

أخبار و أحداث

News & Happenings
The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies Newsletter

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العلاقات
الاقليمية

King Fahd Center
for Middle East Studies
at the University of
Arkansas

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It is that time of year when we welcome everyone back to formal studies and work. These are certainly momentous times and for all of us, whether here or abroad, it was an eventful summer. Center faculty and students traveled to or continued to undertake research in to Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, and Turkey. In some places we traveled with greater caution than usual and those who intended to complete a summer in Egypt found themselves heading home or re-routed to programs elsewhere. Things have only become more complicated in ensuing months.

Here at the University of Arkansas, we continue to endeavor to share our experiences and expertise on and off campus, with students, colleagues, community members, and the media. We have already hosted two very different, provocative and timely lectures by our first 2 visiting scholars and organized a student-faculty forum on Egypt. More events are scheduled for coming months, some generated by today's headlines and hits, others by much longer views of the region.

We wish everyone a good – busy – semester.

Dr. Joel Gordon
Director of the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies



Cover features wall graffiti at Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt; photo courtesy of Joel Gordon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New MESGA Officers

Announcing the new Middle East Studies Graduate Association officers for 2013-2014:

Nicole Fares, President
Aaron Shew, Vice President
Charles Davidson, Secretary
Peter von Groote, Treasurer

The Middle East Studies Graduate Association (MESGA) is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) under the auspices of the Arkansas Student Government (ASG) run by graduate students affiliated with the King Fahd Center and interested in Middle East & Islamic Studies. MESGA members help facilitate each other's research and endeavor to provide academic outreach to the university and broader community, in addition to sponsoring guest speakers, film screenings, current events forums, language circles, and provides a forum to discuss graduate student issues and to peer review each other's work.



Social Media

Follow the King Fahd Center on **Facebook** and **Twitter**, and check out video clips from our events on **YouTube**. Want more information on our programs and other opportunities in Middle East Studies? Ask to be added to our mailing list.



Watch, Read, Listen

Keep up with the King Fahd Center in the press: podcasts, video clips and articles are regularly posted on the King Fahd Center website under **News & Media**.

Watch Dr. Lisa Hajjar's lecture on YouTube
Read about Nadi Cinema on *Newswire*
Listen to Dr. Shaheen's interview with *Ozark at Large*

7:00 PM WEDNESDAYS - MULLINS 104

August 28: Cry of an Ant (Egypt 2011)

September 4: Ceasefire (Iran 2006)

September 18: Reel Bad Arabs

Special Screening & Discussion with Dr. Jack Shaheen

October 2: Five Minarets in New York (Turkey 2010)

October 16: The Fifth Heaven (Israel 2011)

October 30: Zaman: The Man from the Reeds (Iraq 2003)

November 20: Under the Moonlight (Iran 2001)

December 4: A New Day in Old Sanaa (Yemen 2005)

NADI CINEMA FALL 2013



All films subtitled in English. Free and Open to the Public.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting

October 10-13, 2013

King Fahd Center faculty, students and alumni will be attending and presenting their work at the upcoming Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in New Orleans. Presenting papers will be:

Ahmet Akturk, 'Kurdish Nationalists Respond to Kemalism in Syria and Lebanon: Rival Nationalisms and Similar Visions'

Joel Gordon, Hasan and Marcos – 'Where's Cohen?: Screen Shots of a Changing Egypt'

Mohja Kahf, 'Women & the Arab Uprisings: Political, Economic & Gender Violences'

Matthew Parnell, 'On Whose Shoulders? – Investigating the Diverse Concepts of Youth in Interwar Egypt'

أهلاً وسهلاً!

Arabic Conversation Table

Wednesdays, September 18 - December 4
4:00-5:00 PM at Coco's Lebanese Cafe

Learn to speak about daily life and current events with confidence! Practice your spoken Arabic with fellow students and native speakers; improve for class, for travel, for study abroad!

Email Shane Elder at delder@uark.edu
for more information

RECENT EVENTS

Current Events and Stories from Abroad

September 13, 2013

The King Fahd Center introduced a new monthly round-table series that features the experiences of students and faculty who have recently traveled or studied abroad in the Middle East. "The purpose of this forum – and those that will follow – is to share our experiences and expertise and help place the rush of events in perspective," said Joel Gordon, professor of history and director of the King Fahd Center. "These forums are designed to be informal, more discussions than lectures or presentations, which will allow for audience members to pose questions and join the conversation."

The first round-table session featured Egypt; King Fahd Center faculty members Gordon and Jerry Rose along with doctoral students Matthew Parnell and Keith Whitmire discussed their experiences abroad in Egypt this summer before and during the coup d'état that removed President Mohamed Morsi from office.



Round-table participants Matt Parnell, Keith Whitmire, Joel Gordon and Jerry Rose; photo courtesy of Nani Verzon.



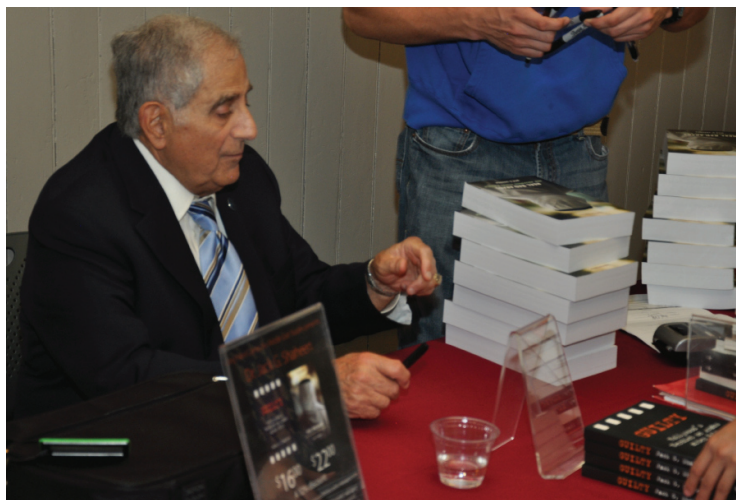
Dr. Lisa Hajjar with Dr. Ted Swedenburg at the Leflar Law Center; photo courtesy of Nani Verzon

Guest Lecturer Dr. Lisa Hajjar

September 17, 2013 - [Watch on YouTube](#)

Lisa Hajjar, Professor of Sociology at the University of California-Santa Barbara, presented 'Classified Memories: Trying to Try Terror Suspects who were Tortured by the CIA,' a lecture co-sponsored by the King Fahd Center and the UA International Law Society. Hajjar's presentation focused on two high-profile cases being prosecuted by the military at Guantanamo relating to accused perpetrators of the September 2011 terrorist attacks and the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole off the coast of Yemen in 2000. One of the most controversial legal questions is whether the defense can raise the issue of the defendants' treatment while held in CIA black sites or whether the U.S. government can 'classify' these experiences. The issue cuts to the heart of the relationship between torture, secrecy and government accountability and questions of 'justice' under such circumstances.

Professor Hajjar's research and writing focus on law and legality, war and conflict, human rights, and torture. She is the author of *Courting Conflict: The Israeli Military Court System in the West Bank and Gaza* and *Torture: A Sociology of Violence and Human Rights*. In addition to being a co-editor at *Jadaliyya*, she serves on the editorial committees of *Middle East Report* and *Journal of Palestine Studies*. She is currently working on a book about anti-torture lawyering in the United States.



Dr. Jack Shaheen signing copies of books *Reel Bad Arabs* and *Guilty* at his lecture; photo courtesy of Khalid Ahmadzai.

Guest Lecturer Dr. Jack G. Shaheen

September 18-19, 2013 - [Watch on YouTube](#)

Dr. Jack G. Shaheen, internationally acclaimed author and media critic, visited the University of Arkansas in September to meet with students and faculty, and to present 'American Images of the Middle East: Problems and Prospects'. In addition to his lecture, Dr. Shaheen screened *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People* and partook in a discussion of the film topic at a session of Nadi Cinema. The documentary is an extension of Shaheen's book by the same name which analyzes the depiction of Arab and Muslim characters in Hollywood from the earliest days until the present.

Dr. Shaheen, an Oxford Research Scholar, is the recipient of two Fulbright teaching awards and has given over 1,000 lectures. He holds degrees from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Missouri, and has appeared on national network programs such as CNN, MSNBC, NPR, *Nightline*, *Good Morning America*, *48 Hours*, and *The Today Show*, discussing media stereotypes. Shaheen previously served as a CBS consultant on Middle Eastern affairs and as a consultant with several film and TV companies, and is the author of four books: *Nuclear War Films*, *Arab and Muslim Stereotyping in American Popular Culture*, *The TV Arab* and the award-winning book and film *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*.

My grandmother puts her feet in the sink
of the bathroom at Sears
to wash them in the ritual washing for prayer,
wudu,
because she has to pray in the store or miss
the mandatory prayer time for Muslims
She does it with great poise, balancing
herself with one plump matronly arm
against the automated hot-air hand dryer,
after having removed her support knee-highs
and laid them aside, folded in thirds,
and given me her purse and her packages to hold
so she can accomplish this august ritual
and get back to the ritual of shopping for housewares

Respectable Sears matrons shake their heads and frown
as they notice what my grandmother is doing,
an affront to American porcelain,
a contamination of American Standards
by something foreign and unhygienic
requiring civic action and possible use of disinfectant spray
They fluster about and flutter their hands and I can see
a clash of civilizations brewing in the Sears bathroom

My grandmother, though she speaks no English,
catches their meaning and her look in the mirror says,
*I have washed my feet over Iznik tile in Istanbul
with water from the world's ancient irrigation systems
I have washed my feet in the bathhouses of Damascus
over painted bowls imported from China
among the best families of Aleppo
And if you Americans knew anything
about civilization and cleanliness,
you'd make wider washbins, anyway*
My grandmother knows one culture—the right one,

as do these matrons of the Middle West. For them,
my grandmother might as well have been squatting
in the mud over a rusty tin in vaguely tropical squalor,
Mexican or Middle Eastern, it doesn't matter which,
when she lifts her well-groomed foot and puts it over the edge.
"You can't do that," one of the women protests,
turning to me, "Tell her she can't do that."
"We wash our feet five times a day,"
my grandmother declares hotly in Arabic.
"My feet are cleaner than their sink.
Worried about their sink, are they? I
should worry about my feet!"
My grandmother nudges me, "Go on, tell them."

Standing between the door and the mirror, I can see
at multiple angles, my grandmother and the other shoppers,
all of them decent and goodhearted women, diligent
in cleanliness, grooming, and decorum
Even now my grandmother, not to be rushed,
is delicately drying her pumps with tissues from her purse
For my grandmother always wears well-turned pumps
that match her purse, I think in case someone
from one of the best families of Aleppo
should run into her—here, in front of the Kenmore display

I smile at the midwestern women
as if my grandmother has just said something lovely about them
and shrug at my grandmother as if they
had just apologized through me
No one is fooled, but I

hold the door open for everyone
and we all emerge on the sales floor
and lose ourselves in the great common ground
of housewares on markdown.

FACULTY NEWS



Media Citations

Mounir Farah (CIED) was interviewed for the Arkansas Traveler on **the potential of US action in Syria**.

Joel Gordon's (HIST) essay '**Egypt's Army and Brotherhood-Rereading History**', was published in *Today's Zaman*, the largest English-language newspaper in Turkey. He also appeared on KNWA TV, **discussing the situation in Syria**.

Mohja Kahf's (ENGL) poem, 'My Grandmother Washes her Feet in the Sink of the Bathroom at Sears' (reprinted on **page 6**), was read over the loudspeaker at Concord-Carlisle High School in Concord, MA on September 11. The Principal, Peter Baldalament, noted 'We chose to acknowledge 9/11 by reading a poem that focused on cross-cultural understanding rather than unsettling words and images associated with the event.' Kahf was also a guest on *The Women's Magazine*, an hour long radio program that airs on Bay Area KPFA Radio that presents and discusses women's lives and issues globally and locally, **speaking on Syrian women in the revolution**. She was also a guest on *Today*, China Radio International's flagship news chat show in April on **a segment on the Syrian Opposition**.

Najib Ghabdian (PLSC) was interviewed by Steve Inskeep for NPR's *Morning Edition* concerning **efforts to reach a deal with the Syrian government to destroy its supply of chemical weapons**.



Presentations/Scholarly Activities

Sarwar Alam (MEST) will present 'O Murshid, My Heart Cries for Thee: Devotionalism and Gender Transgression in the Songs of Miazbandariyya Tradition in Bangladesh' at the upcoming American Academy of Religion 2013 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mounir Farah (CIED) spent five weeks in Lithuania and Latvia in late May and June 2013; he was invited to speak and serve as a discussant on a panel on education and contemporary Middle East. He lectured on the structure of American education to graduate students in Education at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, one of the oldest universities in Europe. He also led a discussion online on the same topic to educators in Lithuania, Poland and Germany. At the Faculty of Political Sciences, he spoke and fielded questions about the so-called Arab Spring. He also lectured on Syria since World War I.

Joel Gordon (HIST) presented two papers: 'Youssef Chahine: Life as Cinema/Cinema as Life' and '3 Tales of Obsession: Crosscutting National Boundaries in Middle East Film' at Tel Aviv University in April 2013. He was also interviewed for *Diwaniyya*, the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies Podcast program. He followed that up with nearly 2 weeks in Cairo in early May, meeting with graduate students and working with filmmaker Michal Goldman on a documentary about Gamal Abd al-Nasser. Gordon recently gave a lecture on at Denver University's Josef Korbel School of International Studies entitled 'Stuck with Him: Bassem Youssef, Mohammed Morsi and the Egyptian Revolution's Last Laugh'.



Joel Gordon in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt; photo courtesy of Joel Gordon.

Tom Paradise (GEOS) was recently appointed to the Jordanian Scientific Committee for UNESCO's World Heritage site of Wadi Rum in Southern Jordan. His expertise has been requested for the maintenance and conservation of sandstone petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and intaglios; natural hazards affecting the physical and cultural park (rockfalls, rock weathering, dune encroachment), and issues involving catastrophic flooding and erosion across the 200 square kilometer UNESCO reserve. He has been asked to speak on the identification, classification, and conservation of Wadi Rum's renown petroglyphs in at the November 2013 UNESCO Wadi Rum Conclave in Wadi Rum, Jordan.



Publications

Joel Gordon (HIST) has an essay forthcoming in *Bustan* on Youssef Chahine's last film, *Hiyya Fawda (Chaos)* and wrote several other pieces this summer that are currently under review.

Mohja Kahf (ENGL) published a two-part essay co-authored with Dr. Maciej Bartkowski, Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University, assessing the role and impact of Syrian non-violent resistance. **Civil Resistance and Armed Rebellion in Syria** (part I) and **Aborting the Syrian Revolution and Four Fatal Beliefs** (part II) can be found on openDemocracy.net.

Tom Paradise (GEOS) published 'Rock Weathering and Stone Conservation' in *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology* (Springer Publishing); 'Sandstone Deterioration, Nature, and Tourism: Lessons learned from Petra, Jordan' in *Proceedings from the Conference, 'Desert and Man'* (ed. G. Chatelard, S. Fares); and '**Assessment of tafoni distribution and environmental factors on a sandstone djinn block above Petra, Jordan**' in *Applied Geography*. 'Petra: Maps, Magic and Science' is forthcoming in *ESRI ArcNews*.



Tom Paradise with grad students Christopher Angel, Kaelin Groom and Peter von Groote outside Petra, Jordan; photo courtesy of Tom Paradise.



Research

Tom Paradise (GEOS) returned to Petra, Jordan to undertake research for ongoing projects related to architectural deterioration analysis and Nabataean urban morphology and celestial alignment in Petra, Jordan. During summer 2013 he was accompanied by graduate students **Christopher Angel** (PhD ENDY), **Kaelin Groom** (MA GEOG), and **Peter von Groote** (MA GEOG).

Jerry Rose (ANTH) continues to carry out research in Upper Egypt, at Amarna, capital city of the 'heretic pharaoh' Akhenaten, and lead a highly regarded bioarchaeology field school. To read more about the Summer 2013 field school, see [page 9](#).

Tell Amarna Bioarchaeology Field School 2013

Since the late 1980s **Dr. Jerry Rose** has been excavating and conducting osteological analysis in Egypt. Beginning in 2007, he has been taking groups of qualified students with him on his bioarchaeological analysis field work and will to take up to 12 students to Tell Amarna for the 2014 season.

This is an intensive program providing the opportunity to study the excellently-preserved skeletal material, including paleopathology, of the commoners from Tell Amarna, the city built by Pharaoh Akhenaton. Students are given the opportunity to improve their osteological analytical skills no matter their level upon entry. The team spends the entire time cleaning, analyzing and interpreting the skeletons excavated two months earlier.

The current Summer 2013 Field School season has just ended. Professor Rose led a team that included: Dr. Gretchen Dabbs, Co-Director, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Kristin Krueger, Dental Expert, Loyola University, Chicago; Heidi Davis, Teaching Assistant, UA; and William Schaffer, Biomechanics Expert, Arizona State University.

This year 10 students from 8 universities in the United States, Canada and Australia participated in the field school (Appalachian State, Australian National University, Brown University, Indiana University, Macquarie University-Australia, Southern Illinois University, UA, and Wilfrid Laurier University-Canada).

Participants in this field school season examined 70 skeletons and 13 isolated skulls. In addition, 4 trained local workers brush cleaned 157 skeletons to insure preservation for future study.

The Tell Amarna Bioarchaeology Field School is sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and the Amarna Trust.



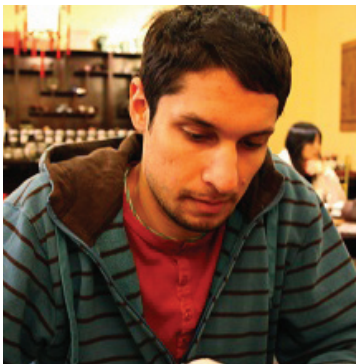
From top: Team visits the pyramids at Saqqara; Teams studying the Amarna skeletons; Two-person team entering field data. Photos courtesy of Jerry Rose.

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies supports graduate study for students at the MA and PhD level working in academic disciplines with a Center faculty specialist in Middle East/Islamic Studies by providing graduate assistantships. The following students will be supported by King Fahd Center assistantships during Academic Year 2013-2014.



Kaveh Bassiri is a PhD student in Comparative Literature concentrating on translation and post-colonial studies. Bassiri's current research is in modern Iranian and American poetry; his thesis will bring together these two cultures

in an anthology of contemporary Iranian poetry with English translations by leading American poets. He has taught honor seminars on the Iranian novel and Muslim mystical literature, as well as courses in Iranian cinema and Persian classical and modern literature. In the spring of 2014, he will be teaching a course on modern Middle East literature, comparing major Arabic and Persian works.



Baris Basturk is a new PhD student specializing in Ottoman intellectual history. He hopes to trace how early Islamic and Persianate concepts and ideas permeated Ottoman thought, how the Ottomans reflected on the past and

their place in the wider world. His Master's thesis, from Sabanci University examined the 17th Century Ottoman intellectual Katip Celebi and how he reflected on the politics, law, and society of the age.



Dhia Ben Ali is an MA student specializing in Middle East politics with interests on Tunisia and Egypt. His research includes the study of Islamic governments after the Arab Spring, their ability to develop democratic

processes, as well as the reactions of Middle Eastern governments to the new Islamic regimes.



Clayton Clark is an MFA student in Creative Writing and Translation. His thesis project is a translation of *Lost in the City* (1962), a novel by the Syrian author Mazhar Mallouhi about an orphaned girl in Beirut. He is also currently working on

the translation of a book on Lebanese culture by Joseph Abi Daher.



Charles Davidson is a new MA student in Cultural Anthropology. He has traveled extensively in the Middle East, Africa and Latin American and would like to focus his thesis on the effects of war and violence on culture in war-

torn countries throughout the world with a special focus on the Middle East. Charles is a national member of the Explorer's Club.



Sanket Desai is a PhD student in History interested in ethnic and religious minorities in the modern Middle East with a special focus on Iraq. He spent a few weeks this past summer doing research in the British Public Records

Office. He is the outgoing president of the Middle East Graduate Student Association and serves as a senator for the Arkansas Student Government.



Blake Duffield is a History PhD candidate specializing in 19th and 20th century British Empire. His dissertation is 'The Grey Men of Empire: The British Colonial Service, 1854 to 1931,' and will explore the impact of colonial

administrative officers on the formulation of imperial policy. Blake began his research in July at Rhodes House Library, Oxford. He is currently running the International Relations Academic Learning Community and teaching Introduction to IR.



Nicole Fares is completing her MFA in creative writing and translation. For her thesis she is currently translating 32, a recent novel by Lebanese-Egyptian author Sahar Mandour, which follows the life of a young woman in her

thirties, her four female friends and a Sri Lankan domestic worker. Excerpts from Nicole's most recent translation were published in *Jadaliyya* and *Alchemy Journal of Translation*.



Kaelin Groom is an MA student in Geography focusing on cultural stone decay, heritage resource management, the physical

Impacts of tourism, and cartography. The working title of her thesis is 'Aspect and Microclimatic Influences on the Distribution and Development of Cavernous Decay on Djinn Block X in Petra, Jordan.' This summer she conducted studies in Petra, Jordan and then travelled to Paris, France to present research on rock art stability analyses at the *International Association of Geomorphologists* quad-annual conference.



Jaime Holland is an MA student in Cultural Anthropology specializing in art and aesthetics in popular culture. Her thesis, 'Beirut Spoke,' addresses the appropriation of Arabic calligraphy and script in graffiti and graphic design,

and how street art reflects sectarianism and other socio-political topics in Lebanon. This summer she undertook research in Beirut as a recipient of the Summer Research Grant from the King Fahd Center.



Mehreen Humayun is a new PhD student in History, specializing in the Modern Middle East and South Asia. She completed her MA in History at Karachi University, where she has been appointed a full-time lecturer. She is interested in

pursuing comparative legacies of Gamal Abdel Nasser and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, two charismatic revolutionary leaders, in national, regional and trans-regional perspective.



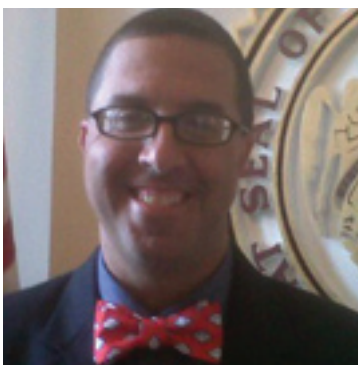
Sonia Kapur is a Public Policy PhD candidate specializing in family policy. Her dissertation project, 'Perceptions of Street-level Bureaucrats on Immigration Policy and Domestic Violence: The Case of Asian Indian Marriage Migrants,'

explores gender-based implications of US immigration policy in relation to domestic violence amongst Asian Indian marriage migrants at the macro and micro levels. This summer Sonia collected data from non-profit sector professionals in four states supported by a Summer Research Grant from the King Fahd Center.



Michelle Moody is a Geography MA student interested in conflicts within the British Muslim community regarding Shariah Law, particularly in the case of arranged and forced marriages. Michelle is an active member of the

Geosciences honors society Gamma Theta Upsilon, and is preparing to undertake survey-based research in London this coming Summer.



Mark Myers is seeking a Master's Degree in Political Science with concentrations on international relations and comparative politics. Mark's thesis, 'Fourth Generation Warfare: China in the Middle East,' highlights transitions in how

nation-states and non-state actors conduct war. He has served three combat tours in the Middle East as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves.



Mitra Panahipour is a new PhD student in Anthropology, specializing in ancient Near Eastern landscapes. Her PhD work explores human and environment interactions, settlement patterns and development of ancient

societies. She utilizes remote sensing data, prospecting technologies and GIS and spatial analyses, combined with field survey and excavation to uncover long-term patterns of cultural activities.



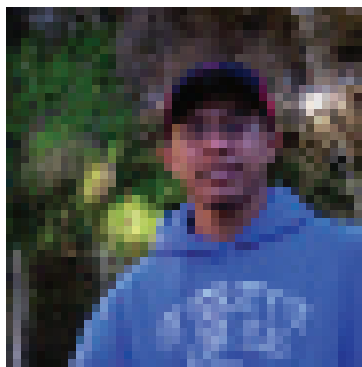
Peter von Groote IV is an MA Geography student specializing in historic geography and cartography. His thesis, 'A Spatial Assessment of the Crusader Fortress of Al-Habis -- implications for the Medieval Landscape

of Petra, Jordan,' sheds light on Petra during an era that has been poorly documented and often overlooked. This summer, Peter carried out research in Jordan with the aid of a Summer Research Grant from the King Fahd Center.



Keith Whitmire is an Anthropology PhD student with specific interests in the relationship between economic development, popular culture, and social movements. Having seen firsthand the January 25, 2011 and the June 30, 2013

Egyptian uprisings, his research hopes to illuminate the causes and effects of the Arab Spring uprisings. This past summer Keith received funding to study Arabic Language and Egyptian music from the King Fahd Center.



Wawan Eko Yulianto is a PhD student in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. He is interested in American literature by Muslim authors, authors of Middle Eastern heritage and ethnic American literature in general. He also has a passion for literary translation. In addition to translating English and American literary works into Indonesian, he also translates Indonesian poems and short fiction into English. His translation of a celebrated Indonesian author Seno Gumira Ajidarma has been published in *Moon City Review* of Missouri State University.

Clayton Clark (MFA-TRANS) was hired by the National Office for Research Management and Evaluation Systems (NORMES), headquartered at the University of Arkansas, to translate a forthcoming website into Arabic. NORMES is working to develop an early childhood development website to be launched internationally in a variety of languages.

An **excerpt** of **Nicole Fares'** (MFA-TRANS) translation of Sahar Mandour's novel *32* was published in the Summer 2013 issue of *Alchemy Journal of Translation*.

Kaelin Groom (MA GEOG) has been invited to speak before the 2013 Wadi Rum UNESCO Conclave. She will speak on Identification of Rock Art Stability: Issues, Problems and Deterioration, and will discuss the use of rock art assessment and monitoring techniques and technologies in Wadi Rum, Jordan.

GRADUATE NEWS

Meshari Alenazi (MA GEOS) undertook research in Kuwait this summer examining the perception of nature preserves and their integration into the urban plans and expansions across Kuwait City and the region.

Yousif Alkandari (MA GEOS) conducted research in Kuwait this summer investigating the evolution of green space and urban parks in Kuwait City since its rapid growth in the 1970s.

Christopher Angel (PhD ENDY) conducted research in Petra, Jordan this summer, examining urban morphology during the period of Petra's high empire from 100 BC to 300 AD. His research was supported by a King Fahd Center Summer Research Grant.

Kaveh Bassiri (PhD CLCS) published his poem '&' in *B|Ta'arof* (2013), and 'Purim' in *Cannibal #6* (2013). His posting, '**Facebook's Most Popular Iranian Friend**,' appeared recently on the blog site of the *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

Mehreen Humayun (PhD HIST) published 'Ibn Khaldun's Asabiyah' in *Past and Present, Pakistan Perspectives* (2012) and 'The Transnational Institution in Europe and the rising wave of Nationalism' in *Journal of European Studies* (Pakistan 2013).

Matthew Parnell (PhD HIST) spent the early part of the summer in Cairo, Egypt to continue dissertation research on Youth and Politics in late 19th and early 20th Century Egypt. His research was supported by a fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

Wawan Yulianto (PhD CLCS) presented 'Knowing too much is sort of a loss': Diana Abu-Jaber's Transgression of Ethnic and Generic Borders' at the KSU Graduate Literature Conference 2013 in March at Kansas State University. He also published translations of five of Joko Pinurbo's poems in the Summer 2013 issue of *Alchemy Journal of Translation* and a travelogue, '**Memphis: A Pilgrimage to Two American 'Kings''** in *JakartaBeat.Net*, and translated subtitles for the forthcoming documentary *After the Tsunami*, written and directed by Dr. Larry Foley, Professor of Journalism at the University of Arkansas.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS



Awards

Congratulations to **Khalid Ahmadzai** (IR/MEST), **Tanner Callison** (IR/MEST), **Bailey Cox** (IR/MEST), **Elizabeth Heckmann** (IR/MEST), **Jessica Jayakaran** (IR/MEST), **Sarina Mann** (GEOS/MEST) and **Michael Meizler** (IR/MEST) who have been awarded undergraduate scholarships from the King Fahd Center for academic year 2013-2014.



Study Abroad

Sean Bryant (IREL/HIST/MEST) was awarded funding to study Arabic at a 7-week Project GO 2013 summer program in San Bernardino, CA.

Dustin Carroll (IREL) participated in the ISA Amman, Jordan summer program in Arabic language.

Chelsea DelGrande (IREL/MEST/GEOG, ARAB and SUST minors) participated in the AFIS program at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey in summer 2013.

Mary Goodwin (IREL/MEST) was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International and King Fahd Center Summer Study Abroad scholarships to participate in AMIDEAST programs in Cairo, Egypt and Amman, Jordan this summer.

Elizabeth Heckmann (IREL/MEST) was awarded a State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Meknes, Morocco this summer. She is currently in Amman, Jordan for two semester-long programs with CIEE in Arabic Language, and Language and Culture, supported by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and the University of Arkansas Honors College.

Saba Kouchehbagh (IREL/MEST) attended Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey in Spring 2013.

Eric Sharp (IREL/MEST) participated in the ISA Meknes, Morocco summer program in Arabic language.

David Sommi (IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) has been accepted by the Butler University Institute for Study Abroad into the SOAS University of London Academic Year 2013 Program.

Brendan Sparks (IREL/MEST, ARAB minor) was awarded a full scholarship to study Arabic at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Nizwa in Summer 2013.

Samantha Vaughn (IREL/FREN/PLSC, ARAB/CHIN/MEST minors) studied in Meknes, Morocco at the ISA Language, Culture and Society program in Spring 2013, and was awarded a State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Alexandria, Egypt this summer.

ALUMNI NEWS

Asaad al-Saleh (PhD CLCS 2010) presented 'Growing up in the Uprising: The Images of Children in the Syrian Revolution' at the American Comparative Literature Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, and was **interviewed** recently by KSL 5 TV News (Salt Lake City) on events in Syria.

Yulia Uryadova (PhD HIST 2012) was the first recipient of the new Slavic and East European Library **Fisher Fellowship** at the University of Illinois to undertake follow-up research for her forthcoming social history of the Ferghana Valley in the decades prior to the Bolshevik Revolution. She will also present 'Terrorists: Revolutionary Violence in Central Asia, 1905-1907' at the November 2013 Association for Slavic, Eastern European & Eurasian Studies Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

Photos clockwise from top:

*Street Art, Lebanon (photo courtesy of Jaime Holland);
Sanket Desai and Matt Parnell, Egypt (photo courtesy of Matt Parnell);
Wadi Rum, Jordan (photo courtesy of Tom Paradise);
Brendan Sparks, Oman (photo courtesy of Brendan Sparks);
Elizabeth Heckmann, Morocco (photo courtesy of Elizabeth Heckmann);
Kaelin Groom and Peter von Groot, Jordan (photo courtesy of Kaelin Groom);
Mary Goodwin, Egypt (photo courtesy of Mary Goodwin);
Karachi, Pakistan (center; photo courtesy of Joel Gordon).*





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