



# ANNUAL REPORT

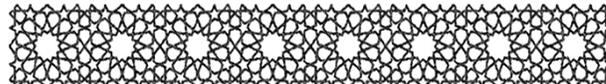
*MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM and the  
KING FAHD CENTER for MIDDLE EAST & ISLAMIC STUDIES*

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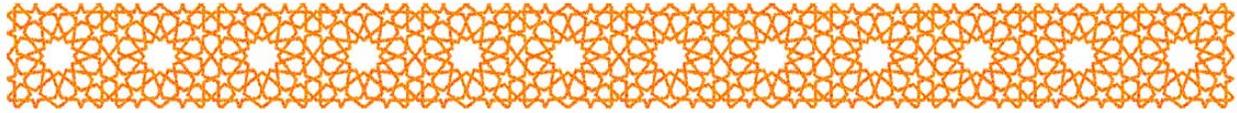
***Interim Director Tom Paradise***

*July 2009*

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 had increased in roughly ten years to more than \$30 million (2007-2008) through Foundation investments and through the astute budgetary cuts within the Center. It was then the Stock Market debacle in tandem with Foundation losses that the MEST Endowment dropped this year to its original – and staggering -- level of approximately \$20 million. This represents a loss of more than ten millions dollars in one fiscal year and brings the Endowment back to its original value.

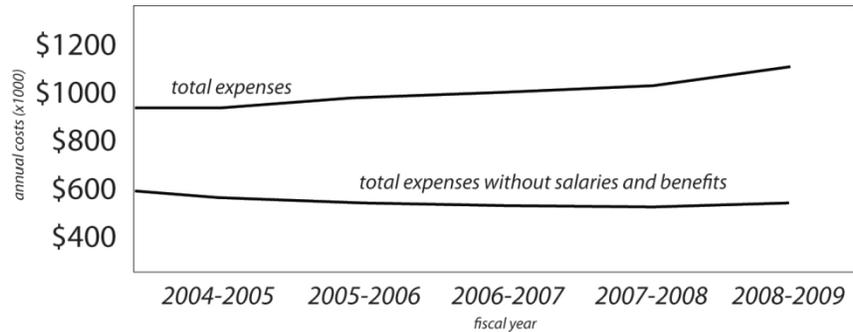
In 2007-2008, the endowment payout was decreased to 4.5% from 4.9%, bringing the Fahd Center’s revenue to approximately \$1.2 million for 2007-2008 and \$1,123,882 in this FY 2008-2009. Budgetary cuts and thrifty spending two to three years ago, helped create a surplus which permitted MEST the funds needed to reimburse \$250,000 for past ‘loans’ and accounting redistribution to the Fulbright College. MEST was fortunate to have paid back the debt to Fulbright before the recent drop in the endowment.

Although the Program and Center funding still remains constrained due constantly escalating faculty and staff salary increases (including increases for raises, and cost of living) and a dramatically low endowment, MEST has successfully absorbed those extra expenditures through astute budgetary restrictions and changes in Program assistantship and scholarship policies over the last fiscal year. The Fahd Center and Middle East Studies

Program continues to suffer from an over-commitment to salary subsidies inherited from previous administrations, although some of these have been restricted or removed. With the relocation of a non-

tenured faculty member (Halman) and a salary-supplemented MEST faculty member (Duval), the Center was able to save nearly \$100,000 in the previous FY 2007-2008.

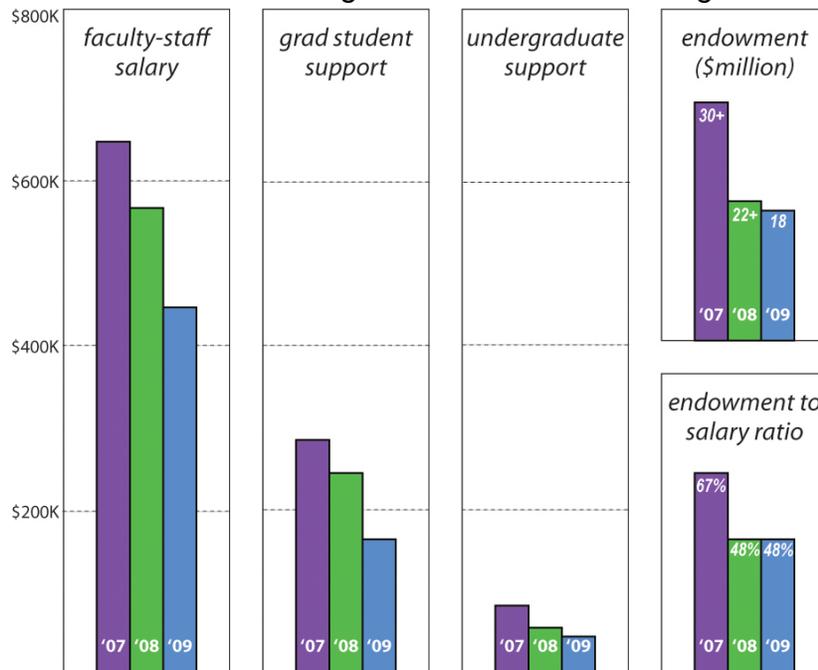
In FY 2008-2009, the Center paid-out \$434,963 in salary and co-department salary support for nine faculty members and two staff, down from \$570,144 (2007-2008) and \$619,541 (2006-2007). The ratio of the salary to endowment revenue dropped to 39% (salaries only) and to 48% (salary and benefits). This is the same from 2006-2007, but dramatically down from 2005-2006 where the ratio peaked at 67% -- representing a good sign as to the overall budget use and financial vision. Graduate assistantships decreased to \$176,000 in 2008-2009, down from \$246,000 in 2007, and \$260,000 in



2006. Undergraduate support also dipped in the past fiscal year to \$42,000, down from \$72,000 in 2007, and from \$59,000 in 2006.

To provide the necessary financial commitments as the Center moves into the next budgetary cycle in 2009-2010, it is 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 in 2005-2006, the Center took steps to cut its support of graduate assistant funding to 21-23 assistantships, down from 26 in the prior year, and from more than 35 in past years under prior administrations. It has proved to be an efficient and successful move. In addition not only did MEST cut back on graduate student support but it also discontinued with flexible graduate assistant funding. MEST implemented a new

policy that designated 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, with one additional slot each for Environmental Dynamics (ENDY) and Public Policy (PP) PhDs conducting related work in the Middle East and North Africa. This new arrangement was implemented to permit better planning within each department and the overall Program and Center, while allowing more efficient bookkeeping in MEST. It has also permitted effective solicitation campaigns for a number of programs that may advertise for graduate students in national and international arenas.

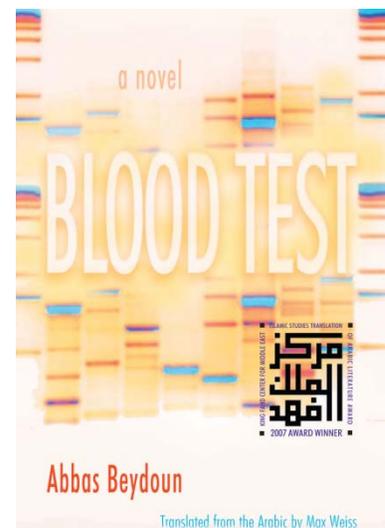
The Center continues to maintain a high level of scholarly activities and program initiatives. Not only was the Center able to maintain last year's \$10,000 commitment to the Jordan Archaeological Field School, additional support was given for student participation in a new Syrian archaeological project supervised by Anthropology assistant professor Jesse Casana for \$10,000. The Jordan Archaeology Field School under the Chair of Anthropology, Jerry Rose ran a successful and highly subscribed program during the summers of 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. 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, our 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. 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. Each of the twenty MEST faculty are able to use \$800 for their own disciplines, and in some case, additional funds have been used to buy larger mixed media sets for the Library. These have included large DVD sets and multiple volume anthologies.

Also, the Fahd Center and MEST have been successful in supporting the *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture* (JILC) at the University of Arkansas with the assistance of affiliated faculty member Professor Steve Sheppard of the Leflar School of Law. Originally moved from DePaul University in Chicago in 2007, 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) to publish the journal. Routledge has been supportive of our endeavor. In the spring of 2006, past Director Vince Cornell, current Director Tom Paradise (then Associate Director), and International 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 continues its minimal support of the Journal through the Leflar Law School through 2009 with an annual stipend of \$5,000.

In addition, Center and MEST core faculty member successfully negotiated with the Syracuse University Press in 2007 to publish the winner of our University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. Max Weiss was the 2008 King Fahd Center Arabic Translation Award Winner with his translation of Blood Test by Abbas Beydoun. Both translator and author were awarded \$5,000.

The Fahd Center also worked with the Public Administration Program, the Department of Political Science, and Walton College of Business to finish 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. In addition, MEST and the Walton College of Business have applied for a CIBER grant (Centers for International Business Education & Research) through the efforts of Joe Zeigler (ECON), Bill Curington (WCOB), and Tom Paradise (GEOS, MEST). CIBER Centers were "created under the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 to increase and promote the nation's capacity for



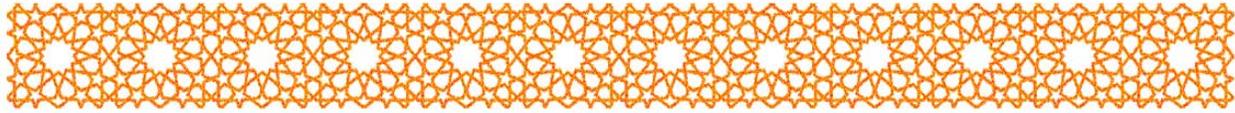
international understanding and economic enterprise. Administered by the U.S. Department of Education under Title VI, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the CIBER program links the manpower and information needs of U.S. business with the international education, language training, and research capacities of universities across the U.S.” MEST involvement in the possible creation of such a Center at the University of Arkansas is crucial since few Centers across the US have Arabic or Middle East cultural or language expertise. With a focus on the Middle East and North Africa as a part of a ‘critical culture’ focus, if the grant is awarded, MEST faculty would be involved in creating and maintaining seminars to teach regional and local businessmen and students about contemporary topics of interest across the Middle East. Only 30 CIBER Centers are currently funded across the US, and such a Center at the University of Arkansas would significantly add to our notoriety in national and international circles.

Finally, overall student enrollment in MEST or MEST-related classes has grown, classes available to MEST students have risen, and participation in MEST events has steadily increased. Lectures, art exhibits, seminars, and forums 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 -- *Biannual Trends*

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
faculty staff salaries & benefits	431959	570144	540295
GA salaries & benefits	299486	246001	176000
Undergraduate scholarships	76400	71800	41600
faculty development	33620	39000	32000
Office/maintenance	11500	7726	11000
visiting speakers	11253	9840	10000
Travel	17490	23308	23308
apartment	23533	23528	12814
library	20000	20000	20000
Rose field school	10000	10000	10000
Study abroad scholarships	10000	10000	10000
affiliated memberships	6152	3500	4000
reimbursements	24897	17392	17392
UPS shipping only	1682	1945	1110
miscellaneous	11380	2377	4007
Arabic speech contest	250	250	0
graduate student research funding		12150	6000
undergrad research funding		3600	3000
Salary adjustments		3600	5000
Fulbright College reimbursement		0	-250000
Casana field school	4700	6400	10000
Projected discretionary funds	0	0	13057
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>994052</b>	<b>1085548</b>	<b>950583</b>

## STUDENT AFFAIRS



### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

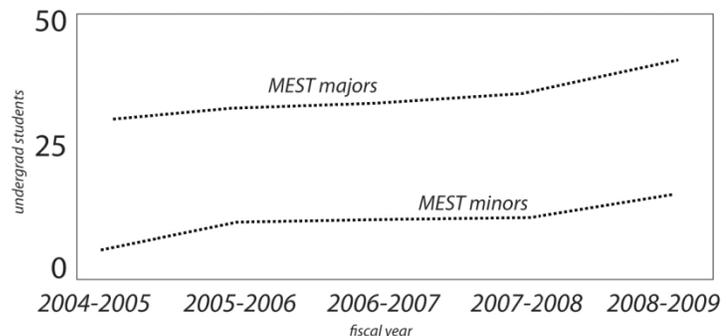
**Seven (7) undergraduates scholarships: \$42,000 (seven partial)**

**Three (3) undergraduate UofA Study Abroad funding: \$10,000 (need/merit-based)**

In academic year 2008-2009 the King Fahd Center supported 7 undergraduate MEST majors on partial scholarships totaling \$42,000. 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 undergraduates has created a more competitive environment among 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). Although at its peak in 2007, nine undergraduates had been supported, through partial scholarships, more funding may be spread around than the full scholarships (\$10,500) awarded in past years. The Center also granted an increased number of partial scholarships (\$6,000) to MEST majors with high GPAs and a noted dedication to Middle East and North Africa Studies – in the past more full scholarships had been granted, while now more partial scholarships are awarded.

In 2008-2009, there were 41 MEST double majors, up from 36 in 2007 and 28 in 2006. The number of MEST minors also rose to 15 this year, up from 12 in 2008, and 10 in 2006 -- rising dramatically from 5 in 2005! A staggering 15 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. Although MEST majors only number between 20 and 40, MEST matriculates 5-10 each spring. At our May graduation ceremony, MEST was represented by ten graduates walking under the Fulbright and MEST banners: four were co-majors in International Relations (IR), three were co-majors with International Relations (IR) with honors, one co-majored in Journalism, one in Geography, and one in Political Science.



..... **Undergraduate Student News** .....

**Kimberly Allen** (*MEST/IR*) spent Spring 2009 as an intern with USSOCOM at Fort MacDill in Tampa, Florida in their Middle East division. She graduated in May 2009 to accept a full-time position in USSOCOM as a Middle East analyst.

**Alia Biller** (*PSYC/MEST*) spent Spring 2009 studying Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Jordan (Amman) in a CIEE program.

**Cole Bockenfeld** (*IR/MEST*) moved to Washington DC after his graduation in 2008 where he works for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in the Middle East and North Africa Division. IFES is an independent, non-governmental organization that provides professional support to electoral democracy.

**Charles Davidson** (*IR/MEST*) studied intensive Arabic in Morocco during the summer of 2008. Charles graduated in May 2009.

**Kathryne Dunlap** (*IR/MEST minor*) traveled to Jordan where she spent spring 2009 studying Arabic and Middle East Studies in the CIEE Program at the University of Jordan in Amman.

**Cory Ellis** (*IR/MEST*) traveled to Morocco in Summer 2008 to study intensive Arabic. He was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship (CAORC) for his studies. Cory has been accepted into a TEFL program in Alexandria, Egypt for Summer 2009.

**Sarah Holland** (*MEST/IR*) was recently hired by Senator Mark Pryor's office in Washington DC as an assistant cultural liaison. She graduated with a BA in MEST/PLSC in 2007.

**Cassie Kordsmeier** (*MEST/IR*) graduated in May 2009 after completing an internship with USSOCOM at Fort MacDill in Tampa.

**Gary Noel** (*IR/MEST*) is enrolled at the American University in Cairo for the summer of 2009 where he is studying intensive Arabic and Middle East issues.

**Jenaleigh Petersen** (*ANTH/MEST*) studied intensive Arabic in Jordan in Summer 2008. Jenaleigh graduated in May 2009.

**Melissa Rhodes** (*ENGL/MEST*) graduated in 2008 and moved to the West Bank where she is currently teaches English (ESL).

**Nick Robbins** (*IR/MEST*) graduated in 2008 moved to Washington DC where he works for Chemonics, an international development consulting firm that promotes 'meaningful change in developing countries'. Nick works in the division that oversees the promotion of Afghani agricultural products (ie pomegranates) in the US.

**Daniel Staggs** (*MEST/IR/PLSC*) graduated in May 2009 after completing an internship with USSOCOM at Fort MacDill in Tampa, Florida. He is currently studying intensive Arabic at the American University of Cairo for the summer.

**Melissa Tuttle** (*IR/MEST*) studied intensive Arabic in Jordan in the summer of 2008. Melissa graduated in May 2009. She plans on working in Washington DC this summer before attending Georgetown Law School in the fall.

**Emily Voight** (*ANTH/MEST*) studied intensive Arabic in Oman in the summer of 2008.

**Andrew Walchuck** (*IR/MEST*) is an intern for the American Task Force for Palestine in Washington DC during the Summer 2009.

**Eric Webb** (*PLSC/MEST*) studied in Muscat, Oman in Fall 2008. He studied intensive Arabic and Political Culture & Development with their SIT Program.

**Chris Wylie** (*IR/MEST/ECON*) studied in Jordan in Summer 2008 where he participated in the SIT Program for Intensive Arabic study in addition to a workshop on Appropriate Technology & Sustainable Development. Chris graduated in May 2009, with a BA in IR and MEST. Upon graduation he moved to Washington, DC to work in the National Council on US-Arab Relations Summer Internship Program. He plans on living in Amman, Jordan to study Arabic at the Qasid Institute in 2010-2011.

#### **New career trends for MEST undergraduates...**

An unexpected trend appeared this year among MEST graduates – many students are seeking new job opportunities in the US and International Intelligence communities. Three graduates, Daniel Staggs (*MEST/IR*), Cassie Kordsmeier (*MEST/IR*) and Kimberly Allen (*MEST/IR*) all joined the internship program with USSOCOM (Defense Intelligence Agency Special Operations) at Fort MacDill in Tampa, Florida working in various aspects of Middle East research (political, geographic and translation).

#### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Sixteen (16) Graduate Student Assistantships: \$176,000**

**Two (2) Graduate student proposal-based funding: \$6,000**

The total funding for graduate assistants was \$176,000, considerably less than previous years at \$246,000 (2007-2008), \$260,000 (2005-2006), and \$300,000 (2004-2005), due to prudent cutbacks in the number of assistantships granted, down from its peak of 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 student applications were declined, their abilities were recognized by the Fulbright Honors Program and Honors College; funding was found there. MEST savings were instituted by granting fewer assistantships while awarding more research-related funding for graduate students. This is a new direction for MEST funding so that

supplemental language studies and research-related travel may be partially supported. With only 21-23 graduate students now slotted for departmental assistantships, more proposal-based requests will be solicited in the future. In the first round of proposal-based summer research funding in February 2007, seven proposals were submitted to MEST with funding awarded to four grad students for a total \$12,000. However, with decreased revenue from the Foundation, MEST was still able to award two travel research requests this year totaling \$6000. These proposal-based funding opportunities have proven to be effective in stimulating both a personal investment in thesis research and fomenting a solid academic (and competitive) environment. Between 2005 and 2008, ten 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 Egypt, and Jordan. 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'. These 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. Most of the completed MA theses and PhD Dissertations can be viewed in the MEST Office Library.

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 advisors and committees to track student progress throughout the years of funding -- 2 years for MA and 4 years for PhD follow Graduate School guidelines.

The Center will continue to adhere to Graduate School guidelines for funding, which stipulates a maximum four semesters for MA students and eight semesters for PhD 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 full or partial support for MEST graduate students (or those in related research) to present papers at regional, national, or international conferences whenever possible. These students are first directed to the Graduate College for funding, and once those opportunities are exhausted they can approach MEST for conference fee, lodging and travel support.

#### ..... Graduate Student News .....

**Altaf Abro** (*PA/PLSC*) is currently in Pakistan investigating the role of perception on water use and water policy. In addition, Mr. Abro has been working with Dr. Paradise on a new research project that investigates seismic risk and perception among the Muslims of quake-devastated Northern Pakistan.

**Ben Adams** (*ANTH*) joined the University of Arizona where he will be working on his PhD in Anthropology. He is teaching Elementary Arabic in their Foreign Language Department as well. Ben co-majored in MEST and Anthropology at Arkansas and studied Arabic abroad in Lebanon through MEST support.

**Chris Angel** (*GEOS*) completed his MA thesis research in southern Jordan on *Bedouin urban planning in Umm Sayhoun: from nomadic to sedentary in twenty years*. On his recent trip to Jordan, his findings were discussed before the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities. He presented his findings at the International UNESCO Conference and the World Archaeological Congress in Dublin, Ireland in July 2008. He will be joining the Environmental Dynamics Program (ENDY) where he plans to continue his research in Petra, Jordan.

**David Chaudoir** (*ANTH*) is currently working on his dissertation research in Dubai on clan structures in contemporary Gulf States society. He completed his MA at Arkansas.

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

**Lauren Galle** (*ANTH*) studied intensive Arabic in Oman in the summer of 2008.

**Stephanie Kirkland** (*GEOG*) received a six-year scholarship (\$120,000) for her PhD research at York University, Toronto, Canada. She will continue her Arkansas MA research on tourism in Tunisia.

**Kristen Mullins** (*ANTH*) studied intensive Arabic in Oman in the summer of 2008.

**Matt Parnell** (*HIST*) is living and conducting research with his family in Egypt while studying Arabic and to conduct his field research for his dissertation.

**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** (*ENDY-GEOS*) conducted his dissertation field research across the Madaba Plain of Jordan during the summer of 2008. He is investigating historical and modern methods of water conservation in the arid land of Jordan, through interviews and surveys with regional bedouins including the H'waitat and Beni Hamida clans. He plans on graduating in 2010 from the Environmental Dynamics Program.

**Nadine Sinno** (*ENGL*) completed her dissertation, "Disrupted Places and Creative Spaces: the transformative power of border-crossings, prison, and war in contemporary Arab women's writings" to graduate with a PhD in English and Comparative Literature. She has accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in Atlanta, Georgia with Georgia State University.

**Maysoun Thawaba** (*GEOS*) who graduated with a MA in Geography in 2007 was recently hired as a Cartographer and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst with the Urban Planning Authority in Palestine.

**Salem Abdulateef Thawaba** (*ENDY*) was hired as an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the College of Architecture & Urban Planning at Birzeit University in Palestine. Dr. Thawaba taught Arabic fulltime while conducting his research in the Environmental Dynamics Program graduating in 2007. His work and expertise in Palestine is widely recognized in Levantine urban design and planning.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

The King Fahd Center provided \$10,000 in support for each summer from 2006-2009 for the Archaeological Field Schools in Jordan, directed by MEST-affiliated faculty member Jerry Rose. 2009 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 in addition to general field school participation, 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 has been pleased and proud to support the Yarmouk-Arkansas archaeological field projects.

MEST also supported MEST affiliated faculty member Jesse Casana (ANTH) during the summers of 2006 through 2009 where University of Arkansas students participated in a second *Archaeological Research Project in Syria*. The majority of this project was funded by the American Schools for Oriental Research (ASOR), of which the Fahd Center is an institutional member. The King Fahd Center contributed an additional \$10,000 toward these 6-week projects, 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 redirected. Over past years, the Fahd Center provided \$10,000-15,000 for summer funding for Arabic Language Study Abroad participation in Ifrane, Morocco at Al-Akhawayn University, and in Beirut, Lebanon at the Lebanese-American University. However, students have increasingly voiced displeasure with the instruction and accommodation in Ifrane in Morocco, and Lebanon remains unstable on the US State Department warning list. 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, the University of Jordan in Amman, the University of Yarmouk in Irbid, Jordan, 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, since 2007 more than thirty students have been partially or fully supported 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. Some of the graduate and undergraduate students (2007 to the present) are listed below:

***EGYPT:***

Uzma Ahmad, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Kimberly Allen, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Andreas Chen, American University in Cairo, Summer 2009  
Cory Ellis, TEFL program in Alexandria, Egypt, Summer 2009  
Bethaina Ibrahim, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Heba Naseem, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Gary Noel, American University in Cairo, Summer 2009  
Matt Parnell, CASA Program at the American University of Cairo, Fall 2009  
Andrew Parsons, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Homa Quazilbash, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007  
Elizabeth Spradley, American University in Cairo, Full Year  
Daniel Staggs, American University of Cairo, Summer 2009  
William Watson, American University in Cairo, Summer 2007

**JORDAN:**

Alia Biller, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan, Summer 2008  
Nathan Brown, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan, Fall 2007  
Kendall Byers, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan , Fall 2007  
Kathryne Dunlap, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan, Summer 2008  
Cassie Kordsmeier, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan, Summer 2008  
Jenaleigh Petersen, University of Jordan - intensive Arabic, Summer 2008  
Simon Reid, Yarmouk University intensive Arabic, Summer 2007  
Routh Evelyn Standridge, CIEE Program at the University of Jordan, Spring 2008  
Melissa Tuttle, University of Jordan - intensive Arabic, Summer 2008  
Chris Wylie, University of Jordan with SIT, Summer 2008  
Chris Wylie, Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan - intensive Arabic, Fall 2009

**MOROCCO:**

Joseph Green, Intensive Arabic training in Tangier, Morocco, Summer 2008  
Cory Ellis, Intensive Arabic training in Tangier, Morocco, Summer 2008  
Charles Davidson, Fes Language Institute in Morocco, Summer 2008

**OMAN:**

Eric Webb, SIT Program in Muscat, Summer 2008  
Emily Voight, CAORC Intensive Arabic Program in Muscat, Summer 2008  
Lauren Galle, CAORC Intensive Arabic Program in Muscat, Summer 2008  
Kristen Mullins, CAORC Intensive Arabic Program in Muscat, Summer 2008

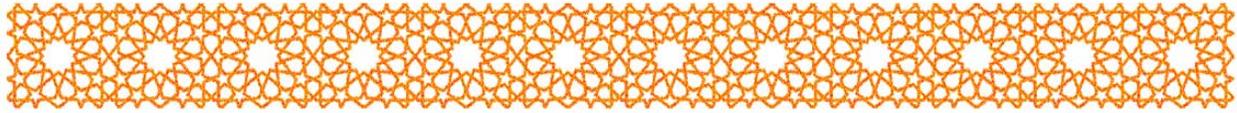
**TURKEY:**

Kendall Byers, University of the Bosphorus (Boğaziçi), Spring 2008

**YEMEN:**

Tricia Nellessen, intensive Arabic Program and research, Summer 2008

## CURRICULUM & FACULTY ASSESSMENT



University-wide curriculum changes created in 2004 were then implemented in 2005, and are now in place having been added to the 2007-2008 edition of the Catalog of Studies. Three new classes were added the core requirement for the MEST degree at that time. *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 4033H Honors Geography of the Middle East  
GEOG 410 Middle East & North African Resources  
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 4003H 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, the intensive Arabic program since appears to be a success. Enrollments were up for classes 2007-2008, over all 2006 enrollments. 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. In Fall 2004, Kay Pritchett, Chair of Foreign Languages and past Director Vince Cornell collaborated in writing a Fulbright grant application to secure an instructor in the Farsi (Persian) for 2005-2006. Fulbright cancelled this program to re-open it in 2006-2007. 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 Farsi at the university through the new Director Tom Paradise. 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 could be supplied by another foreign university (i.e. St. Petersburg State University (MOI). This proposed exchange was rejected again for unexplained reasons.

MEST along with the Fulbright College will re-proposed for another Farsi instructor to see if it might be possible to recruit another instructor in the upcoming years.

### ***New Curriculum and Instructors: Christian History and Geography of Iran***

In 2008-2009, MEST and the Center expanded its curriculum by adding a Christian Historian as an instructor to teach classes in early Judaic, Christian and Islamic history, the Old and New Testaments, and classes in the Bible and Qur'an. Spencer Allen is a Harvard graduate currently finishing his dissertation at Penn and has been teaching classes in Biblical and Christian history. He has taught small seminars with 3-6 students, and larger classes with 20-30. His classes remain popular with increasing enrollments and include the following topics:

*The Bible and the Qur'an, The New Testament in Early Christian History, Characters common to both the Qur'an and Bible, The Old Testament*

In the Fall 2009, another *experimental* class will be offered in 'History, Geography and Politics of Iran/Persia'. Offered by Ramin Rezakhani, an Iranian national who has two MA degrees in business and history. He will be teaching his class as co-listed in GEOG and MEST and his class will count as a MEST Special Topics class (MEST/GEOG 410) as well as a Geography Elective. In addition, Mr. Rezakhani will be conducting seminars in basic Farsi for students who have requested an introduction to the language of Iran.

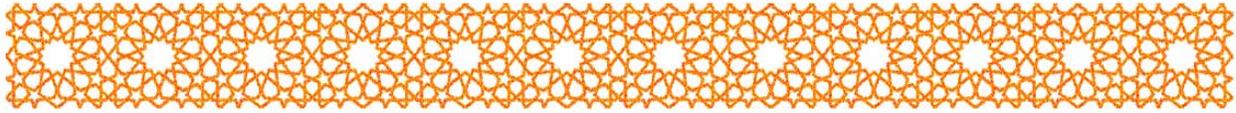
### **Faculty Assessment**

Procedures were standardized for academic year 2005-2006 by the Fulbright College to be implemented the following year by MEST. 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 collaborative 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 and 2006. 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, is still processing and cataloging the complete collection in 2008-2009. Plans are currently 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.

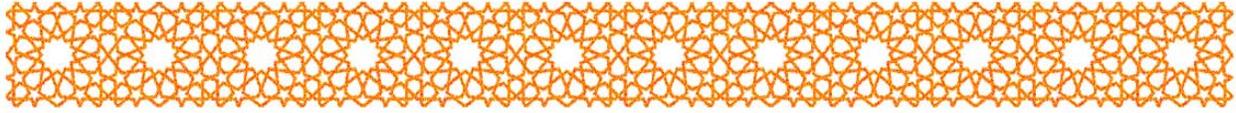
### ***Partnership with Hebrew University***

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. The group from Arkansas 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. When Dean Bobbitt stepped down in 2008, plans were being made to invite the Dean of Humanities and Provost of the Rothberg School to the University of Arkansas. The developing UA-HU connection will promise 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, MEST and the Fulbright College 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.

## 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 2008. Project Co-PIs were Todd Shields, Chair of Political Science, Margaret Reid, and Donald Kelley, Director of the Fulbright Institute for International Relations. The Fahd Center facilitated all links between the Arkansas team and the Tunis team through its previous relationships with the Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Tunisia, Jamil Chaker.

An initial agreement was signed on May 1, 2004 by the Shields, Kelley and Cornell (past 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 (2004-2007)*
- *Masters in E-Government and Information Technology (2005-2008)*
- *Development of the NGO Management Program (2006-2009)*

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 were in residence at the University of Arkansas in 2007, and up to four other ISG faculty visited at the same time. In 2007-2008, four University of Arkansas faculty members went 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 2007-2008. 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, and again in 2005 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 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, and returned the following year. 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.*

## ***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.

Since the JILC has been brought to the UofA campus, the Leflar Law School international law students now compete to join its editorial board, while Arkansas faculty have contributed to the JILC as well. National and International response to the journal has been overwhelmingly positive with additional requests coming in from outside faculty, scholars and lawyers to join the editorial board as well. The Journal has brought a new notoriety to the University of Arkansas, Fahd Center and Leflar Law School.

## ***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.

### ***Past Prime (High) Minister of Scotland, Honorable Henry McLeish***

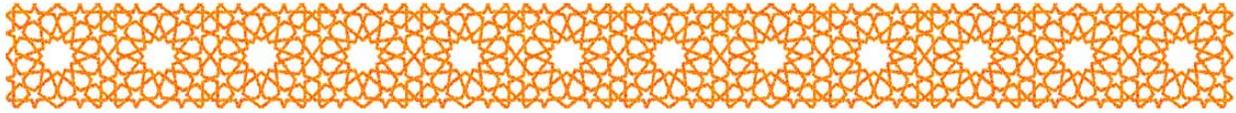
The Fahd Center continues to maintain strong relationship with the Honorable Henry McLeish, the past High Minister of the Scottish Parliament, and past Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom. Through our ties with the Fulbright European Studies Program, MEST and the Center was able to bring Mr. McLeish to the UofA campus for a series of lectures, classroom presentations and collaborative inter-College programs. Mr. McLeish has given a number of talks and presentations to our MEST students in such topics as ‘the role of EU policies in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict’ and ‘British Policies regarding its engagement in the Iraqi War’. When lecturing and teaching on campus, the Fahd Center on occasion, has supported Mr. McLeish by permitting him to stay at the Lafayette Apartment. However since the apartment lease finished in June 2009, MEST is fortunate that the UofA Hartman Hotz Endowment will support Henry’s continued visits to the University.

### ***Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Tunisia***

The Fahd Center continues to maintain strong ties with Dr. Jamil Chaker, the Counselor to the Minister of Higher Education, Republic of Tunisia and the new director of TEMPUS MEDA. During his first visits to Arkansas in 2005 and 2007, Dr. Chaker spent weeks on the University campus meeting with various faculty and officials, delivering lectures and seminars to the French section of the Foreign Languages Program and to MEST and Geography students on Tunisia. 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).

In addition, Dr. Chaker was recently chosen as the Tunisian Director of TEMPUS-MEDA. The Tempus Program is the European Union co-operation organization for Higher Education which supports the process of transformation to market economies and democratic societies in line with the objectives of overall EU co-operation. This new position gives MEST a new, strong tie to Tunisia and its Mediterranean (European, African and Middle Eastern) relationships as well.

## KING FAHD CENTER ACTIVITIES



### ***MEST-sponsored Visiting Speakers & Special Events***

*In 2008-2009, the following speakers and events were sponsored or supported by the Fahd Center and MEST Program:*

- Barry Kemp, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge. MEST/ANTH *“Meeting the Dead at Amarna”*, September 2008
- Themina Kader, visiting artist. MEST/Fine Arts. *“Images and Identity: Muslim Women’s World View”*, October 2008
- Elizabeth Smith, Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont. MEST/ANTH, *“The Nile Flows Through His Veins: The Cartoon Character Bakkat as Egyptian and African”*, October 2008
- Benjamin Smith, Florida International University. MEST/MESGA, *“The New Dubai: Materializing the Middle Eastern Market in Dubai”*, October 2008
- Anne Meneley, Department of Anthropology, Trent University. MEST/ANTH, *“A Tale of Two Itineraries: The Production, Consumption and Circulation of Extra-virgin Tuscan and Palestinian Olive Oil”*, March 2009

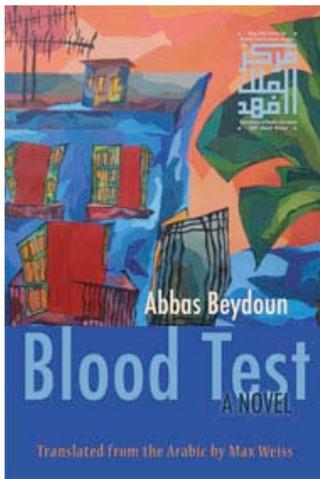
### **..... Faculty Events .....**

- Joel Gordon (HIST) hosted his Middle East Film Club (fall and spring semesters).
- Tom Paradise (GEOS) was interviewed by ABC-TV for a segment on Petra and the new SEVEN WONDERS of the WORLD on Good Morning America, March 2008 and Spring 2009
- Jerry Rose (ANTH) had a nice Northwest Arkansas Times Article by Dustin Tracy *“Fiction by the Shovelful: Real-life archaeology features more analysis, less gallantry”*, May 2008
- Najib Ghabdian (PLSC), Joel Gordon (HIST), Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) hosted a Forum: Middle East Update – Countdown to November, October 2008
- Mohja Kahf (ENGL). Readings in the Gallery-Fine Arts Center, *“Poet and Author of the Novel—The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf”*, October 2008
- Ted Swedenburg (ANTH), Najib Ghabdian (PLSC) and Joel Gordon (HIST) hosted a Forum: Gaza/Israel: Myths/Realities, January 2009

- Mohja Kahf (ENGL) participated in a discussion group through the McMichael Lecture Series at St Paul's Episcopal Church including: Mohja, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, and Reverend Lowell Grisham, March 2009
- Najib Ghabbian managed the 2009 National Model Arab League, Washington DC representing Somalia. Students included Laila Taraghi, Homa Quazilbash, Beth Ibrahim, Will Watson, Robert Hintz, Eric May, Melissa Tuttle, March 2009
- Jerry Rose (ANTH) led an Archaeological Field School in Amarna, Egypt, March 2008 and 2009
- Jesse Casana (ANTH) lead an Archaeological Field School in Syria, Tell Qarqur site, Summers 2008 and 2009

### **Arkansas Arabic Translation Award**

The King Fahd Center awarded the Arabic Translation Award in 2007-2008 to original author Abbas Beydoun with a translation by Max Weiss. Barnes and Noble described the book as follows:



*'a first novel by Lebanese poet and journalist Abbas Beydoun follows a young man's obsession with his dead uncle along his journey to manhood. The narrator is a young student who suddenly finds himself the head of his household after the deaths of his sickly father, his brother in an untimely accident, and his legendary uncle some years earlier. Into the mix comes Safia, once betrothed to the narrator's uncle, and now remarried to a rich artist, Hashim, and with a young daughter. As the narrator sifts through his father's effects, speculating on his past and his competitive relationship with his brother, he finds himself attracted to the older Safia, partly out of his identification with his larger-than-life uncle. The two become lovers, but as Safia's relationship with her husband deteriorates, the narrator realizes their complicated familial ties prohibit him from running away with her.'*

The Arkansas Arabic Translation Award carries a \$5000 award for the translator, and \$5000 also awarded to the original author (if living). Submissions are solicited for all 19th-21st Century Arabic literature including both fiction and non-fiction works in the literary tradition, as well as academic works. Syracuse Press advertises the book with full references to the King Fahd Center and the University of Arkansas, and the book cover has the Fahd Center logo prominently displayed. The Ahmad Ibn Abi Diyaf translation was the last award winner published by University of Arkansas Press for 2005. In 2004, MEST switched publishers from the University of Arkansas Press to the Syracuse Press. No award was given following the Diyaf translation until the Beydoun and Weiss collaboration.

### ***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, 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. Since 2007, under the assistance of graduate student Christopher Angel, the website was placed within the University of Arkansas domain. Currently, on-line issues of the *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 departure of Vince Cornell, the issue was never published. During 2007-2008, a team of undergraduate students with graphics training finished the fifth edition. A new edition is slated for online release in late 2009 or early 2010.

### ***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). He was interviewed for a segment on Good Morning America (ABC-TV) on Petra, Jordan. 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 18+ 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. A report on the 2009 meeting follows:

### **Report about National Model Arab League, Washington, DC (March 27-29, 2009)**

Seven MEST/PLSC students traveled to Georgetown University to compete with over 20 other schools in the political simulation of the Model Arab League. During the simulation, each student was charged with representing the University of Arkansas's country, Somalia, on each of seven committees. This country proved to be quite a challenge given the current political difficulties that Somalia faces. However, this experience was rewarding and enriching, and the preparation for the model proved to be extremely fruitful in helping us accurately represent our committees.

Arkansas was represented on the Political Affairs Committee by junior Eric May (PLSC/IR), on the Palestinian Affairs committee by senior Will Watson (MEST/IR/PLSC), on the Ministers of Justice Committee by senior Melissa Tuttle (MEST/IR/PLSC), on the Joint Defense Council by junior Robert Hintz (MEST/IR), on the Social Affairs committee by senior Bethaina Ibrahim (MEST/IR), on the Economic Affairs committee by graduate student Laila Taraghi (MEST/PLSC), and on the Environmental Affairs committee by senior Homa Quazilbash (MEST/JOUR/PLSC). This year's Model Arab League was highly successful and each student thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to travel to the nation's capital and compete against other quality institutions of higher education. The guidance of Dr. Najib Ghadbian was invaluable in preparing for the conference, and in consultation during the course of the Model with all student representatives. Dr. Ghadbian spent weeks preparing for the conference out of his own time, and chaperoned the students in Washington – a daunting task.

The Center will continue its commitment to sponsor attendance by UofA students at the Model Arab League nationals. This experience is 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***

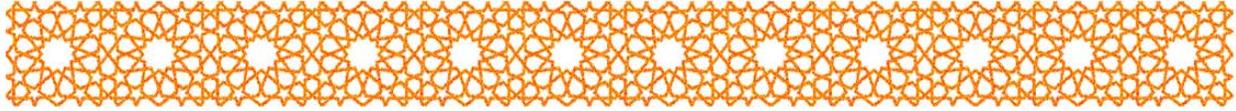
The King Fahd Center continues to budget \$20,000 annually to provide books, subscriptions, and other materials for Mullins Library. These procedures were implemented in 2006-2007 and continued into 2008-2009. To be as fair as possible for the needs of all Center-affiliated faculty and their disciplinary 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 Dorjee – our visiting Tibetan Monk and Master***

The King Fahd Center was pleased and honored to assist in supporting two visiting Tibetan monks, Geshi and Rinzin Dorjee in 2006 and 2007. They taught a number of classes in the Fulbright College, and the Center was able to support their stay through their use of a MEST supported 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. With the recent Foundation shortfalls, the Center has not been able to financially assist the visiting monks, however MEST still benefits from their work at the university since many MEST majors take their classes in Buddhism and World Religions.

On a recent demonstration and creation of a sand Mandala, regional media coverage and spectator participation and viewing was overwhelming. Geshi Dorjee continues to teach and inspire our students and faculty across the Fulbright College and in the MEST Program.

## 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 Ghabbian (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. Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English) Comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, women's studies, Orientalism
7. Thomas Paradise (Professor of Geosciences) Cultural & physical geography, human and natural impacts on cultural and natural resources, architectural deterioration, geography of the Middle East & North Africa
8. Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology) Biological Anthropology, bio-archaeology, forensic anthropology, archaeology of Jordan and Egypt
9. Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology) Cultural anthropology of the Middle East, social and critical theory
10. William Tucker (Associate Professor of History) Medieval Middle Eastern history, Shiite Islam, history of Islamic world and the Mediterranean

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

11. Charles Adams (Professor of English, Associate Dean of Fulbright College) North Africa in American Literary Culture, North Africa and the Middle East in the Western Imaginary
12. Jacob Adler (Associate Professor of Philosophy) Judaic Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Languages (Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic)
13. Lynda Coon (Professor of History) Early Christianity in the Arab world and Mediterranean basin, Late Roman Empire, sainthood in late antiquity, gender and sexuality
14. Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) Director of the Public Administration graduate program
15. 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)*

16. Stephen Sheppard (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*
17. Mounir Farah (Professor of Education) Curriculum and development, diplomatic history of the modern Middle East

..... **Faculty News** .....

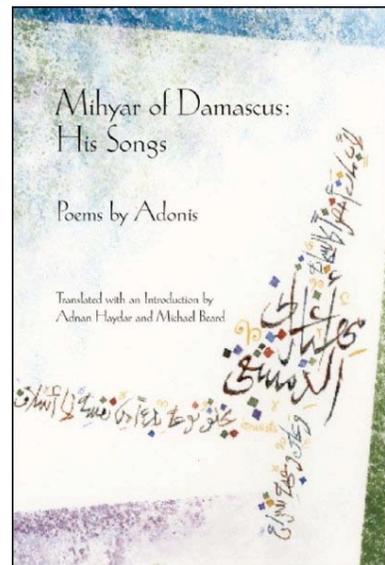
**Najib Ghabbian** (PLSC) continues to do political analyses on Al-Jazeera and Al-Hurra television news networks. In addition Dr. Ghabbian, Joel Gordon (HIST) and Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) run bi-weekly forums on current affairs in the Middle East as "Diwan Baghdad". The forum was well-attended and was held from throughout the academic year. It is anticipated that they will continue with this important service to the Fayetteville and campus community.

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

**Joel Gordon** (HIST) continues to act as an 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 active member of the MEST faculty overseeing a number of committees and decision-making circumstances including Diwan Baghdad: our Middle East Forum, and Nadi Cinema (the Middle East Film Club). He currently supervises two (2) PhD students in MEST-related research projects and dissertations.

*Oneworld* Publications 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 Press).

**Adnan Haydar** (FLAN) Adnan Haydar initiated and oversees the University's new Arabic minor that consists of 15 credits in Arabic language and literature courses at the 3000 level or higher. Adnan Haydar and his co-instructor and wife, Paula Haydar continued working on a Lebanese Dialect Companion to Al-Kitaab. A second DVD with accompanying written materials and 100 oral drill exercises were completed. The Haydars traveled to Lebanon in the summer, 2009 to tape scenes. Oral exercises were prepared at the Haydars and doctoral candidate Nadine Sinno. He directed 2 dissertations: Qusai Aldebyan, "Strategies for Translating Arabic Cultural Markers into English: A Foreignizing Approach," and Krista Casada, "Garden and Plant Imagery in Medieval Spanish and Arabic Literature of the Iberian Peninsula. Adnan Haydar co-translated two books of poetry, in addition to two poems that appeared in *The New Yorker*. He has two works in progress, the Eastern Arabic Dialect Course with DVDs and text (Georgetown University Press), and a translation of "The Future of the Arabic Language," an essay by Kahlil Gibran. He translated Mihyar of Damascus by Adonis (Ali Ahmad Sa'id) through Rochester Press (2008), and Intimate Verses by Henri Zoghaib through Syracuse University Press (2008)



**Paula Haydar** (FLAN) developed a new course in Eastern/Lebanese Arabic dialect to be taught for the first time during the summer session, 2009 (FLAN 398V). The Eastern Dialect will be introduced to students at various levels beyond the first year of study of Modern Standard Arabic. She published her translation of an excerpt from the novel short-listed for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction Walking in the Dust by May Menassa. She translated the novella Masaas by Adania Shibli (2009), and the End of Spring by Sahar Khalifeh through Interlink (2008).

**Mohja Kahf** (ENGL) had a book of her poems published in Arabic in Lebanon. Translated by Lotfi Haddad, it is called Mubarakatun Enti Bayn an-Nisa or *Blessed Art Thou Among Women* and features poems about Mary, Hagar, and various characters and protagonists from the Qur'an and Bible.

Professor Kahf's latest book The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf, was 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).

Mohja continues to grant interviews across the US including venues at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, University of Washington, Seattle, Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, and at Indiana University, South Bend.



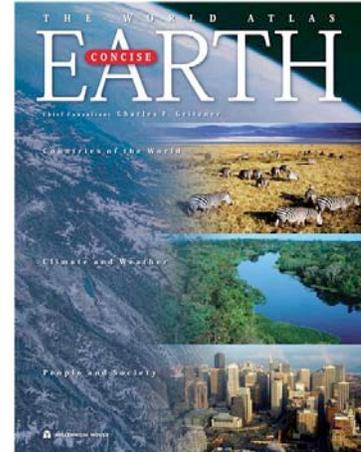
**Tom Paradise** Tom Paradise (GEOS) continues to conduct his on-going research on the Roman and Nabataean architecture of Petra, Jordan. In his 19th year of research in this famous, ruined city, his research projects were assisted by Chris Angel, a Geosciences graduate student who worked with Dr. Paradise and the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism in digitally mapping the Valley of Petra and the local village of Umm Sayhoun. In fact, his work in Petra was highlighted at the recent UNESCO World Archaeological Congress in Dublin (July 2008) where he spoke before a packed audience at the University of Dublin.

In 2009, Dr. Paradise was interviewed by Desiree Adib, News Analyst and Reporter for ABC-News for a segment on Good Morning America. GMA did a one week series on the new SEVEN WONDERS of the World and Paradise's expertise in Petra, Jordan was used for on-air interviews and background research. His research into the architectural decay of the 'Valley of the Crescent Moon' was been ongoing for nearly twenty years. Many Mediterranean countries have requested Paradise's knowledge on sandstone, granite and limestone architecture and building materials. A recent article in the London Times on Petra and UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, specifically discussed Paradise's research and his affiliation with the University of Arkansas and the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies.

Tom Paradise has also recently published a number of papers on seismic risk and perception in Muslim communities including Agadir, Morocco. His 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). His research is becoming important in urban planning arenas looking at the complexities of religion in public safety, emergency management, and city design issues. The popularity of the publications brought about more than 300 online e-article downloads in one week.

Tom Paradise was also a primary contributor to the new EARTH Atlas. The biggest atlas in the world, the volume is being billed as the ultimate book about our planet Earth. A team of more than 100 photographers, cartographers, geographers and oceanographers took eight months to compile the 576-page atlas, which represents an evolution from a conventional collection of facts and maps to an attempt to capture the diversity and intricacies of an entire planet. Professor Paradise's contribution included most of North Africa. This ATLAS is being touted as 'the best there is' (<http://dailyheadlines.uark.edu/14488.htm>).

Paradise is also a regular consultant to NHNZ and FreeMantle TV, 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, Dolores 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 in Irbid, Jordan. During the summer, the Center co-sponsors the excavation of Late Roman and early Christian tombs at the site of Natfieh in northern Jordan. Professor Rose directs the field school for UofA students who are joined by one faculty and three staff members of Yarmouk University in addition to 13-15 local workers. During the summer of 2009, Professor Rose returns with graduate and undergraduate students at the same site for their 15<sup>th</sup> season in Jordan.

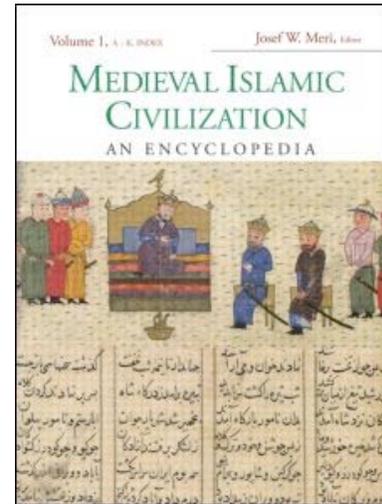
Also, the Fahd Center helped support the excavation of the Dr. Rose's New Kingdom site of Tell Amarna in Egypt (14<sup>th</sup> Century BCE) during the spring months. The MEST-supported excavation was filmed by the BBC for a television documentary. The excavation was co-sponsored by the Egypt Exploration Society and directed by Professor Barry Kemp of Cambridge University.

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

**Ted Swedenburg** (ANTH) conducted preliminary fieldwork and surveys of contemporary Palestinian popular music, with a special emphasis on rap music. With a West Bank focus, he interviewed the premier Palestinian-Israeli rap band DAM in Lydda. Since most previous work on Palestinian work has focused on DAM, Swedenburg's work is unique in that it concentrates on the West Bank.

Swedenburg's lecture "*Rai Music in France*" was presented at the workshop "Sounds from la Cité: Franco-Maghrebi Music" at the University of Chicago last year. 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. He is also a book and publication editor for a number of University Presses.

**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). Professor Tucker recently retired from University of Arkansas Department of History – he will be sadly missed.



**Rembrandt Wolpert** (HIST), Elizabeth Markham (HIST), and Bo Lowergren (MUS) presented a section on “Buddhist Music from India to Japan” at a colloquium on early sacred music in Lisbon, Portugal last summer (2008). Due to university reorganization, they recently joined the faculty in the Department of History, leaving the Department of Music.

*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 2008-2009 have been maintained at \$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 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.

In 2008, Dr. Ted Swedenberg submitted a formal proposal for the investigation of Palestinian Rap Music. He innovative research represents the first use of this new procedure to support leading-edge scholarship within the Fahd Center cadre.

### ***Faculty Committees (2008-2009)***

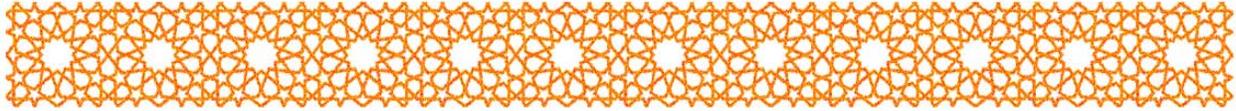
As part of their participation in the program, MEST-Fahd core faculty members are assigned to serve on at least one committee. Committee assignments are changed for each new academic year. The latest committee assignments for 2006-2007 were as follows:

1. Executive Committee: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Ghabbian, and Adams
2. Publications & Translation Award: Haydar (Chair), Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
3. Outreach: Ghabbian, Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg
4. Arabic: Haydar, Haydar, Joan Turner (FLAN Chair)
5. Undergraduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, Wall
6. Graduate Awards: Paradise, Gordon, Swedenburg, , Ghabbian, Kahf
7. Media (Website/Newsletter): Paradise, Suz Wall (MEST administrative assistant), Nani Verzon and Simon Reid (MEST student representatives), Chris Angel (www coordinator)

### ***Faculty Advising***

Center faculty members are assigned as advisors to all MEST majors (and occasionally MEST minors). 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, while the Director and Associate Director often advise additional aspects of MEST including Study Abroad, Arabic language supplemental study, MEST-related administrative issues and undergraduate and graduate matriculation. 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



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, their funding however, is primarily supported through USDOE Middle East National Resource Centers and Title VI Council grants. The King Fahd Center and MEST is supported through a 15-year endowment. This allows us a different flexibility, but when markets fluctuate, so does the Endowment principle.

Even though our program is developing a strong reputation in these same conventional 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 be 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 groundbreaking 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 in 2007, a leading Classical and Biblical historian, *Jesus and the Politics of the Roman Empire* was attended by more than 300-400 students and faculty was covered by regional and national media. 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, to speak about his Pulitzer-nominated book on the Iraq War, Unembedded. Anderson's two talks and presentations were attended by 400-500 students, 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 50-70 students during its evening class time. 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 & Islamic Studies has been severely affected by university budgetary restraints and a plummeting Endowment, 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.

Efficient, reduced spending and creative vision – with a vastly decreased operation budget – can still assure a flexible and innovative program. With our successful budgetary restraints over the past years, and our debt to the Fulbright College paid back in full, all in conjunction with new our foci for the Center and Program, our future is bright. With a vision that includes supplementary Middle Eastern languages like Hebrew, Turkish and/or 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 – insh'allah.



### **MIDDLE EAST STUDIES GRADUATES, May 2009**

(l-r) Kimberly Allen (MEST), Beth Ibrahim (MEST), Daniel Staggs (MEST), Dr. Tom Paradise (Interim Director of MEST), Routhelyyn Stanbridge (MEST), Dr. Fiona Davidson (Director of European Studies, EUST), Cassie Kordsmeier (MEST)

## APPENDIX

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

*Fiscal Year 2008-2009  
(due October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 committeesNames 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)
- 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 résumé 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 résumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than \$5000, 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, 2009 (3pm) for the spring semester, or September 15, 2009 (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.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.foundation.sdsu.edu/proposal_dev_how_to_write.html)

## 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 résumé 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 résumé or curriculum vita not to exceed three pages and including all previous or active funding greater than \$5000, 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.research.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>  
[http://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/proposal\\_dev\\_how\\_to\\_write.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.meaning.ca/articles/print/writing_research_proposal_may02.htm)  
[http://www.ideo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen\\_res/how\\_to\\_thesis\\_proposal.html](http://www.ideo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_res/how_to_thesis_proposal.html)*