A N N U A L R E P O R T

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM and the
KING FAHD CENTER for MIDDLE EAST & ISLAMIC STUDIES

Interim Director Tom Paradise

Academic Year 2006 – 2007

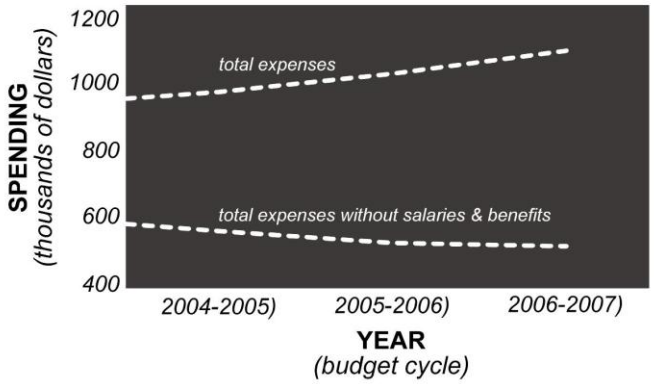
King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies

KING FAHD CENTER OVERVIEW

Although the original endowment for the creation of the King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies was $20 million (1994-1996), the King Fahd endowment balance has increased to $27.5 million (2006-2007) through Foundation investments and through the astute budgetary cuts within the Center. Although the recently adjusted endowment principal payout was decreased to 4.5% (4.9% before 2006), this brought the Fahd Center's revenue to approximately $1,195,000 for 2006-2007. With decreased spending over the past twelve months totaling $1,025,000, the Center and Program saw a budgetary credit of $170,000 – an astounding amount in light of the recent overspending during past MEST and Fahd Center budget cycles.

. Although the Program and Center funding still remains constrained due constantly escalating faculty and staff salary increases (including raises for raises, and cost of living increases), MEST has successfully absorbed those extra expenditures through astute budgetary restrictions and changes in Program assistantship and scholarship policies. This situation was predicted in the previous fiscal year's report for 2005-2006. The Fahd Center continues to suffer from an over-commitment to salary subsidies inherited from previous administrations however some of these have been restricted or removed. In fact with one non-tenured faculty member's relocation, the Center will save more than $50,000 for 2007-2008 from his relocation alone.

Over the past year, the Center interest paid $570,144 in salary support for nine faculty members and two staff, down from $619,541 with the relocation of Vince and Rkia Cornell to Atlanta's Emory University. The ratio of the salary to endowment revenue dropped to 48% (2007) from 67% (2006), representing a good sign as to the overall budget assessment and use. Graduate assistantships decreased to $246,000 in 2007, from $260,000 in 2006, while undergraduate support rose slightly to $72,000 in 2007 from $59,000 in 2006. With this increase in undergraduate spending and the decrease in graduate student assistance, the Center and Program still spent less than the previous year, while the overall revenue increased by roughly $200,000 – a goal of efficient budget management.



To provide the necessary financial cushion as the Center moves into the next budgetary cycle in 2007-2008 and beyond, it will be necessary for the Center to maintain thrifty spending with its new, tighter spending policies. At the advice of the

Provost Smith and Fulbright College Dean Bobbitt, the Center has taken steps to cut its commitment to graduate assistant funding to 21 assistantships, from 26 in the previous year, and from more than 35 in past years under prior administrations. Total graduate assistance (GA) funding was reduced by five assistantships (or approximately $60,000) for fiscal year 2006-2007. Center and Program faculty and chairs in affiliated departments were notified of this change in spring 2007. In addition, rather than continue with flexible graduate assistant funding, MEST has implemented a new policy that designates a specific number of GA slots per MEST-affiliated departments. Under this new arrangement, the Departments of Anthropology, History, and Comparative Literature will have annual allotments of five GA slots each, while Geosciences and Political Science will have three GA slots per year – totaling twenty-one (21) GA positions for MEST related departments in the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences. This new arrangement was implemented to permit better planning within each department and the overall Program and Center, while allowing more efficient book-keeping in MEST.

However, because of prudent supervision of Center funds and expenses, the King Fahd Center continues to maintain a high level of scholarly activities and program initiatives. Not only was the Center able to maintain last year's $10,000 commitment to the Jordan Archaeological Field School, additional support was given for student participation in a new Syrian archaeological project supervised by Anthropology assistant professor Jesse Casana for $6,500, with the hopes of increasing it to $10,000 next year. The Jordan Archaeology Field School under the Chair of Anthropology, Jerry Rose ran a successful and highly subscribed program during the summers of 2006 and 2007. In fact, enrollments of trained excavators continue to be so high that professor Rose is contemplating turning the Jordan excavation into a research project and moving the Field school under the direction of Dr. Casana, out newest MEST faculty member.

The Fahd Center has also maintained its $20,000 annual commitment for the purchase of books on the Middle East, North Africa and Islam for Mullins Library as well. With additional purchases in multi-media, new films and visual media have been added to the already important MEST Collection in the Mullins Library. MEST continues to remain dedicated to supporting the creation of a vital campus library collection committed to Middle East, North African and Islamic topics and themes.

Also, the Fahd Center was successful in moving the *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture* (JILC) to the University of Arkansas with the assistance of affiliated faculty member Professor Steve Sheppard of the Leflar School of Law. This two-year pilot project is a partnership between the King Fahd Center and the Law School and promises to provide a model for similar partnerships between the Center, Fulbright College, and other colleges across campus. Contracts have been signed between the Fahd Center and Routledge Publishers (London, UK). Routledge is excited about the prospect of handling such an esteem journal. In the spring of 2006, past Director Vince Cornell, Interim Director Tom Paradise (then Associate Director), and Law Professor Steve Sheppard negotiated with Routledge to publish and distribute the Journal. Routledge stated that it fit well with its central publications. So far, the journal has continued to publish on a regular schedule with international contributions from leading scholars in the field of Islamic Law or Shari'a and related culture. MEST will continue its

minimal support of the Journal through the Leflar Law School through 2008 and an annual funding support of $5,000.

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

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

MEST Program Income -- *Three Year Trends*

DESCRIPTION	***2004-2005***		***2005-2006***		***2006-2007***
faculty staff salaries & benefits	*431959*		*497954*		*570144*
GA salaries & benefits	*299486*		*260481*		*246001*
Undergraduate scholarships	*76400*		*59000*		*71800*
faculty development	*33620*		*36500*		*39000*
office/maintenance	*11500*		*15001*		*7726*
visiting speakers	*11253*		*11132*		*9840*
travel	*17490*		*27297*		*23308*
apartment	*23533*		*23909*		*23528*
library	*20000*		*20000*		*20000*
Rose field school	*10000*		*10000*		*10000*
study abroad scholarships	*10000*		*10000*		*10000*
affiliated memberships	*6152*		*9504*		*3500*
reimbursements	*24897*		*23118*		*17392*
UPS shipping only	*1682*		*2217*		*1945*
miscellaneous	*11380*		*5165*		*2377*
Arabic speech contest					*250*
graduate student research funding *(new proposal-based initiative)*					*12150*
undergrad research funding *(new proposal-based initiative)*					*3600*
other graduate student support					*3600*
Model Arab League					*2987*
Casana field school	*4700*		*8940*		*6400*
TOTAL	**994052**		**1020218**		**1085548**
(without salary & benefits) TOTAL	**562093**		**522264**		**515404**

note: when MEST expenditures are examined without salaries and benefits, they have decreased $35,000 over two years while MEST revenue has increased.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

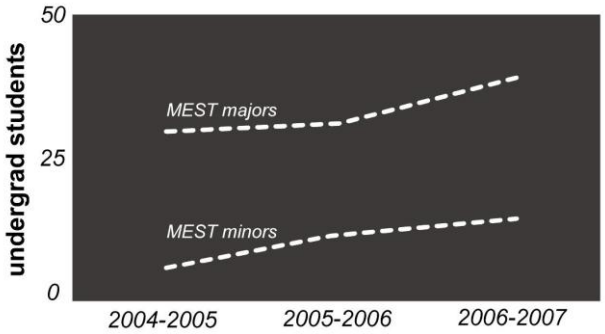
Undergraduate Students

Nine (9) undergraduates scholarships: $65,200 (two full and seven partial)

Four (4) undergraduate language study abroad funding: $6,600 (proposal-based)

Five (5) undergraduate UofA Study Abroad funding: $10,000 (need/merit-based)

In academic year 2006-2007 the King Fahd Center supported 9 undergraduate MEST majors on full or partial scholarships totaling $65,000. Although Study Abroad funding has been conventionally based upon merit, MEST has created an additional funding opportunity that is proposal-based, so that students without traditional funding sources are able to receive funding specifically in language studies for undergraduate or for the completion of their MA, MS or PhD research for graduate students. This new opportunity for undergraduate has created a more competitive environment amongst the best students, and limited scholarship awards to declared majors with a 'proven track record' before their junior and senior years (high GPA, MEST participation and advisor consultation). The Center also granted an increased number of partial scholarships to MEST majors with high GPAs and a noted dedication to Middle East and North Africa Studies – in the past fewer full scholarships had been granted, while now more partial scholarships were awarded.



In 2007, there were 36 MEST double majors, up from 28 MEST double-majors in 2006. The number of MEST minors also rose to 12 this year, up from 11 in 2006, rising dramatically from 5 in 2005! A staggering 30 MEST majors are Honors students as well, up from 10 last year! Moreover, when our undergraduate GPAs are examined, newly admitted MEST majors exhibit GPAs between 3.7 and 4.0, while previous years saw GPA levels often between 3.1 and 3.5. Our new cohort of MEST has some of the highest GPAs across campus with a mean GPA of 3.5+, up from 3.3 in the previous year.

Graduate Students

Twenty-six (26) Graduate Student Assistantships: $246,000

Four (4) Graduate student proposal-based funding: $12,000

The total funding for graduate assistants was $246,000, considerably less than previous year at $260,000 (2005-2006) and $300,000 (2004-2005), due to prudent cutbacks in the number of assistantships granted, down from thirty-one (31) in 2005. The demand for funding exceeded what was available, and with increased standards (GPA, SAT/ACT, GRE scores), several well-qualified students were turned down fro funding, although in many instances their abilities were recognized by the Fulbright Honors Program and Honors College and funding was found there. MEST savings were instituted by granting several partial assistantships than in the past and more research-related funding for graduate students. This is a new direction for MEST funding so that supplemental language studies and research-related travel may be partially supported. With only 21 graduate students now slotted for departmental assistantships, more proposal-based requests will be solicited in the future. In February 2007, seven proposals were submitted to MEST with funding awarded to four for a total $12,000. These proposal-based funding opportunities have proven to be effective in stimulating both a personal investment in thesis research and fomenting a solid academic (and competitive) environment. Between 2005 and 2007, eight graduate proposals (8-12pp), costing an average amount of $2800 each, all succeeded in supporting students to complete theses or dissertations at sites in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. This year's graduate proposal-based requests averaged $3000 and are being used for travel and travel-related expenses for graduate research in Pakistan, U.A.E., Jordan and Syria. With individual graduate assistantships costing $12,000+ versus $3000-4000 for a supported research proposal, this new funding opportunity for graduate students represents a better investment with more 'bang for the buck', and students complete important international research, bringing notoriety to Arkansas and assistance to their country of study – an important role for the King Fahd Center. All students that have completed these proposal projects have gone on to Ph.D. programs, agency or private sectors jobs.

The King Fahd Center continues to maintain the same rigorous standards for graduate student performance that were established in previous years. The Center expects graduate committees to track student progress throughout the year and the length of funding strictly follows Graduate School guidelines. Last year, seven students were informed that their funding would end in spring 2006. Because the doctoral committees of three students pleaded special circumstances, the Graduate Awards Committee voted to fund these students for one extra semester only; their extraordinary funding will be finished within this next funding cycle 2007-2008.

The Center will continue to adhere to Graduate School guidelines for funding, which stipulates 4 semesters for MA students and 6-8 semesters for Ph.D. students. Departmental directors of graduate studies and members of graduate committees are

encouraged to make sure that MEST supported students in their departments move through their programs as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

The Center and Program will continue to provide support for MEST graduate students (or those in related research) to present papers at regional, national, or international conferences whenever possible.

Graduate Student News

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

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

Chris Angel *(GEOS)* was recently awarded proposal-based support to complete his MA research in southern Jordan on *Bedouin urban planning in Umm Sayhoun: from nomadic to sedentary in twenty years*. On his recent trip to Jordan (summer 2007), his findings were discussed before the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities.

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

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

David Chaudoir *(ANTH)* attended a number of lectures in advanced Arabic in Abu Dhabi, UAE through MEST support. Chaudoir is currently working on his dissertation research in Dubai on clan structures in contemporary Gulf States society. He completed his MA while on full MEST support at Arkansas and is currently conducting research in the UAE on MEST's new proposal-based funding program.

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

Stephanie Kirkland *(GEOG)* received a six-year scholarship ($120,000) for her PhD research at York University, Toronto, Canada. Kirkland's research was supported through a Center and Program proposal-based funding. It is one of the largest purses given in North America as a graduate scholarship.

Sanaa Riaz *(ANTH)* was awarded a proposal-based research grant to complete her PhD research on "Perception of Islamic education in Pakistani madrasas". She will be collecting data in Pakistan over her summer visit in 2007.

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

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

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

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

Study Abroad Funding & Opportunities

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

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

MEST also supported MEST affiliated faculty member Jesse Casana (ANTH) during the summers of 2006 and 2007 where University of Arkansas students participated in a second *Archaeological Research Project in Syria*. The majority of this project was funded by the American Schools for Oriental Research (ASOR), of which the Fahd Center is an institutional member. The King Fahd Center contributed an additional $4700 toward these 6-week projects, which involves excavations at the Tell Qarqur in western Syria. The Center contribution went towards the purchase of equipment and supplies, transportation, and meals for student participants. With the possible transformation of Jerome Rose's Tell Ya'mun project from an Archaeological Field School to a research project, it is envisioned that this second project in Syria might develop into a field school along the lines of the Yarmouk project that has long been funded by MEST.

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

To take funding in a new direction at the Fahd Center, it will continue to provide funding for study abroad, but will begin to prioritize funding according to the overall quality of their projects and cost-benefit return for funds spent. Starting in the fall 2006, all students applying for research or study abroad funding must have submitted a detailed and professional proposal with an accurate budget and justification before being considered. The Center is committed to continue funding the Jordan and Syrian field school and archaeological research projects, and study abroad opportunities in Arabic Language studies. The Center and Program now consider requests for special funding for undergraduate and graduate students on a case-by-case basis, however,

with the newly required detailed proposal and budget. Based on this new approach to Study Abroad funding through MEST, thirteen (13) students were supported through the Center for language and regional studies. Kendall Byers represents the first student that will be studying Turkish overseas, since it is not yet offered at Arkansas. The thirteen students are listed below:

EGYPT:

Uzma Ahmad, American University in Cairo, Summer (Honors support)

Kimberly Allen, American University in Cairo, Summer (MEST support)

Bethaina Ibrahim, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007 (Honors Fellowship)

Heba Naseem, America University in Cairo, Summer 2007 (Honors Fellowship)

Andrew Parsons, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007 (MEST support)

Homa Quazilbash, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007 (Honors support)

Elizabeth Spradley, American University in Cairo, Full Year (Sturgis & MEST support)

William Watson, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007 (Honors support)

JORDAN:

Nathan Brown, University of Jordan, Fall 2007 (MEST support)

Kendall Byers, University of Jordan, Fall 2007 (Sturgis, Honors and MEST support)

Cassie Kordsmeier, University of Jordan, Fall 2007 (Honors College & MEST support)

Simon Reid, Yarmouk University, Summer 2007 (MEST support)

RouthEvelyn Standridge, University of Jordan, Spring 2008 (MEST support)

TURKEY:

Kendall Byers, University of the Bosphorus (Boğaziçi), Spring 2008 (Sturgis, Honors and MEST support)

CURRICULUM & FACULTY ASSESSMENT

Curriculum changes created in 2003 were then implemented in 2004, and are now in place having been added to the 2006-2007 edition of the Catalog of Studies. Three new classes have been added the core requirement for the MEST degree. *Gateways to the Middle East* course (MEST 2013), *Islamic Civilization* (HIST 3033) and *Geography of the Middle East and North Africa* (GEOS 4033) are now required options for all MEST majors and are offered on a regular basis. Through the help of MEST-affiliated faculty and Dave Dawson, the Director of Fulbright Advising, the final and more simplified requirements for a MEST major are now as follows:

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

ANTH 3123 Anthropology of Religion

ANTH 3033 Egyptology

ANTH 4123 Ancient Middle East

ANTH 4513 African Religions

ANTH 4533 Middle East Cultures

ANTH 4913 Topics in the Middle East

ANTH 4256 Archeological Field Session

ARAB 4213 Introduction to Arab Culture

ECON 4533 Comparative Economic Systems

GEOG 2003 World Regional Geography

GEOG 4033 Geography of the Middle East

GEOG 410v Middle East & North African Resources (only)

HIST 3033 Islamic Civilization

HIST 4353 Middle East 600-1500

HIST 3043 History of the Modern Middle East

HIST 3473 Palestine and Israel in Modern Times

HIST 4373 Mongol and Mamluk 1250-1520

HIST 4393 The Ottoman Empire and Iran 1300-1722

HIST 4413 Women and Family in the Middle East Since 1800

HIST 4433 Social History of the Modern Middle East

HUMN 4203 World Religions Middle East

HUMN 4253 Modern Jewish Thought

MEST 4003 Middle East Studies Colloquium

MEST 4003 H Honors Middle East Studies Colloquium

PLSC 3523 Politics of the Middle East

PLSC 3813 International Law

PLSC 4583 Political Economy of the Middle East

PLSC 4593 Islam and Politics

PLSC 4843 The Middle East in World Affairs

WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Modern Arabic Literature)

WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Arab Women Writers)

WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Classical Arabic Literature)

WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Modern Palestinian Literature)

WLIT 3983/603 Special Studies (Love & Eros in Middle Eastern Literature)

Requirements for the MEST Minor *(18 hours):* MEST 4003 (*Middle East Studies Colloquium*, 3 hours) + 6 hours of Arabic beyond the Fulbright College language requirement (ARAB 20013) + 9 hours of MEST courses in one or more disciplines

> *note: with the an increasing number of Francophone countries converting Islamic states or republics (i.e. Mali, Algeria), the influence of Israel on the Middle East situation, and the new role of Turkey in European and global economic development and politics, MEST is considering French, Hebrew and Turkish as additional languages for the MEST major or minor courses of study. These options will be evaluated in the upcoming year.*

Intensive First-Year Arabic program, instituted on a trial basis in 2005-2006, appears to be a success. Enrollments were up for fall 2006 over 2005 and students seem to be adjusting well to the program, despite the heavy demands of a six-credit hour language class each semester. This intensive course could provide the basis for an eventual major in Arabic. With the departure of Rkia Cornell in the summer of 2006,

another Arabic instructor, Paula Haydar was hired to supplement the efforts of Professor Adnan Haydar who oversees the growing Arabic Language Program.

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

Faculty Assessment procedures were standardized for academic year 2005-2006. This was done due to uneven commitments of time and effort by MEST affiliated faculty members and because of the need to clarify exactly what is expected for the retention of MEST benefits, such as development accounts, support for individual research projects, and salary supplements from the MEST endowment. The proposed Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment (see Appendix I) is based on the self-assessment form for faculty and administrators that is currently used by Fulbright College. The MEST faculty assessment differs from that of the College by changing the relative ranking of contributions as follows: (1) Teaching, (2) Service to the King Fahd Center, and (3) Research. MEST core faculty whose salary is paid in full or in part by the Center and Program endowment will be required to teach MEST 4003 (*MEST Colloquium*) on a rotating basis. Core faculty members are also required to serve as undergraduate student advisors and research supervisors, and are expected to develop MEST-related courses in their departments. The new faculty assessments also put a strong emphasis on service to the Center and Program, including the expectation to give lectures, recruit visiting speakers, participate actively on MEST committees, and engage in extra-curricular activities such as outreach, the Fahd Center Newsletter, and MEST-related university or college service activities. Besides publications, the research component of the new faculty assessment also stresses grantsmanship, including grant proposals submitted and awarded both individually and with Fahd Center assistance or participation.

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

KING FAHD CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Ann Rhea Collection of Near Eastern Antiquities

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

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

Partnership with Hebrew University

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

Lebanese-American University of Science and Technology

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

University of Cairo and the American University of Cairo Library Group

In September 2006, ten librarians from Egypt toured five American libraries that hold prominent Middle East and North African collections. The visiting librarians and library administrators spent two days touring the Mullins Library, chatting with Arkansas staff and faculty about our Middle East collections of books, journals, films, slides and mixed media. MEST Director Tom Paradise invited the visitors to a lunch supplied by Panera Bread Company to discuss collections trends, use and future needs – it was a hit!

KING FAHD CENTER PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fulbright Persian Instructor

In fall 2003, Kay Pritchett, Chair of Foreign Languages and Fahd Center past-Director Cornell collaborated in writing a Fulbright grant application to secure an instructor in the Farsi (Persian) for 2004-2005. Fulbright cancelled this program to re-open it in 2005-2006. The University of Arkansas was selected once again as a recipient, and a Persian instructor from Tehran by the name of Babak Mahdavi was chosen to offer Persian at the university. Even though Mahdavi's application was accepted by the U.S. State Department, the Department of Homeland Security refused to issue him a visa for unexplained reasons. Consequently, the Persian course was cancelled once again. Current Interim Director Paradise, Dean Adams and FLAN Chair Turner are currently negotiating with Fulbright to see if a Persian instructor for 2007-2008 can be supplied by another foreign university (i.e. St. Petersburg State University (MOI). It is hoped that it will be easier for a Russian or Central Asian to obtain a visa (than for an Iranian).

Journal of Islamic Law and Culture (JILC)

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

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

Friends of Nekhen

Since spring 2003, the Center has been the US home of the Friends of Nekhen – an organization that supports the Hierakonpolis Expedition, an archaeological project that is excavating the largest pre-dynastic site in Egypt. Nekhen is the ancient Egyptian name for Hierakonpolis. At no cost to the Center, except for the administrative time involved in maintaining a separate account for subscriptions and donations, the center's institutional support for this project partners the Center and the University of Arkansas with the Egyptian Studies Association, based at London's renown British Museum. The

Friends of Nekhen publishes a newsletter called *Nekhen News*, which is edited by Renée Friedman of the British Museum, who is also the director of the Hierakonpolis Expedition. The Center continues to maintain a successful and amicable relationship with Dr Friedman and the Egyptian Studies Association. Suz Smith, MEST's Administration Assistant continues to assist the organization through her pro-bono book-keeping and filework.

Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Tunisia

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

KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES

MEST-sponsored Visiting Speakers & Special Events

In academic year 2006-2007 the following speakers and events were sponsored or supported by the King Fahd Center and Middle East Program:

Fall 2006

• Professor Joel Marcus of Duke University: *The Crucifixion as Parodic Exaltation (lecture - September),*100+ people attended.

• Dr. Haggai Ram of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev (while visiting scholar at Skidmore College): *Intertwined Histories: An Unconventional Guide to Israeli-Iranian Relations* (lecture series in Kimpel Hall - October), 150+ people attended.

• Professor John Dominic Crossan of DePaul University (emeritus), considered by the NYTimes as the 'greatest living Biblical scholar and historian': *The Search for Jesus, early Christian politics in the eastern Roman Empire* (lecture and book-signing in Giffels Auditorium - October), 250-300 people attended including media interviews, newspaper and radio coverage.

Spring 2007

• Thorne Anderson, renown Iraqi photojournalist, *Umembedded Project: A Collection of Iraq Photographs* (two lectures, slide show and book-signing - January), 300+ people attended in Ozark Hall with a separate small talk to Journalism students and faculty.

• Professor Greg Starrett of the University of North Carolina: *Madame Bovary and the Madrassa Boys* (lecture in Giffels Auditorium – April),100+ attended.

• *"Iraq: What's to be Done?"* a regular student-faculty forum with MEST core faculty facilitators, Drs. Najib Ghadbian, Joel Gordon, and Ted Swedenburg.

Arkansas Arabic Translation Award

The 2005 winner of the Arkansas Arabic Translation Award was Leon Carl Brown, Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs Emeritus at Princeton University and a distinguished Middle East historian. Brown translated the *Muqaddima* or Introduction to a multi-volume historical work by Ahmad ibn Abi Diyaf, a Tunisian government official whose career spanned the 1820s to the 1860s. This work has long been known as an important history of 19th Century political life in Tunisia. The translation of the work, which will be published by University of Arkansas Press, is entitled, Consult Them in the Matter: *a 19th Century Islamic Argument for Constitutional Government*.

The Arkansas Arabic Translation Award carries a $5,000.00 award for the translator, with an additional $5,000.00 also awarded to a living original author. Submissions are solicited for significant works of 19th-21st Century Arabic literature, broadly defined to include fiction, non-fiction works in the literary tradition, and academic works of note.

The Ahmad Ibn Abi Diyaf translation was the last translation award winner published by University of Arkansas Press for 2005. In fall 2004, past-Director Vincent Cornell attempted to renegotiate the terms of the agreement between the King Fahd Center (Cornell) and University of Arkansas Press (Director Larry Malley) for the publication of award winners. The original agreement governing publication costs had lapsed in 1998 and the Press was recalcitrant in renegotiating more favorable terms to the Center. At that time and by mutual agreement between Cornell and Malley, it was decided to terminate the relationship between the King Fahd Center and University of Arkansas Press after the publication of the 2005 award winner. No award was given in 2006 and submissions for 2007 are currently being accepted. Syracuse University Press will be publishing the award winner chosen later this year and in years to come.

King Fahd Center Web Site

In spring 2004, the Fahd Center hired a professional web designer to produce a new web site for the King Fahd Center. Over a period of approximately three months, and at modest cost, Philadelphia web designer Derrick Von Schlegell designed a handsome and simple web site that met all specifications required by Fulbright College. The Newsletter and Web Site Committee, chaired by Tom Paradise, also provided advice, direction and assistance. This web site can be found at http://www.uark.edu/depts/mesp/ and contains information on the center, including lists of faculty and courses, programs of study, requirements for MEST majors and minors, and instructions for those applying for scholarships, assistantships, and graduate programs. There are also links to King Fahd Center institutional partners and library resources, such as the Kenneth Brown Collection. On-line copies of the last issues of *Ilham*, the King Fahd Center newsletter are also available. The site is updated on a regular basis each academic year and has received accolades from its simple design and detailed information from students, faculty, staff and outside users.

King Fahd Center Newsletter

The first edition of *Ilham*, the King Fahd Center's popular newsletter was released in autumn 2002. These issues cover news and events throughout the academic years, plus related course offerings. The King Fahd Center newsletter has become an important source of information and 'ambassador' of the King Fahd Center to the US and abroad. During the summer of 2006 the fifth edition of *Ilham* was to be published, however with the leaving of Vince Cornell, the issue was never published. During the summer of 2007, a team of undergraduate students with graphics training

are finishing the fifth edition. It is slated for online release in fall 2007 and in hard copy to be mailed during the winter months.

King Fahd Center Institutional Memberships

- *American Institute of Iranian Studies (Trustee 2006-2007)*
- *American Institute of Maghrib Studies (Board Member 2006-2007)*
- *American Research Center in Egypt*
- *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)*
- *Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Consortium*
- *ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)*
- *Middle East Studies Association*
- *Muslim Networks Consortium*
- *National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations*
- *Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)*
- *The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII)*

Fahd Center & Middle East Studies Outreach

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

A significant aspect of King Fahd Center outreach is its participation in the national Model Arab League, held every spring in Washington, D.C. Model Arab League Participants in the 2006 University Model Arab League Conference, April 6-9 included Shazene Hussain (MEST), Cole Bockenfeld, (MEST), Nick Robbins, (MEST), Will Myers (PLSC), Sarah Gibson (MEST), Maysa Gayyusi (MEST), Laura Stump (MEST), Shereen Ghori (MEST) and faculty sponsor, Najib Ghadbian. A report on this year's meeting follows:

A Report about National Model Arab League, Washington, DC, April 2006

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

The University of Arkansas King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies sponsored the MAL country of the Yemen in 2006. The Arkansas UAE delegation was led by political science professor Najib Ghadbian. Before the conference, the delegation met weekly to examine and discuss the political climate in that country. Each delegate researched his or her topics and wrote resolutions to present at the conference. Students were interviewed at the conference by Abu Dhabi television and answered questions on Yemeni economic policies and outlined the delegation's position on purchasing settlements in the Palestinian occupied territories. After the conference, the delegation visited a number of embassies in Washington DC, where they were hosted by several officials.

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

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

Mullins Library Development

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

Juell and Jan Dixon, Mullins Library representatives to MEST have been especially helpful in determining various Mullins needs in filling the Mullins Middle East & North Africa Collection.

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

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

PROGRAM & CENTER FACULTY

MEST Core Faculty
(Fulbright College)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEST-Affiliated Faculty

(Fulbright College)

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

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

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

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

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

MEST-Affiliated Faculty

(non-Fulbright College)

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

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

Faculty News, Grants, Awards & Publications

Najib Ghadbian (PLSC) presented before the US State Department and continues to do political analyses on Al-Jazeera and Al-Hurra televison news networks. In addition Dr. Ghadbian, Joel Gordon (HIST) and Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) ran a bi-weekly forum on current affairs in the Middle East as "Diwan Baghdad". The forum was well-attended and was held from September 2006 through April 2007. It is anticipated that they will continue with this important service to the Fayetteville and campus community.

In addition, Dr. Ghadbian continues to coordinate and supervise our Model Arab League team and program winning both awards and accolades from the local community and the national circuit. The University of Arkansas team continues to win titles and acclaim every year due to his work and dedication.

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

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

Adnan Haydar (FLAN) received Arkansas' "Apple Teaching Award" for excellence in teaching. Professor Haydar directed, developed, and taught at the Arabic Language Institute "BAALI" in Beirut, Lebanon. Professor Haydar and his wife, Paula Haydar are both consistently active in outreach at the student level including Arkansas' unique

Arabic Speech Contest. This year's winners include:

Elementary Arabic: Angela Hackstadt, Bernard Sulliban, Brittney Kugler, Ashley Taglieri, William Watson, RoughEvelyn Standridge.

Intermediate Arabic: Andrew Parsons, Simon Reid, Melissa Rhodes, Keukeu Abdullah

Advanced Arabic: Fatma Hasanain, Ahmet Akturk

While hosting a number of Arabic language circles at Common Grounds Café in Fayetteville and his home, Dr. Haydar is also currently overseeing two PhD candidates in Comparative Literature, Krista Casada and Qusai Aldebyan.

Mohja Kahf (ENG). Professor Kahf's latest book The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf, was just named to the BookSense Summer Reading groups list of favorites! BookSense is an association of Independent Booksellers where only 'indie' bookstore owners can nominate books. She continues to publish widely including "From Her Royal Body the Robe was Removed: The Blessings of the Veil and the Trauma of Forced Unveiling in the Middle East" in The Veil: Its History, Lore, and Politics ed. by Jennifer Heath by UC Berkeley Press (2008).

Dr. Kahf presented "On Writing on Islam and Gender in the West." at the Modern Language Association Conference (MLA) in Philadelphia (2006), Over 2006-2007, she has done over forty book club appearances, book signings, readings from the book, radio and print interviews about the book. On December 7, 2006 Mohja Kahf was interviewed by NPR on the popularity of her new book. Some of here recent interviews include venues as Stanford University in Palo Alto, California on Muslim American Literature (May), Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington for International Women's Day (March), University of Washington, Seattle on interfaith exploration (March), Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina (February), and at Indiana University, South Bend (January).

Tom Paradise (GEOS) continues to conduct his on-going research on the Roman and Nabataean architecture of Petra, Jordan. In his 17th year of research in this famous, ruined city, his research project (summer 2007) was assisted by Chris Angel, a MEST-supported graduate student who worked with Dr. Paradise and the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism in digitally mapping the village of Umm Sayhoun – the Bedouin village created above Petra when the B'doul tribe were removed from the park when it received its UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 1980s.

Professor Paradise also published the opening chapter of the Geologic Society of America's (GSA) new book Stone Architecture & Deterioration on the classical architecture of Petra, Jordan. He is also an editor and contributor to the upcoming Encyclopedia of Culture & Society having written the chapters "Algeria", "Morocco", "Tunisia", "Libya" and "Egypt", and well as chapters in the Encyclopedia of the Environment: "US Mining Law of 1872", "OPEC", "US Department of the Interior", "Mining", "US Bureau of Reclamation", "US Geological Survey" and the "US Antiquities Law of 1906" (Facts on File 2006).

Dr. Paradise's leading-edge research on Islam, risk behavior and earthquakes was recently published in a series of papers in the International Journal of Environmental Hazards (Elsevier), and the Journal of North African Studies (Taylor & Francis). The popularity of the publications brought about more than 300 online e-article downloads in one week. Paradise is also a regular consultant to NHNZ, the primary documentary producers for the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, TLC, National Geographic, PBS (US), NHK (Japan), France 5 and NDR (Germany) networks.

Jerry Rose (ANTH) and his wife, Delores L. Burke published the edited volume, Sa'ad: A Late Roman/Byzantine Site in North Jordan (Yarmouk University Publications). The Kind Fahd Center sponsors a study abroad archaeology field school in Jordan each summer in collaboration with Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan. Last summer the Center co-sponsored the excavation of Late Roman and early Christian tombs at the site of Natfieh in north Jordan. Jerry Rose directed a field school for seven American students who were joined by one faculty and three staff members of Yarmouk University and employed 13 local workers. During the summer of 2007, Professor Rose will return with seven students to the same site for our 13th season in Jordan.

This past spring the Fahd Center funded the excavation of the New Kingdom site of Tell Amarna (14th Century BCE). The MEST-supported excavation was filmed by the BBC for a television documentary. The excavation was cosponsored by the Egypt Exploration Society and directed by Prof. Barry Kemp of Cambridge University.

Professor Rose continues to publish widely including his research in Jordan and Egypt in ASOR (Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research) and AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association).

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) presented an invited lecture *"Rock 'n' Roll, Feminists, and Gay Pickups in Yusuf Chahine's* at Tennessee Tech University*".* Swedenburg's lecture *"Rai Music in France"* was presented at the workshop "Sounds from la Cité: Franco-Maghrebi Music" at the University of Chicago (October). Professor Swedenburg also serves as a reviewer of Middle East National Resource Centers and Title VI Council (USDOE). The council oversees all DOE applications and disbursements for ALL of the major Middle East Centers in the US.

Bill Tucker (HIST) continues to publish in his field of expertise including aspects of Medieval Islam and Persia. He recently finished two new sections for the Encyclopedia of Medieval Islamic Civilization: "Floods" and "Weather" (Routledge).

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

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

Faculty Development Support

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

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

Faculty Committees (2005-2006)

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

1. Executive Committee: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Smith and Adams
2. Publications and Translation Award: Haydar (Chair), Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
3. Outreach: Najib Ghadbian, Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
4. Arabic: Haydar, Haydar, Joan Turner (FLAN Chair)
5. Undergraduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Farah
6. Graduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Farah
7. Web Site and Newsletter: Paradise, Suz Wall (MEST administrative assistant), Nani Verzon (MEST student representative), Derrick Von Schengel (web designer)

Faculty Advising

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

SUMMARY

With last year's departure of Director Vince Cornell, the King Fahd Center and the Middle East Studies Program is at an important crossroads. As similar programs across the US excel in conventional concentrations on politics, Arabic language and/or regional culture, this might be the ideal time to invest in our future by examining our own unique resources in expertise and capability. Ignoring our distinctive strengths is unwise, so it is hoped that the Center can utilize these assets by offering graduate assistantships and supported research to all Fulbright departments and not just those previously favored. Like other prominent American programs or centers at universities like Georgetown, Michigan, or Texas, these programs have traditional emphases that target political and cultural landscapes. Even though our program is developing a strong reputation in these fields, we are overlooking some of our brightest students and faculty and their innovative research in other fields that have related regional foci. With emerging fields such as natural resource management (water), cultural heritage (historic preservation), art history and the performing arts, our Program could become the only one of its kind in the US to have these promising regional studies in our Program. In addition, in tandem with our growing Arabic Program, we would broadening our Middle East language base to include Farsi (Persian) and Turkish – all in the hopes of affording new study and research opportunities here and abroad.

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

Overall student enrollment in MEST or MEST-related classes is strong and participation in MEST-related activities is healthy. The sponsored lecture for example, by Professor John Dominic Crossan, a leading Classical and Biblical historian, *Jesus and the Politics of the Roman Empire* was attended by more than 300 students and faculty was covered by the local and regional media on TV and in the newspaper. He is considered the 'greatest Bible Scholar alive today' by the New York Times. MEST was also fortunate to obtain the noted war correspondent and photo-journalist Thorne Anderson, while visiting family in Arkansas, to speak about his Pulitzer-nominated book on the Iraq War, Unembedded. Anderson's talk and presentation was attended by 300 student, faculty and residents. A series of articles were also written about his talk and visit by local and state newspapers, while NPR interviewed while on campus.

Also, MEST classes show an increase in enrollment; Geography of the Middle East & North Africa (GEOG 4033), was first offered in 2001 with 12 students, now sees enrollment from fifty students during its evening classtime. Lectures, art exhibits, forums, and concerts sponsored by the Fahd Center are increasingly anticipated, and

well-attended, while camaraderie amongst MEST majors, minors and graduate students is at a new high.

Although the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies has been severely affected by university budgetary restraints in the past, students in and/or supported by the Middle East Program and Fahd Center continue to excel in their studies, research and activities, while our affiliated faculty continue to create and teach a creative and germane curriculum, conduct related outreach, and carry out important and relevant research. Moreover, local, regional, national and international visibility continues to grow as our reputation as an up-and-coming Middle East research and information center matures. It is essential that we continue to mold a core of Middle East, Mediterranean and Islamic scholars that continue to create a dynamic nucleus for research, outreach and service, grant-writing, and teaching, and we are on course.

Effective reduced spending and an increasing endowment-related revenue will continue to assure a strong budget and a flexible program. With our successful budgetary restraint over the past year, in conjunction with new foci the Center and Program's future is bright. With a vision that includes supplementary Middle Eastern languages like Hebrew, Turkish and Persian, possible added faculty in core or affiliated positions, increased community visibility through lectures and visiting scholars, increased camaraderie at undergraduate and graduate student levels, and a new collaboration among faculty, staff and students, the King Fahd Center and Middle East Program will thrive and become a beacon of Middle East education and scholarship in Northwest Arkansas, Arkansas, US and one day, the World.

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APPENDIX

King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies
Affiliated Faculty Contribution Assessment

Fiscal Year 2006-2007
(due date: October 1st each year)

Name: _____

Department: _____

Rank: _____

I. Teaching Activities

A. Middle East or Islamic Studies courses taught during year (give course number, name, enrollment and evidence of teaching effectiveness, e.g., Purdue item 200: "Overall, this instructor is among the best teachers I have known.")
B. Most recent year in which you have taught MEST Colloquium (MEST 4003).
C. Most recent year in which you have taught Gateways to the Middle East (MEST 2013).
D. Individual Instruction
- List MEST majors or graduate students directed in independent study courses
- List honors' theses directed
- List honors' thesis committees
- List master's thesis committees
- List master's theses directed (list student names)
- List doctoral dissertation committees
  Names of students defending dissertations during year:

E. Advising
Program Advising:
- List names of MEST majors advised
- List names of graduate students advised
- Other advising activities

F. Curriculum Development (new courses created and/or taught, projects or areas where you helped to strengthen or develop curricula or courses in MEST.
G. Honors, awards, and activities not mentioned above:

II. Service

A. MEST-related lectures, seminars, and forums
B. Visiting speakers recruited
C. MEST Committee participation
D. Student recruitment (majors and graduate students)

E. MEST-related extra curricular activities organized and conducted (MAL, Arabic Speech Contest, etc.)
F. MEST-related study-abroad programs directed or conducted
G. Program development activities
H. MEST-related University or College service activities (study-abroad fair/honors activities, etc.)
I. Outreach activities and media interviews
J. List contributions to King Fahd Center Newsletter

III. Research, Scholarly, Artistic, Creative Activities

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

Comments:

KING FAHD CENTER
FACULTY FUNDING APPLICATION

King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies

J. William FULBRIGHT COLLEGE of Arts & Sciences

amount requested $_____

You must check the boxes appropriate to your funding request:

TRAVEL: *❑research only ❑conference presentation ❑conference attendance only*
RESEARCH: *❑exploratory ❑continuation ❑assistance ❑materials & supplies*

name _____ *department & position*_____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project timetable _____ *email*_____

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

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

** Unless this funding application is for conference travel only, all other proposals must include a project proposal that includes an abstract, introduction, study site description, methods involved, a review of prior research, anticipated results and conclusions, cited references and possible venues for the publication of findings roughly 8-12 pages (16 pages max). In addition, a project budget and justification must be included.*

*** Each applicant must include a rèsumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than $5,000, recent publications, presentations, exhibitions and/or recitals (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.*

All completed funding requests must be submitted to the King Fahd Center (Old Main #202) by February 5, 2007 (3pm) for the spring semester, or September 15, 2007 (3pm) for the fall semester. Any late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

excellent examples of proposal-writing formats and suggestions:

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

King Fahd Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies

J. William FULBRIGHT COLLEGE of Arts & Sciences

KING FAHD CENTER
STUDENT FUNDING APPLICATION

amount requested $_____

You must check the boxes appropriate to your funding request:

TRAVEL: *❑research only ❑conference presentation ❑conference attendance only*
RESEARCH: *❑exploratory ❑continuation ❑assistance ❑materials & supplies*

name _____ *department & position*_____

university address _____

home address _____

project title _____

project timetable _____*email*_____

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

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

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

*** Each applicant must include a rèsumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than $5,000, recent publications, presentations, exhibitions and/or recitals (2000 to present), classes and seminars taught and current and related departmental, college and/or university activities and duties.*

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http://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/proposal_dev_how_to_write.html
http://www.meaning.ca/articles/print/writing_research_proposal_may02.htm
http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_res/how_to_thesis_proposal.html