference, the participants were taken on a weeklong tour of Andalusian cities in Morocco, including Salé, Tangier, Tetouan, Chaouen, and Fes. After the departure of the conference participants, KFC faculty members Thomas Paradise and Rkia E. Cornell traveled to Casablanca, where they met the ten Arkansas students who received MEST scholarships to study Intermediate and Advanced Arabic in the Al-Akhawayn University summer Arabic program. After the students were settled in at Al-Akhawayn, they traveled to Rabat where they met center director Vincent Cornell. The two professors Cornell and Paradise attended a planning meeting with officials of the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education, headed by Dr. Said Belcadi, Counselor to the Minister. During this meeting, a number of initiatives were discussed, including an English translation of an Arabic-French diplomatic dictionary recently published by the Ministry. The English-Arabic edition of the dictionary will be compiled by Professor Rkia Cornell, with the assistance of specialists in International Law. The original Moroccan author of the work has already consented to cooperate with the project. Professor Paradise also met in Rabat with officials of the Ministry of Culture and seismologists at Université Mohammed V in Rabat. During these meetings, he was assured of Moroccan government cooperation in a possible University of Arkansas archeological expedition to Lixus, a site on the Atlantic coast of Morocco that was founded by the Phoenicians around 1500 BCE and occupied until the ninth century CE. This site is a large classical urban center that has not been studied since 1950. Earlier, Prof. Paradise supervised Geosciences Ph.D. student Mick Frus, who conducted a two-week survey on earthquake preparedness in the southern Moroccan city of Agadir. This project, which succeeded in collecting 250 interviews, was funded by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

3. **St. Petersburg, Russia, June 19-30, 2002.** The first part of the trip to Russia, from June 19-26, was for the purpose of signing agreements between the University of Arkansas and St. Petersburg State University. The delegation was headed by Randall Woods, Dean of Fulbright College, and consisted of Robert Moberly, Dean of the Law School, Charles H. Adams, Associate Dean of Fulbright College, Vincent J. Cornell, Director of the King Fahd Center, Donald Kelley, Director of the Fulbright Institute, and MEST faculty member Rkia E. Cornell. Agreements were signed between UA and St. Petersburg State University as a whole, between UA and Smolny College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and between the King Fahd Center and the Faculty of Oriental Studies at SPSU. On June 26-27 the Faculty of Oriental Studies hosted the workshop, "Middle East Studies in Russia and USA." MEST participants in this workshop included: Vincent J. Cornell (HIST), Rkia E. Cornell (FLAN), Joel Gordon (HIST), JoAnn D'Alisera (ANTH), Hugh Halman (MEST), Lynda Coon (HIST), ...
Mohja Kahf (ENG), and Najib Ghadbian (PLSC). In summer 2003, Profs. Vincent Cornell and Don Kelley will head a delegation of University of Arkansas faculty who will participate with SPSU and Bard College faculty in a month-long workshop in preparation for the “St. Petersburg: Window on the Russia(s)” summer program to be held in 2004. In addition, Prof. Tom Senor, Chair of the department of Philosophy, is applying for a Fulbright grant to teach analytical philosophy at Smolny College during academic year 2003-2004.

8. King Fahd Center Institutional Memberships
American Institute of Maghrib Studies
American Research Center in Egypt
Middle East Institute
Middle East Outreach Council
Middle East Studies Association
Muslim Networks Consortium
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar

9. Outreach. In 2001-2002, the MEST Outreach Committee decided to abandon the previous commitment to Elder Hostels and a University of Arkansas-based university Model Arab League in favor of sending a select group of students to the National Model Arab League in Washington D.C. and resurrecting the High School Model Arab League, which is to be held at the University of Arkansas in spring 2003. Much of the year was devoted to the search for a new Outreach Director, which ultimately proved unsuccessful, as described in the Highlights section above. In academic year 2002-2003 there will be no further attempt to hire an Outreach Director, because the current drop in the King Fahd Endowment has temporarily eliminated the funds for such a position. In addition, the success of outreach without a director following the tragic events of 9-11 has called into question the need for such a position. In 2001-2002 many outreach activities were undertaken by MEST faculty on their own, or in conjunction with the MEST Outreach Committee.

Several faculty members were particularly active after 9-11. Center director Vincent J. Cornell and faculty members Joel Gordon, Najib Ghadbian, Tom Paradise, Ted Swedenburg, Rkia Cornell, and Hugh Halman appeared on television or were quoted in media interviews and participated in current events workshops and interfaith dialogues throughout Northwest Arkansas. Center director Cornell published two articles in campus publications related to the events of 9-11 and the role of the King Fahd Center in its aftermath: “Answering the Hard Questions: Why We Have a Middle East Center,” Fulbright Review (9) 1, fall 2001; “The King Fahd Center: Setting the Record Straight,”
All Things Academic (3) 1, 2002. Center faculty also participated in the panel discussion, “The Current International Crisis,” held on September 19, 2001 (see above). On January 17-18, 2002, Prof. Cornell was one of only three American participants in the seminar, “Building Bridges: Overcoming Obstacles in Christian-Muslim Relations,” organized by The Most Reverend and Right Honorable Dr. George Cary, Archbishop of Canterbury and co-hosted by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, at Lambeth Palace, London, U.K. Cornell has been selected to attend the follow-up meeting of this seminar, to be held in Qatar in March 2003. The King Fahd Center also sponsored two town meetings on religion and violence (detailed above) in which participants from the UA and Fayetteville communities interacted with eminent scholars in the field of Religious Studies. In addition, Prof. Cornell participated in an interfaith workshop of Jewish and Muslim educators in Israel, a conference on religion and territoriality in Jerusalem, and a lecture series on Islam conducted by author Karen Armstrong at the Chautauqua Institution.

Under the leadership of Prof. Najib Ghadbian, selected MEST majors made a strong showing at the National Model Arab League meeting in Washington, D.C., where the Arkansas delegation represented the country of Mauretania (see above).

10. Library Development

In 2001-2002, the King Fahd Center maintained the previous, expanded budget of $50,000 given to Mullins Library for the purchase of books and periodicals in Middle East and Islamic Studies. This fund was supplemented by the one-time purchase of approximately $24,000 of classical Arabic works in Islamic Studies from Dar al-Kitab al-Arabi in Irvine, California. This book dealer, which has links to publishing companies in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, provided essential works at a reasonable price in such fields as Islamic history, theology, philosophy, law, Prophetic traditions, and Qur’an commentary. Priority was given to multi-volume Islamic works that are essential references for graduate students on the MA and Ph.D. levels. The King Fahd Center and Mullins Library also made a successful bid to purchase the private library of Dr. Kenneth Brown, Professor Emeritus of Middle East and North African History at Manchester University, United Kingdom. This excellent collection of works on North Africa and the Middle East comprises approximately 7500 volumes and covers such diverse fields as history and anthropology to sociology, literature, and critical theory. The $70,000 cost of the collection will be spread over three fiscal years. Each volume will contain a label identifying it as part of the Kenneth Brown collection. Prof. Brown will be invited to the University of Arkansas in spring 2003 to inaugurate the collection, which will prove to be of great benefit, not only to Middle East Studies, but also to the university as a whole.

Because of the budget crisis, it will be necessary to cut the library development budget by half, to $25,000, for fiscal year 2002-2003. However, with the addition of the Brown collection in 2002-2003, last year’s purchase of the Dar al-Kitab offerings in Islamic Studies, and two years of previous major funding for library development, Mullins Library now has a well-rounded collection of titles in Middle East Studies and Islamic Studies that is adequate for undergraduates and most graduate students. The King Fahd Center gives supplemental support to a graduate student in CEHP who translates and
transliterates Arabic book titles so they can be catalogued in the minimum amount of time. With a strengthened resource base in the future, the King Fahd Center will be able to resume its previous efforts toward ensuring the quality of the fine collection that the center and its programs warrant.