News & Happenings 9

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies Quarterly Newsletter



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Upcoming Courses

Mohja Kahf (ENGL) will teach a first-session summer course on the Quran in which she will address all the hotbutton current event topics around the Quran: women, violence, *shariah*, and more. The course requires no Arabic and is open to both graduate (WLIT 603V-001) and undergraduate (WLIT 3983-001) students.

A listing of Fall 2013 courses can be found on page 11.



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.











Matthew Parnell with his daughter Bess at al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Parnell.

Overseas Research Centers

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and the King Fahd Center would like to thank Representative Steve Womack (3rd District of Arkansas) and key staffers in his office for supporting the continuation of funding for overseas research centers, forestalling what would have been devastating funding cuts of over 30% of the annual budget.

As Center Director **Joel Gordon** stated in his letter to Congressman Womack's office, "These Centers are and have always played a crucial role in furthering the academic study of the countries and regions in which they are based. They provide fellowships for young, established and upcoming scholars in a wide variety of fields – from archaeology to contemporary affairs – that allow us access to sites/archives/data that is unobtainable otherwise."

The King Fahd Center is an institutional member of seven American Overseas Research Centers, and many of the Center's faculty and graduate students have been or are recipients of American Research Center fellowships. Professor Nikolay Antov will undertake research in Turkey during academic year 2013-2014 as part of a fellowship administered by the American Research Institute of Turkey (ARIT). PhD Anthropology candiate Ethan Morton-Jerome has also been awarded a fellowship from the Palestine American Research Center (PARC) to continue fieldwork on Palestinian labor in the West Bank and PhD History candidate Matthew Parnell will begin a summer-long research fellowship in Cairo with the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) beginning May 1st.

Visit the **CAORC** website for more information on centers around the world.

EVENTS

Arabic Speech Contest

April 12, 2013

Students of all proficiencies took part in the 2013 Arabic Speech Contest on April 12, part of this year's Fulbright Language Festival which included Chinese, EASL and Japanese language participants. Students competed in Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced categories, and the competition was followed by an awards ceremony where Arabic Language students showed and acted out a Flash Mob of Dabke dancers in Beirut International Airport, showing a YouTube video of the original event. Performers taught the audience the refrain to a well-known Huwwara folk-tune and a simple dabke dance step, pulling members of the cheering audience on stage to participate.



Performers David Sommi, Lana Sheikha, Mastan King, Sonal Bhandari, Jessica Jayakaran, Erin Wright, Johnathan Dixon pictured with their instructor Paula Haydar. Photo courtesy of Lana Sheikha.

Participants included Sonal Bhandari, Katelyn Burns, Delilah Clark, Charles Denny, Shane Elder, Elizabeth Heckmann, Jaime Holand, Brian Hughes, Jessica Jayakaran, Jessica Keller, Shannon Krikorian, Mastaneh Soltani Nassab, Lana Sheikha, David Sommi, Brendan Sparks, and Wawan Yulianto.

Anti-Sharia Legislation and the U.S. Constitution *April 12, 2013*

The King Fahd Center partnered with the University of Arkansas School of Law to sponsor the symposium The 'Can We People Tolerate Islamic Law? Anti-Sharia Legislation and the U.S. Constitution'. Speakers included: Abed Awad, Sharia Expert and Attorney with Awad & Khoury, LLP; John Eidsmoe, Attorney with the Foundation for Moral Law; Bernard Freamon, Professor at Seton Hall School of Law; Mark Potok, Senior Fellow with the Southern Poverty Law Center; and Stephen M. Sheppard, William H. Enfield Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas. The discussion was moderated by King Fahd Center Director Joel Gordon, was recorded and will be transcribed to appear in a future edition of the Journal of Islamic Law & Culture.

Guest Lecturer Dr. Jeremy Kuzmarov *April 17, 2013*

The King Fahd Center co-sponsored Dr. Jeremy Kuzmarov's lecture "Distancing Acts: Air Power, Mercenaries, and the Endless War on Terror." Other co-sponsors were the Department of History, the Fulbright College Program in International Relations, Phi Alpha Theta and the University of Arkansas Global Campus.

Dr. Kuzmarov, J.P. Walker Assistant Professor of History at the University of Tulsa, is a prominent authority on US counterinsurgency, the Vietnam War, the War on Terror, and US foreign relations, and discussed the history of US counterinsurgency, including the subcontracting of military operations and mercenaries and the use of drones. His latest book is *Modernizing Repression: Police Training and Nation Building in the American Century*, published in 2012 by University of Massachusetts Press.

CARAVANSERAI

The King Fahd Center bids a fond farewell to Caravanserai: A place where cultures meet, a program creating new pathways for Americans to experience the diversity of contemporary Muslim artistic expressions by introducing U.S. audiences to exciting and dynamic artists from the Muslim world.

Caravanserai's second season introduced artists from Morocco; the King Fahd Center has had the pleasure of hosting *gnawa* musicians Majid Bekkas Gnawa Ensemble featuring master oud player Brahim Fribgane, filmmaker Hakim Belabbes, and the exhibit *Morocco in Transition* curated by Nawal Slaoui of Cultures Interface and featuring the work of photographers Khalil Nemmaoui, Laila Hida and Zineb Andress Arraki. Our grand finale was a week-long residency by master musicians from the Orchestra of Fes.

Conducted by Mohammed Briouel, one of Morocco's premiere orchestra and chamber group directors and the director of the esteemed Music Conservatory of Fes, the Orchestra of Fes delighted audiences of all ages with concerts of Andalusian classical music, a tradition at the core of contemporary Moroccan culture that has evolved over centuries of cultural exchange between North Africa, Spain, Portugal, and southern European Muslim traditions.



Orchestra director Mohammed Briouel directs a Master Class for UA choral students. Photo courtesy of Laila Taraghi.



Orchestra of Fes Director Mohammed Briouel demonstrates the upright playing of the khamenja, or violin. Photo courtesy of Khalid Ahmadzai.

The Orchestra of Fes shared their musical tradition with over 1500 people during their stay in Fayetteville, kicking off their residency with three workshops on campus that introduced hundreds of Music Lecture students to the Andalusian musical tradition, reprising the experience with an evening performance in Pomfret Hall. Choral students were also able to take part in a Master Class with Mohammed Briouel, singing in Arabic and learning classic Andalusian melodies.

The performers met with students from Fayetteville and Bentonville High Schools, demonstrating instruments like the oud, darbukka and taarija, as well as the kamenja (violin) played upright on the knee. Students were invited to ask questions, share their impressions and their own musical talents.

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

The Orchestra further delighted audiences with a **performance** followed by a question and answer session at the Fayetteville Public Library.

Canadian filmmaker Kathy Wazana screened her new documentary *They Were Promised the Sea*, an exploration of the exodus of Morocco's Jewish community from their homeland in the 1950s. Shot in Morocco and in Israel-Palestine, it is part historical investigation, part poetic and musical essay on loss and longing, on hope and the possibilities of coexistence. Her film featured music from the Andalusian tradition and added another dimension to the cultural exchange.

Dr. Philip Schuyler, noted ethnomusicologist and Professor Emeritus from the University of Washington, returned to Fayetteville to deliver a lecture on Classical

The Orchestra of Fes performs at the Fayetteville Public Llbrary.

Photo courtesy of Khalid Ahmadzai.

Special thanks to King Fahd Center students Khalid Ahmadzai, Kaveh Bassiri, Nicole Fares, Sutton Foxx, and Wawan Yulianto for the loan of the time, expertise and camera equipment necessary to both publicize and document these events.

Andalusian Music, priming curious audiences for what they would see on the Walton Arts Center stage during the Orchestra's capstone performance. He also participated in an Artist Talk prior to the concert with Jenni Taylor Swain, VP of Programs at the Walton Art Center, answering audience questions and translating from French and Arabic for Orchestra Director Mohammed Briouel.

The 90-minute concert at the Walton Arts Center featured excerpts of *nuba* or musical pieces that centered around the concept of love, from wedding songs to odes to the Divine. After the concert the audience had a chance to meet the musicians, and to place post-it notes with their responses on the lobby windows.

The King Fahd Center thanks all of the artists who contributed their work, time and presence to the Caravanserai program this season, and looks forward to hosting further events on art and culture. Special thanks to the staff and coordinators of the Caravanserai program as well as local partner the Walton Arts Center, without whom these events would not have been possible.

Caravanserai: A place where cultures meet is produced by Arts Midwest on behalf of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations with leadership support from the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. Major support is provided by Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and MetLife Foundation All-In: Re-imagining Community Participation Program. Additional assistance has been provided by our lead Moroccan partners, the Essaouira Mogador Association and the Office of Moroccan National Tourism. Caravanserai's film and media programming is coordinated on behalf of the program by South Arts.

FACULTY NEWS



Nikolay Antov (HIST) has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship administered by the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) for the 2013-2014 academic year. Professor Antov will carry out research for a book project titled "Imperial Expansion, Colonization, and Conversion to Islam in the Islamic World's 'Wild West': The Formation of the Muslim Community in Ottoman Deliorman, 15-16 C".



Presentations/Scholarly Activities

Nikolay Antov (HIST) was invited to present his paper "The Ottoman Danubian Serhad in the Early 16th century: Challenges and Policies" at Indiana University in March at the 32nd György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium "Hungary on the border-land of two world powers: the Habsburgs and the Ottomans", and will participate in the summer institute 'Empires and Interactions across the Early Modern World, 1400-1800', to be held at Saint Louis University, June 3-28.

Joel Gordon (HIST) presented two lectures - 'Yousef Chahine: Life as Cinema/Cinema as Life' and '3 Tales of Obsession: Cross-cutting Regional Classics and Borders' - at Tel Aviv University in late April as a guest of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. He is currently in Cairo, where he is serving as advisor to a documentary film project on Gamal Abd al-Nasser directed by Michal Goldman (Umm Kulthum: A Voice like Egypt) and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has agreed to serve on the Advisory Board for the **Building Bridges Campus Community Engagement** Program, sponsored by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and Doris Duke Foundation, and an Outside Advisory Board for the Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Jerry Rose (ANTH) presented a paper titled "Orthodontist Needed! Crooked teeth at the New Kingdom site of Amarna, Egypt" at the Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association in Knoxville, TN in April. His co-presenters are Kulwinder Braich (UA Biology) and Kaitlyn E Stiles (U Tennessee).

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) was invited to present "Beur/ Maghrebi Musical Interventions in Contemporary France" at the conference, "The Southern Shores of the Mediterranean and Beyond: 1800 – to the Present" at the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota in April.



Publications

Jesse Casana (ANTH) is finalizing a 3-year NASA funded project that uses the CORONA Atlas Project to map archaeological sites and features across a giant study area, extending from the Mediterranean to northern Iraq. Results of both the atlas and interim work on the NASA project were published last fall in the online journal *Internet Archaeology* under the title "Swords into Ploughshares: Archaeological Applications of CORONA Satellite Imagery in the Near East", with Jackson Cothren, Director of the Center for Advanced Spacial Technologies at the University of Arkansas, and recent Center graduate Tuna Kalayci (PhD ANTH).

Mohja Kahf (ENGL) published "The Girl from Mecca" in *Feminist Studies*, which continues the adventures of the girls from her 2004 *Sex & the Ummah* series, and will publish creative nonfiction "Lord, Make Me Not Obvious" in *Muslims in American Popular Culture* (Praeger) in November 2013.

Three papers from **Tom Paradise's** (GEOS) ongoing research in Petra are being published in the upcoming *American Journal of Archaeology,* the *Journal of Applied Geography,* and the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.* His research on the tafoni development of Petra's sandstone and its implications in



Graduate students Christopher Angel, Daniel Snyder and Ryan Cochran at the Western Obelisk in Petra, Jordan. Photo courtesy of Tom Paradise.

cultural heritage management and stone conservation, with assistance by University of Arkansas graduate students Christopher Angel (ENDY), Daniel Snyder (GEOS) and Ryan Cochran (GEOS), pictured above helping with the field survey of monuments.

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) published **"Egypt's Music of Protest: From Sayyid Darwish to DJ Haha"** in *Middle East Report* (Winter 2012) and "Imagined Youths" in *The Journey to Tahrir: Revolution, Protest, and Social Change in Egypt* (Verso, 2012) and "Palestinian Rap: Against the Struggle Paradigm" in *Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa: A Postcolonial Outlook* (Routledge, 2012).

GRADUATE NEWS



Awards

Shane Elder (PhD CLCS) was runner-up in the Advanced category of the 2013 Arabic Speech Contest.

Ethan Morton-Jerome (ABD ANTH) has been awarded a fellowship from the Palestine American Research Center (PARC) to continue fieldwork in the West Bank on Palestinian labor on West Bank settlements and Palestinian Authority efforts to create employment alternatives.

Matthew Parnell (ABD HIST) won the James J Hudson Doctoral Prize in the Humanities from Fulbright College. Parnell will visit Egypt in April on a fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) to continue dissertation research on Youth and Politics in late 19th and early 20th Century Egypt.



Job Offers

Ahmet Akturk (ABD HIST, supervisor Joel Gordon) has accepted a tenure-track position in History at Georgia Southern University, to begin August 2013. He will defend his dissertation on Kurdish nationalism in Syria under the French Mandate in May.

Tuna Kalayci (PhD ANTH, supervisor Jesse Casana) has accepted a post-doctoral position at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete, to begin July 2013. He has successfully defended his dissertation and will graduate in May 2013.



Graduate students interested in applying for King Fahd Center funding in order to attend an academic conference during the 2013-2014 academic year should plan to apply by September 4, 2013. Applications and guidelines are available on the **King Fahd Center webpage.**

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



Presentations

Christopher Angel (PhD ENDY) presented a poster at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, California in April 2013 entitled "Holistic Assessment of Nabatean Urban Geography and Morphology in Petra".

Kaveh Bassiri (PhD CLCS) took part in the Ozark Small-Press Poetry Festival on April 26 and 27, reading from his poetry.

Teresa Wilson (PhD ANTH) presented "Occupational Hazards at Tell el-Amarna: A Case for Repeated Work-Related Traumatic Injury" with Robin Winneiger (New Mexico State University) at the Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association in Knoxville, TN in April.

Ashley Shidner (MA ANTH) presented her poster 'Growing up in Akhetaten: A Bio-cultural approach to childhood growth' at the Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association in Knoxville, TN in April.



Publications

Ahmet Akturk (ABD HIST) will publish "The Kurdish Cultural Renaissance in Exile: The Hawar School" in Zend. His review of *Incredible Turk*, a 1958 Documentary on Ataturk will also be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*.

Kaveh Bassiri's (PhD CLCS) translations of seven of Roya Zarrin's poems ("Sound of the Human Child", "In This Ghost Train", "Don't Close the Window", "Goodbye Mr. Orwell", "The Earth Was Vast", "Gone to the Pastor Drugstore", and "Send My Picture to the Journal") were featured in the Spring 2013 issue of ArteEast.

Kaelin Groom (MA GEOS) will publish "A Geologic Assessment of Grenada's Carib Stones" in *International Newsletter on Rock Art* (forthcoming 2013).

Sonia Kapur (PhD PUBP) will publish "Health Impact Assessments in India: Exploring a Possible Community Health Policy Innovation" in the *Indian Journal of Public Health Research and Development* (2013).



Research

Meshari Alenazi (MA GEOS) will undertake 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) will conduct 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) will undertake research in Amman, Jordan this summer, examining the classical period urban morphology of Petra, Jordan during the period of Petra's high empire from 100 BC to 300 AD, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Kaelin Groom (MA GEOS) will undertake research in Jordan this summer, studying rock decay and tafoni development in Petra and investigating the effects of climate, tourism and geology on the deterioration of Petra, Jordan's unique sandstone architecture, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Jaime Holland (MA ANTH) will conduct summer research in Lebanon, studying language at the Lebanese American University and written street art/graffiti in Beirut, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Sonia Kapur (PhD PUBP) will undertake research in California on immigrant women from South Asia, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Peter von Groote (MA GEOS) will undertake research in Jordan, mapping the poorly researched period of Byzantine/Crusader fortification in and around Petra, investigating and reconstructing the urban layout and architecture of Petra's unique Medieval Fortress at al-Habis, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Keith Whitmire (PhD ANTH) will undertake language and musical training in Cairo, Egypt as part of his research on Arab Pop and the Egyptian Revolution, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.



Theses Defended

Ali Capar (MA HIST, supervisor Nikolay Antov) defended his thesis, "The History of Nusayris ('Alawis) in Ottoman Syria, 1831-1876" in April 2013, and will graduate in May 2013.

Elise Jakoby (MA ANTH, supervisor Jesse Casana) defended her thesis, "Considering Kranzhugeln: An Exploration into the Structural Variation, Social Production, and Environmental/Spatial Distribution of the Third Millennium 'Kranzhugel' Sites" in April 2013, and will graduate in May 2013.

Tuna Kalayci (PhD ANTH, supervisor Jesse Casana) defended his dissertation, "Agricultural Production and Stability of Settlement Systems in Upper Mesopotamia during the Early Bronze Age (Third Millennium BCE)" in April 2013, and will graduate in May 2013.

Kathleen Kuckens (MA ANTH, supervisor Jerry Rose) will defend her thesis "The Children of Amarna: Disease and Famine in the time of Akhenaton" in May 2013.



Arabic Speech Contest performers and participants Lana Sheikha, Jessica Jayakaran, Erin Wright, David Sommi, Sonal Bhandari and Mastan King. Photo courtesy of Lana Sheikha.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS



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 funding from the King Fahd Center for academic year 2013-2014.

Sean Bryant (IR/MEST) was awarded funding to attend a seven week summer program in San Bernardino, California as part of Project GO to study Arabic.

Charles Denny (IREL/FREN, ARAB minor) will spend the summer in France studying French and Arabic, supported by grants from the Honors College.

Elizabeth Heckmann (IR/MEST) was awarded funding from CIEE to take part in the Language and Culture program in Amman, Jordan for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Brendan Sparks (IREL/MEST, Arabic minor) was awarded full funding by the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center to study intensive Arabic in Oman this summer.

Samantha Vaughn (FREN/IREL/PLSC, ARAB and CHIN minors) will travel on a U.S. State Department Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) for intensive Arabic in Alexandria, Egypt in Summer 2013.

Congratulations to winners and runners-up in the 2013 Arabic Speech Contest: Jessica Jayakaran (Winner, Elementary), Lana Sheikha (Runner-Up, Elementary), Katelyn Burns (Winner, Intermediate), Elizabeth Heckmann (Runner-Up, Intermediate), and Jessica Keller (Winner, Advanced).

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

The final season of excavations at the South Tombs Cemetery is now underway at Amarna, and with just a couple of weeks left on site we are working hard to try to reach our project target of 400 skeletons. 21 to go!

We are continuing work at the Upper Site, under the direction of Dr Mary Shepperson, where the odd trend for multiple burials noted in previous seasons continues. Do these graves simply represent family tombs, or was this part of the cemetery in use at a time when the population was exposed to a particularly harsh outbreak of disease that killed many and resulted in "mass graves"? The physical anthropology team, who will recommence their study of the human remains in May, will no doubt be interested to examine these new burials with these issues in mind.

We've also opened a new part of the site, around half way along the wadi in which the cemetery lies, which is densely packed with very regularly spaced graves, most occupied by single skeletons. Yet, as always, the site offers something unexpected: the burial of an adult not in the extended position as is standard, but in the contracted (fetal) position. This is only the second burial of this kind in eight seasons of excavations, and we are wondering if this individual was perhaps a foreigner living at Amarna.

Back at the dig house, the conservation team led by Julie Dawson is recommencing their crucial project to consolidate the pieces of decorated wooden coffin recovered from the cemetery over recent years, which are so important for the study of funerary religion in Akhenaten's reign.

And the excavations continue to produce other finds that convey something of the character of the people of Amarna, including two pairs of bronze tweezers in the grave of an adult female, and an entire necklace formed of blue faience fish-shaped pendants and hundreds of little ring beads.

These pieces can be viewed in the online photo album [on the Amarna Project Facebook page] which is updated regularly and includes images of the excavations

- Professor Barry Kemp, CBE, Director of the Amarna Project



Tell Amarna Bioarchaeology Field School 2014

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 is willing 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 the level where they begin. The team spends the entire time cleaning, analyzing and interpreting the skeletons excavated two months earlier.

The application deadline for participation in the 2014 Field School is August 1, 2013. Contact Dr. Jerry Rose, Department of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas and visit the **UA Office of Study Abroad website** for more information.

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







King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies

202 Old Main University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72701 http://mest.uark.edu

Phone: 479-575-2175 Fax: 479-575-3629

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