

أخبار و أحداث

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

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مركز
الملك
الفهد

Volume 3 • Issue 2
Spring 2015



I would like to wish everyone back for the start of a new semester, hopefully rejuvenated and maybe even caught up on some work. We usher in our semester with the fourth anniversary of the 'Arab Spring' and all the attendant questions about what went 'wrong' and what might have been. Issues of state sovereignty and borderlines continue to dominate headlines. And we need to consider the implications of a vicious attack in Paris that raises serious, complicated questions about the boundaries of 'free' expression and its relationship to issues of power and powerlessness, the ability to promote an inclusive society, and the persistent impact of history on the encounter between self-defined West and East. We mark the loss, within days of each other, of Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the King of Saudi Arabia, and Fatin Hamama, the Queen of Arab cinema. A foundational generation is passing and our world is shifting under our feet.

In the works for this semester, we feature a symposium on 'The Cultural Heritage Crisis in the Middle East.' A gathering of distinguished regional experts will assess the threat of conflict and political instability to the archaeological foundations of world history from North Africa to Central Asia. We will co-host, with the Fulbright College Piano Performance Program, a recital by Lebanese pianist Annie Balabanian. And we will welcome to campus Hisham Bustani and Thorayya el Rayyes, the winning author and translator of the University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. Both are at the cutting edge of contemporary Arabic literature and remind us, as with our visiting pianist, that in the bleakest of times, the creative spirit prevails.

As always, please follow us on our website, Facebook, and Twitter.

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



Cover: Taza, Morocco; photo courtesy of Kaelin Groom



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at the University of Arkansas**

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STUDENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Middle East Studies Program offers financial support to advanced undergraduate MEST majors who have demonstrated a serious commitment to study and excellent performance in the classroom, as well as graduate students at the MA and PhD level working in academic disciplines with a focus in Middle East/Islamic Studies. Applications and further details can be found on [the King Fahd Center website](#).

MEST Summer Study Abroad Scholarship

Deadline February 1, 2015

The King Fahd Center offers study abroad scholarships for undergraduate students majoring in Middle East Studies. A limited number of grants will be available on a competitive basis. Scholarship applicants must declare a MEST major prior to application. Applicants must secure positive recommendations from two faculty members; at least one recommender should be a faculty member affiliated with the MEST program. Financial need will be considered in awarding funding.

MEST Undergraduate Academic Year Scholarship

Deadline March 13, 2015

The King Fahd Center offers scholarships for advanced undergraduate MEST majors who have demonstrated a serious commitment to study and excellent performance in the classroom. To be eligible, scholarship applicants must have a minimum of 3.5 in MEST core courses and 3.25 in overall GPA, must attain junior status by the beginning of the specified funding period and must declare a MEST major prior to application.

Applicants must secure positive recommendations from two faculty members; at least one recommender should be a faculty member affiliated with the MEST program. Transfer students are also eligible and should solicit letters from professors at their prior institution

who can speak to their interest and academic potential. Financial need will be considered in awarding funding.

Graduate Summer Research Grants

February 6, 2015

Graduate Students working in Middle East Studies may apply for funding to support summer research or language study. Such funds are awarded on a competitive basis and may provide only partial support, based upon the submitted budget.

Conference Travel Grants

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Any Graduate Student funded by the King Fahd Center and/or working on a relevant geo-cultural topic under the supervision of a MEST faculty member may apply for travel funds to support participation (presentation of a paper/poster or participation in a workshop/roundtable) at an academic conference. Proposals will be judged on merit and the amount of support will be determined by available funds.

Complete applications include:

- Statement of Purpose indicating the nature of the project, relevance to academic program, and anticipated outcome;
- Any relevant letters of invitation or affiliation with an academic/research institution, or application to and (if possible) acceptance into conference/academic program;
- A Proposed Budget outlining expected expenses;
- Indication of support from any other source;
- A formal Recommendation Letter from the applicant's MEST faculty advisor.

DUAL WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2014 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ARABIC TRANSLATION AWARD

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas, in conjunction with Syracuse University Press, is pleased to announce two winners for this year's Arabic Translation Award.

The co-winners are *All Faces but Mine: The Poetry of Samih al-Qassim*, translated by Abdulwahid Lulua, and *The Perception of Meaning*, by Hisham Bustani, translated by Thoraya El-Rayyes. The winning titles are published by Syracuse University Press as part of its *Middle Eastern Literature in Translation* series and are scheduled to appear in 2016.

Samih al-Qassim, a major literary figure and Palestinian 'resistance' poet, died this past August at age 75. He published more than thirty books of poetry, in addition to several novels and plays, essays and literary criticism. Only one prior collection of his, *Sadder than Water* (2006) has been published in English translation. The new prize-winning volume will be an anthology that includes some of his earliest as well as his most recent work. Abdulwahid Lulua, the translator, is a distinguished Iraqi writer, professor of literature and literary translator who currently lives in Cambridge, UK.

Hisham Bustani, who lives in Jordan, burst onto the literary scene more recently and has been acclaimed for his avant-garde style, and was listed as one of the best six contemporary Jordanian writers in 2013 by the UK-based webzine *The Culture Trip*. *The Perception of Meaning* is the third of four published collections of short fiction and will be the first complete work by him to be published in English. It is also his most experimental venture into the genre of 'flash fiction' – narrative chapters that run from several pages to a single line. Translated stories have appeared in *The Literary Review*, *World Literature Today*, *Banipal*, *CutBank*, and *The Mahalat Review*. Thoraya El-Rayyes, a Palestinian-Canadian writer and literary translator based in Jordan, has published in *World Literature Today*, *The Outpost*, *The Literary Review* and *Sukoon*, and has been a frequent collaborator with Bustani.



Winners of the 2014 University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. Clockwise from top left: Abdulwahid Lulua, Samih al-Qassim, Hisham Butani, Thoraya El-Rayyes

Adnan Haydar, Professor of World Languages and Literature and head of the UA Arabic Program, has noted that *All Faces but Mine* is 'a much-needed, extensive selection of al-Qassim's poetry' that 'fills the gap in our appreciation of the modern Palestinian poetic tradition.' He regards Bustani's *Perception of Meaning* as 'a groundbreaking work, perhaps a collection of individual lyrics, perhaps a single explosion of luminous insights which sketch a visionary reading of our moment in history.'

The King Fahd Center is also pleased to announce that Hisham Bustani and Thorayya El Rayyes will be visiting Fayetteville in early April 2015 to deliver a public reading and lecture about the state of modern Arab fiction (see Page 8 for more details).

Submissions for the 2015 Arabic Translation Award will be accepted through April 30, 2015. Award winners will be announced the following fall. Submission guidelines and a list of previous winners can be found on [the King Fahd Center website](#).

PAULA HAYDAR'S JUNE RAIN TRANSLATION HIGHLY COMMENDED BY PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies is pleased to announce that Paula Haydar, Instructor of Arabic in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Civilizations has been Highly Commended as runner-up for the 2014 Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation for her translation of *June Rain* (Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation 2014, ISBN: 9992142782) by Lebanese novelist Jabbour Douaihy. Her translation also made the *Beirut Daily Star* year-end book review list of the six Top Middle East Novels of 2014 in translation.

The Banipal Prize is an annual award of £3,000, made to the translator(s) of a published translation in English of a contemporary Arabic novel. This year judges read 17 entries by 15 translators. The winner was Sinan Antoon for the translation of his novel, *The Corpse Washer* (Yale University Press 2014), originally published in 2010.

Paula Haydar holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and an M.F.A. in Literary Translation from the University of Arkansas. She has translated 8 other novels by contemporary Arab writers. Her translation of Elias Khoury's *The Kingdom of Strangers* (University of Arkansas Press 1996) received the 1996 University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award, and her translation of Adania Shibli's *Touch* (Clockroot 2010) was long-listed for the 2011 Best Translated Book Awards at the University of Rochester's *ThreePercent.com*. She recently co-authored a textbook on Lebanese dialect, *Haki bil-Libnani* (Georgetown University Press 2014) with her husband U of A Arabic Professor Adnan Haydar and Virginia Tech professor Nadine Sinno, a U of A graduate.

Jabbour Douaihy is a novelist and Professor of French Literature at the University of Lebanon. To date, he has published seven works of fiction, including *Autumn*



Paula Haydar (left) and June Rain author Jabbour Douaihy

Equinox (University of Arkansas Press 2001), as well as short stories and children's books. The Arabic original of *June Rain* was shortlisted for the inaugural International Prize for Arabic Fiction in 2008. His latest novel, *American Neighbourhoods*, has been longlisted for the 2015 International Prize for Arabic Fiction.

June Rain is a complex story that explores the effects of family and clan loyalties in a mountain village in northern Lebanon, taking as starting point a massacre in 1957 and its repercussions throughout the community. Lyrical and at times wistful, part tragedy, part 'whodunnit', the novel is rendered through a kaleidoscope of stories and characters, and is narrated from multiple points of view. The judges lauded Haydar's rendering as 'an astonishing translation, which exactly captures the novel's tone and heft.'

Paula Haydar expressed her honor at the accolades: 'What makes [June Rain] so deserving of all the high praise it has received since its publication in Arabic... is not only its sensitive treatment of events and themes that are at once specifically Lebanese and yet widely universal, and not only its poignant portrayal of a wide variety of interesting and memorable characters readers can easily relate to and sympathize with, but most importantly, and from a translator's perspective in particular... the beautifully-crafted language in which it is so elegantly dressed.'

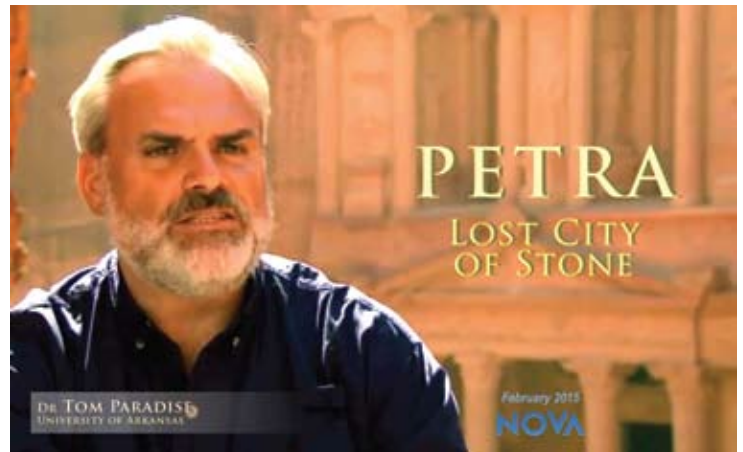
PARADISE TALKS PETRA IN UPCOMING NOVA SERIES BUILDING THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Thomas Paradise, professor of geosciences and King Fahd Center faculty member, was part of a team that worked with carvers and masons to sculpt a full-scale tomb into a cliff face to discover how the ancient Nabateans built Petra, the rock-carved city in Jordan made famous by Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. The project was filmed and produced by Providence Pictures as a three-part series for NOVA, a science documentary series on PBS. Petra will be featured along with the Roman Colosseum in Rome, Italy, and Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, in *Building the Wonders of the World*.

More than 2,000 years ago, the thriving city of Petra rose up in the bone-dry desert of what is now Jordan. An oasis of culture and abundance, the city was built by wealthy merchants whose camel caravans transported incense and spices across hundreds of miles from the Arabian Gulf. They carved spectacular temple-tombs into its soaring cliffs, raised a monumental Great Temple at its heart, and devised an ingenious system that channeled water to vineyards, bathhouses, fountains, and pools. But following a catastrophic earthquake and a slump in its desert trade routes, Petra's unique culture faded and was lost to most of the world for nearly a thousand years. Now, in a daring experiment, an archaeologist and sculptors team up to carve an iconic temple-tomb to find out how the ancient people of Petra built their city of stone.

"We were so amazed about how similar [the tombs] turned out," Paradise said. "Blacksmiths duplicated the ancient Roman tools used to make Petra. What we learned from this tomb façade recreation has given us new and invaluable insight into the engineering and design expertise of the Nabateans during their Golden Age 2,000 years ago."

Paradise, one of the lead researchers on the project, started as a consultant for the films on the Colosseum and Hagia Sophia before he was asked to contribute



Tom Paradise, professor geosciences, talks Petra on the set of Building the Wonders of the World, Petra - Lost City of Stone

to the Petra film. Because Paradise has training in geology, architecture and geomatics, NOVA asked Paradise to oversee the design, re-creation, on-air commentary, script work, imagery and fact-checking, making him part of the project and TV special from beginning to end. Paradise is currently working with animators in recreating the booming crossroads city of Petra for NOVA. Producer and director Gary Glassman said Paradise's insight into Petra and the Nabateans "provides the soul of the film."

Building the Wonders of the World is set to broadcast in February. It will be shown on PBS in the U.S. and across Europe and Asia on ARTE, a European culture and public service television channel. The series has an estimated viewership of 20 million people worldwide. "No one has seen this done for 2,000 years," Paradise said. "The last tombs were probably carved in the second or third century A.D., so no one has witnessed this for at least seventeen- or eighteen-hundred years. It's amazing."

Episodes will premiere on Feb. 11, 18 and 25 on PBS in the United States and across Europe and Asia on ARTE, a European culture and public service television channel. The networks have a combined estimated viewership of 20 million people worldwide. Dates and times for local broadcasts may vary. Check listings to see the series in your area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recital featuring Pianist Annie Balabanian
February 27, 2015 at 8:00 PM, Giffels Auditorium

The King Fahd Center and the Fulbright Piano Performance Program will co-host a piano recital by Lebanese maestro, Annie Balabanian. Born in Beirut, Ms. Balabanian began piano studies at the age of five. She currently teaches piano at the National Higher Conservatory of Music in Beirut, Lebanon.

Acclaimed for her passionate performances, beautiful sound, wide palette of tonal colors, and deep lyricism, she is a pianist with a growing career as a soloist and chamber musician. The Agenda Culturel praises her for demonstrating the 'exciting temperament of a magnificent concert pianist.' Balabanian has captured numerous prizes and awards, including the First Prize at the Margot Babikian Chamber Music Competition (Beirut, 2010) and second prize at the Schubert Piano Competition (Beirut, 1997), and has participated in international music festivals and workshops.

Her program will include works by Aram Khachaturian, Boghos Gelalian, Edvard Mirzoyan and other notable Armenian composers who adapted local and regional folk tunes and melodies into Western classical composition.



Pianist Annie Balabanian; photo courtesy Jura Margulis

Cultural Heritage Crisis in the Middle East Conference
March 5-6, 2015

On March 5-6 the King Fahd Center will host a conference on The Cultural Heritage Crisis in the Middle East. Organized by UA Anthropology Professor **Jesse Casana**, the gathering will feature 10 visiting scholars with expertise in the archaeology of the Ancient Orient, all of whom work in areas where excavation sites, museums and archives face imminent threat of destruction and pillaging due to political instability, war, and the collapse – or reassertion – of central authority.

Visiting speakers will discuss the situation – with first-hand insights – from North Africa across the Levant to Mesopotamia and Central Asia. UA faculty members will serve as discussants and moderators, adding their own expertise and experience to explore the implications of black marketeering, illegal excavation, and combat zones upon the environment, the political landscape and, ultimately, the preservation and scientific recording of world heritage.

McGuire Gibson, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Chicago and a leading authority on ancient Mesopotamia, will deliver a public keynote address on Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 PM in in 218 Willard J Walker Hall on the UA campus. Professor Gibson, who served as an advisor to the US Government prior to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, helping identify endangered historical sites that and listing threatened artifacts in the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad, will speak to what has been lost and what may yet be salvaged after a decade of sustained warfare, civil conflict, and official negligence.

More information on the conference can be found online at <http://culturalheritage.uark.edu>

Never miss an event - join our mailing list by emailing us at MEST@uark.edu, or connect with the King Fahd Center on Facebook and Twitter.

Visit/Reading by Translation Award Winners Hisham Bustani and Thoraya El Rayyes

April 2, 2015

On April 1 the King Fahd Center will host a lecture and reading by Hisham Bustani and Thoraya ElRayyes, winners of the 2014 Arkansas Arabic Translation Award. El Rayyes, a translator based in Jordan and Canada, has translated Bustani's *Perception of Reality*, published in Arabic in 2012; the award winning translation will be published by Syracuse University Press in 2015 in conjunction with the King Fahd Center (for more information see the posting on page x).

Bustani and Rayyes will speak on recent trends in Arabic literature and include Arabic and English selections from *Perception*. Stay tuned for details.

Arabic Speech Contest

April 10, 2015

The King Fahd Center will help to sponsor the annual WLLC Speech Contest, which is part of the Fulbright College Language Festival and held every April. Undergraduate and graduate students of Arabic will compete at the Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels.

Arabic Conversation Table

January 13 - April 29 in the Arkansas Union

Improve your spoken Arabic for class, for travel, for study abroad by practicing with fellow students and native speakers. Led by graduate students **Delilah Clark** (PhD CLCS) and **Clayton Clark** (MFA TRANS), Arabic Conversation Table meets twice a week in the Arkansas Union. Meeting times and locations on [Page 19](#).

Nadi Cinema Spring 2015

Wednesdays at 7 pm in Hembree Auditorium

Currently in its 9th consecutive season, Nadi Cinema introduces viewers to the storytelling and vision of filmmakers across North Africa and the Middle East. The series is hosted by **Joel Gordon** (HIST); screenings are free and open to the public. For a full line-up of films see [Page 11](#) or visit [the King Fahd Center website](#).

**Middle East Studies Association
Annual Meeting 2014**

November 22-25, 2014, Washington D.C.

The Middle East Studies Association (MESA) is the primary interdisciplinary professional association for scholars engaged in study of the region. Every year a substantial representation of UA faculty, students, and alumni participate by presenting papers, serving as discussants and chairing panels.

Ahmet Serdar Akturk (PhD HIST 2013) 'Kurdish Nationalism and Clothing Reform in the Post-Ottoman Era'

Mohamed Daadaoui (MA PLSC 2002) 'Of Monarchs and Protest Movements: The Case of the February 20th Movement in Morocco'

Sanket Desai (PhD HIST) 'Just Keep the Sheep Thieves Away: Minority Challenges to Iraqi Nation-State Building, 1933-1945'

Manal Al-Natour (PhD CLCS 2012) 'Women "in the Crossfire": The Syrian Revolution 2011'

Asaad Al-Saleh (PhD CLCS 2010) 'Serving the Regime: Buthaina Shabaan and the Legacy of a Public Intellectual Siding Against the Syrian Revolution'

Nadine Sinno (PhD CLCS 2009) 'Lebanon, the Land of Milk and Honey, Tabbouleh, and Coke: Orientalist, Local, and Global Discourses in Alexandra Chreiteh's Always Coca-Cola'

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) 'The New Social Media Archive of Maghrebi Popular Music'

Join students, faculty and alumni from the King Fahd Center at the MESA 2015 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

RECENT EVENTS

Arabian Knights Indoor Soccer

Fall 2014

The King Fahd Center undertook sponsorship of the Arabian Knights, an indoor soccer team made up of Arab students from the U of A and Spring International Language Center and captained by Michael Samour, a U of A Engineering graduate student. The team competed as part of the Jones Center Futsal League during the fall, and made it to the league finals.



Arabian Knights Jones Center Futsal Team, Fall 2014;
photo courtesy of Meg Goodwin

The Racial Politics of Ebola

November 3, 2014

The African and African American Studies program in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences hosted a discussion panel examining “The Racial Politics of Ebola” in conjunction with the King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations/ International Studies programs. Panelists Caree Banton, Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon, Timothy Landry, Joel Gordon and Calvin White, Jr. investigated, among other issues, sensationalized media coverage of Ebola, generalizations of “Africa” and “African diseases,” and misinformation about how the disease is transmitted.



Drs. Gordon, Grob-Fitzgibbon, Banton and Landry discuss media coverage of Ebola; photo courtesy of Mary Margaret Hui

Dirty Paki Lingerie: A comedy play by Aizzah Fatima

November 5-6, 2014

The King Fahd Center, in conjunction with the Office of International Students and Scholars, welcomed writer and actress Aizzah Fatima for a performance of her critically acclaimed one-woman comedy play *Dirty Paki Lingerie*. Set in post 9/11 America, the play depicts the stories of six Pakistani-American Muslim women ranging in age from six to sixty-five at the chaotic juncture of two different cultures. Playing to sold-out houses all over the world, Fatima’s play transcends boundaries of culture, religion, and gender, moving and entertaining audiences with its unique and universal appeal. During her visit, Fatima also held a student workshop that furthered the discussion on religious, gender and ethnic stereotypes in America.



Aizzah Fatima performs her one-woman play *Dirty Paki Lingerie*

Visit of Prince Turki al-Faisal

November 15, 2014

In November 2014 the King Fahd Center hosted a visit by HE Prince Turki bin Faisal al-Saud, the former Saudi Ambassador to the United States and Saudi Director of General Intelligence, to the University of Arkansas. Prince Turki was welcomed by U of A Chancellor G. David Gearhart, Todd Shields, Dean of Fulbright College, and King Fahd Center Director Joel Gordon. He visited the Center offices in Old Main and met with Middle East Studies faculty and graduate students, as well as a delegation of Saudi students who are sponsored at the U of A by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In his welcoming comments, Director Joel Gordon noted the Center's mission 'to promote knowledge of the shared histories, cultures, religions, struggles and human achievements of the peoples of the Middle East, to explain social, economic, historical, and environmental complexities, to explore cultural creativity in the face of civil and political conflict [and] above all, to keep lines of communication open through study and research abroad – often at times of trouble – and by opening our doors to international students.' Graduate students **Matt Parnell** (HIST), **Chris Angel** (ENDY) and **Nicole Fares** (CLCS) described their research and spoke to their experience at U of A. Afterwards, everyone gathered for photos by the statue of Senator Fulbright and the Fulbright Peace Fountain.

In Through the Out Door: Regionalism and National Politics in Tunisia and Morocco after the Uprisings

January 23, 2015

The King Fahd Center hosted a special guest lecture by Jeffrey VanDenBerg, Professor of Political Science and Director of Middle East studies at Drury University. Professor VanDenBerg, a specialist in North African politics, investigated the impact of transnational variables and regime strategies on political developments in Morocco and Tunisia since 2011, with a focus on regional and international affairs, in which distinctions between domestic politics and foreign policy are increasingly blurred.



Prince Turki al-Faisal poses for photos in front of the J. William Fulbright Statue with King Fahd Center students and faculty; photos courtesy Khalid Ahmadzai



NADI CINEMA SPRING 2015

7:00 PM WEDNESDAYS - AFLS107E

January 28: The Kite (Lebanon 2003)

February 11: Cogunluk/Majority (Turkey 2010)

February 25: Waltz with Bashir (Israel 2008)

March 4: Maxx (Iran 2005)

March 18: Maqbool (India 2004)

April 8: Dreams of Hind and Camelia (Egypt 1989)

April 22: When I Saw You (Palestine 2012)

All films subtitled in English. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies. For film synopses, trailers and more visit <http://mest.uark.edu> or call 479-575-2175

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

King Fahd Center takes great pride in the number of UA PhDs, MAs, and BAs who worked under Center auspices and/or were undergraduate MEST majors and are currently holding academic positions in this country and abroad:

- Mansoor Abbasi** (PhD ENGL 2012)
Assistant Professor of Literature,
Melikshah University, Turkey
- Ali Khwaileh** (PhD ANTH 2009)
Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
Yarmouk University, Jordan
- Sanaa Riaz** (PhD ANTH 2011)
Instructor of Anthropology,
Metropolitan State University
- Ahmet Akturk** (PhD HIST 2012)
Assistant Professor of History,
Georgia Southern University
- Suncem Kocer** (MA ANTH 2005)
Assistant Professor of Public
Relations and Information,
Kadir Has University, Turkey
- Asaad al-Saleh** (PhD CLCS 2010)
Assistant Professor of Languages and
Literature, University of Utah
- Charles Argo** (PhD HIST 2004)
Social Science faculty at National
Park Community College
- Nawaf al-Madkhli** (PhD HIST 2007)
Assistant Professor of History,
King Fahd University of Petroleum,
Saudi Arabia
- Farid al-Salim** (PhD HIST 2008)
Visiting Assistant Professor of
History, University of Qatar
- Basri Basri** (PhD HIST 2008)
Assistant Professor of Islamic
Studies, State Islamic University of
Malang, Indonesia
- Matt Malczykcki** (BA HIST 1997)
Assistant Professor of History,
Auburn University
- John Schaefer** (MA ANTH 2000)
Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
Miami University of Ohio-Middleton
- Daniel Brown** (MA PLSC 2010)
Visiting Instructor of Political
Science, University of Arkansas
- Robert Moore** (MA HIST 2002)
Instructor of History, John Brown
University
- Abdulla al-Shorman** (PhD ANTH 2002)
Professor of Anthropology at
Yarmouk University, Jordan
- Mohamed Daadaoui** (MA PLSC 2002)
Associate Professor of Political
Science, Oklahoma City University
- Mahmoud N'aamneh** (MA ANTH 1998)
Associate Professor of Anthropology,
Yarmouk University, Jordan
- Nadine Sinno** (PhD CLCS 2009)
Assistant Professor of Arabic,
Virginia Tech University
- Gretchen Dabbs** (PhD ANTH 2009)
Associate Professor of Anthropology,
Southern Illinois University
- Manal al-Natour** (PhD CLCS 2012),
Assistant Professor of Foreign
Languages, University of West
Virginia
- Salem al-Thawaba** (PhD ENDY 2005),
Assistant Professor of Urban
Planning & Geography, Bir Zeit
University, Palestine
- Leah Graham** (MA PLSC 2004)
Assistant Professor of Political
Science, North Alabama University
- Kari Neely** (MA ANTH 1998)
Assistant Professor of Arabic, Middle
Tennessee State University
- Teresa Wilson** (PhD ANTH 2014)
Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
Louisiana State University
- Clea Hupp** (PhD HIST 2004)
Associate Professor of History,
University of Arkansas-Little Rock
- Melissa Zabecki** (PhD ANTH 2009)
Instructor, University of Arkansas-
Fort Smith
- Sonia Kapur** (PhD PUBP 2014)
Assistant Professor of International
Studies, University of North
Carolina-Ashville
- Ghadir Zannoun** (PhD CLCS 2011)
Assistant Professor of Modern and
Classical Languages, University of
Kentucky



ALUMNI NEWS

Our Alumni continue to make us proud in academia, NGO and government sectors, the media, and beyond.

Altaf Abro (PhD PUBP 2009) is Project Director for the International Development & Relief Foundation (IDRF) in Pakistan.

Ahmet Akturk (PhD HIST 2012) presented 'Kurdish Nationalists Respond to Kemalism in Syria and Lebanon: Rival Nationalisms and Similar Visions' and chaired the panel 'Revisiting Arab Theater: The Construction of Resistance' at the 2013 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA and 'Kurdish Nationalism and Clothing Reform in the Post-Ottoman Empire' at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. His essay on 'The Kurdish Cultural Renaissance in Exile: The Hawar School' is forthcoming in *Zend*; a review of 'Incredible Turk' (a 1958 Documentary on Ataturk) will appear in *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Kurt Tarihi (Kurdish History)*, published in Turkey.

Charles Argo (PhD HIST 2004) will publish *Stolen Boys of the Ottoman Empire: The Child Levy as Public Spectacle and Political Instrument* (IB Taurus).

Emily Bitely (MA ANTH 2012) works in the mapping division at Google.

Cole Bockenfeld (BA IREL/MEST/PLSC 2008), Advocacy Director for the Project on Middle East Democracy, co-authored with Stephen McInerney '**US must restructure aid to Egypt**,' an op-ed essay in *The Washington Post*, October 27, 2013.

Michael Bracy (PhD HIST 2005), co-authored (w/Najwa Raouda) 'One Ideology, Two Paths: Gender, Education and Emigration among the Lebanese Shi'a of Jabil `Amil and the Biqa`,' in *Review of Middle East Studies* 47/2 (2013): 210-17.

Daniel Brown (MA PLSC 2010) is a PhD candidate at the University of Oklahoma and is currently a visiting

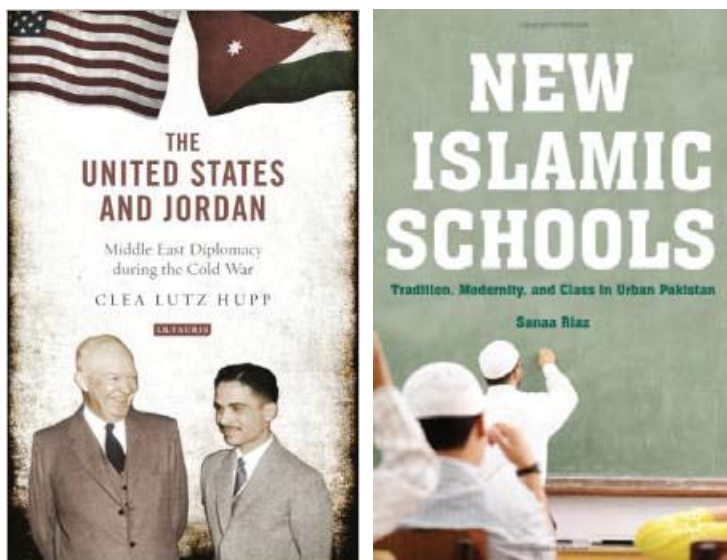
instructor at UA teaching comparative politics and Middle East politics.

Ryan Cochran (BA IREL/MEST/PLSC 2007) works as an Academic Counselor in the Advising Center for Fulbright College at the University of Arkansas.

Mohamed Daadaoui (MA PLSC 2002) presented 'Morocco's Spring: Monarchical Advantage and the Limits of the Protest Movement' and organized the panel 'It's Good to be the King: The Arab Uprising and Monarchical Exceptionalism' at the 2013 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, and 'Of Monarchs and Protest Movements: The Case of the February 20th Movement in Morocco' at the 2014 MESA meeting in Washington, DC.

Gretchen Dabbs (PhD ANTH 2009) was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities totalling \$253,817 for her proposal 'The North Tombs Cemeteries at Amarna, an Abandoned City of Ancient Egypt' to fund ongoing archaeological excavations in Amarna, Egypt. She also published 'Human Remains from the South Tombs Cemetery' in *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* (2013), and co-authored the chapter 'Abandoned memories: a cemetery of forgotten souls?' in *Remembering and Commemorating the Dead: Recent Contributions in Bioarchaeology and Mortuary Analysis from the Ancient Near East* (forthcoming; University of Colorado Press) with fellow alumna **Melissa Zabecki** (PhD ANTH 2009).

Rasha el-Endari (MA ANTH 2012) is in her third year of study in the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Toronto. She presented (with Joanna Kader) 'Assad and Isis: Syrians on the horns of a dilemma' at the University of Toronto's 18th Annual Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Graduate Students Symposium in February 2014. In 2013 she became a member of the Wadi Quseiba Archaeological Survey in northern Jordan. She is also an active member of the Computational Research on the Ancient Near East (CRANE) project, in which she has helped facilitate the integration of the Tell Tayinat Archaeological Project's GIS data into the OCHRE database.



The United States and Jordan: Middle East Diplomacy during the Cold War (I. B. Tauris 2013, ISBN: 1780764707) by Clea Lutz Hupp;
New Islamic Schools: Tradition, Modernity, and Class in Urban Pakistan (Palgrave 2014, ISBN: 1137382465) by Sanaa Riaz

Kevin Fisher (Postdoctoral supervisee 2011/12 under Jesse Casana) was hired in a tenure-track position in Near Eastern Studies at University of British Columbia.

Bill Gardner (MA ANTH 1999) is Vice President of Programming and Development at PBS Washington, DC.

Safiya Ghori (BA IREL/MEST 2002; JD 2005; MA PLSC 2006) works for the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on South and Central Asia.

Jason Hermann (PhD ENDY 2012) was hired in a two-year research position at University of Tübingen, Germany.

Robert Hintz (BA HIST/MEST 2011) completed his MA in International Studies at the University of Denver.

Clea Hupp (PhD HIST 2004) published *The United States and Jordan: Middle East Diplomacy during the Cold War* (I. B. Tauris, 2014).

Elise Jakoby (MA ANTH 2013) presented '3D Photogrammetric Modeling of Artifacts, Excavations and Landscapes using Archival, Field and Aerial Photography (with **Jesse Casana**) at the 2013 American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD in November 2013.

Tuna Kalayci (PhD ANTH 2013) holds a postdoc at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete. He has co-authored articles forthcoming in *Internet Archaeology* and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*.

Amy Karoll (MA ANTH 2012) is in her third year of study in the PhD program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at UCLA.

Suncem Kocer (MA ANTH 2005) published 'Making transnational publics: Circuits of censorship and technologies of publicity in Kurdish media circulation' in *American Ethnologist* 40/4 (2013): 721-33. Her article 'Social business in online financing: Crowdfunding narratives of independent documentary producers in Turkey' is forthcoming in *New Media & Society*. She presented 'Domestic Ethnography and Documentary Practice at the Intersection of History and Identity: I Flew You Stayed and Grandma's Tattoos' at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC.

Lahmuddin Lahmuddin (PhD HIST 2004) serves as Imam of the Islamic Society of Joplin, MO.

Robert Moore (BA HIST 1996; MA HIST 2002) presented 'Building a Madrasah and a Community: A Convert's Integration into Muslim Social Groups in Mamluk Cairo' at the 2013 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Saba Naseem (BA JOUR/MEST; ARAB minor 2013) is currently working as a journalist for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Tricia Nellessen (PhD ANTH 2013) works for the US Department of State.

James Redman (MA ANTH 2003) will defend his anthropology dissertation on Diwaniyyat in Kuwait at the University of Utah.

Sanaa Riaz (PhD ANTH 2011) published *New Islamic Schools: Tradition, Modernity, and Class in Urban Pakistan* (Palgrave 2014). She co-presented 'Making Time for Students: Class Size and Student Success'

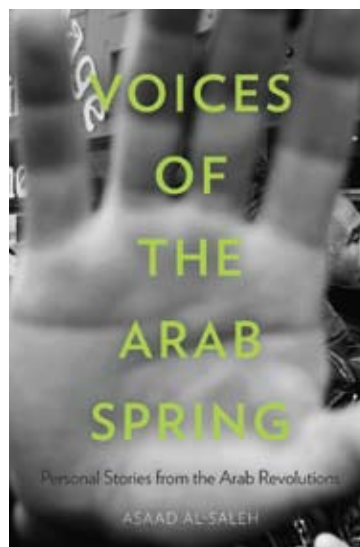
for a session on 'Teaching Anthropology, Culture and Multiculturality' at the American Anthropological Association 2013 Annual Meeting in Chicago and presented collaborative research on 'Student Engagement and the Role of E-textbooks' at the 2014 US Distance Learning Association Annual Meeting in St Louis in May 2014. She presented her work at the South Asian Muslim Studies Association Pre-Conference at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, WI in October 2014, and will present on 'Technology and Second Language Learning in Pakistani Public Schools' at the Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California-Berkeley conference on 'Fixing Pakistan's Education' in February 2015.

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. He also presented 'Dialogue in the Legacy of Saadallah Wannous' and organized the panel 'Revisiting Arab Theater: The Construction of Resistance' at the 2013 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans and 'Serving the Regime: Buthaina Shabaan and the Legacy of a Public Intellectual Siding Against the Syrian Revolution' at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. His book, *Voices from the Arab Spring*, is forthcoming this February from Columbia University Press.

Mohammad Salem (PhD ENDY 2011) is Director of GIS & Planning for the city of Ramallah in Palestine.

Farid al-Salim (PhD HIST 2008), published 'Muslim Mothering and Migration' in Dana Olwan (ed), *Muslim Mothering: Local and Global Histories, Theories, and Practice* (Demeter, 2014). His book, *Palestine and the Decline of the Ottoman Empire* from IB Taurus is forthcoming in early 2015.

Abdulla al-Shorman (PhD ANTH 2002) was a visiting scholar at the King Fahd Center in June-July 2013, working with materials in Mullins Library and the Department of Anthropology bioarchaeology lab for his forthcoming book on analytical chemistry in bioarchaeology.



Voices of the Arab Spring: Personal Stories from the Arab Revolutions (Columbia University Press forthcoming) by Asaad al-Saleh and *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* (University of Texas Press 2014; ISBN: 9780292763074) by Rachid al-Daif, translated by Nadine Sinno and Paula Haydar.

Nadine Sinno (PhD CLCS 2009) published 'The Greening of Modern Arabic Literature: An Ecological Interpretation of Two Contemporary Arabic Novels' in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* (Winter 2013). She authored the chapter 'Empowered Muslim Mothering: Navigating War, Border-Crossing, and Activism in El-Haddad's *Gaza Mom*' in *Muslim Mothering: Local and Global Histories, Theories, and Practice* (Demeter, 2014). Her translation, with **Paula Haydar** of *Who's Afraid of Meryl Streep* by Rachid al-Daif was published in 2014.

Yulia Uryadova (PhD HIST 2012) began a tenure-track position in History at Longwood University in August 2014. In the summer of 2013 she 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 presented 'Terrorists: Revolutionary Violence in Central Asia, 1905-1907' at the November 2013 Association for Slavic, Eastern European & Eurasian Studies Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, and 'Drugs, Alcohol and Corruption in Early Twentieth Century Central Asia' at the 2014 ASEES meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Anna Weiser (MA ANTH 2012) is in her third year of the Anthropology PhD program at Kansas University. She won last year's departmental Mark Kapelman Award, which helped support summer fieldwork at the Crenshaw site in Southwest Arkansas.

James Wesolowski (MA ANTH 2012) is in his third year in the PhD program in ENDY at UA.

Melissa Zabecki (PhD ANTH 2009) will publish 'Suffering in the City: Skeletal evidence for possible ritualized punishment at Tell el-Amarna' in *International Journal of Paleopathology* co-authored with **Gretchen Dabbs** (PhD ANTH 2009).

Ghadir Zannoun (PhD CLCS 2011) presented 'The Downfall of Granada and the Reconfiguration of Modern Arab Identity in Radwa Ashour's *Granada*,' at the 2014 American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in New York in April 2014. Her article 'Resisting Appropriation: Gendered Nationalisms in Zeina Ghandour's *The Honey*,' has been accepted for publication Arab Studies Journal. This fall she started a tenure-track position in Arabic at the University of Kentucky, where she has been a lecturer since graduating.



Recent graduate Dhia Ben Ali at the 2014 MESA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.; photo courtesy of Dhia Ben Ali

FACULTY NEWS

Sarwar Alam (MEST) was interviewed for the article 'TURN, TURN, TURN: Whirling Dervishes of Rumi dance as a spiritual journey toward truth' in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on January 24, 2015.

Joel Gordon (HIST) was an invited panelist and discussant at 'What Went Wrong: Egypt's Failed Democratic Transition', a September 2014 conference sponsored by the Center for ME Studies at the Joseph Korbel School for International Studies in Denver, CO. He was also invited to present 'Sleepless Nights/Wasted Time: Seeking Islam in Egypt's Hollywood' at the University of Kentucky in November 2014, sponsored by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

Mohja Kahf (ENGL) participated in the 'In Conversation,' joint poetry reading & discussion with poet Farid Matuk at the annual meeting of the Radius of Arab American Writers in September 2014, and published 'Syrian Revolution, Then and Now.' in *CPER Peace Review* in December 2014.

Tom Paradise (GEOS) and **Chris Angel's** (ABD ENDY) article 'Nabataean Architecture and the Sun: a landmark discovery using GIS in Petra, Jordan' will appear in the Winter-Spring 2015 edition of *ESRI ArcUser*. Paradise will also appear on the upcoming NOVA special *Petra: Lost City of Stone*. Petra will be featured along with the Roman Colosseum in Rome, Italy, and Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, in *Building the Wonders of the World*. More details on [Page 6](#).

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) was invited to present 'Youtube, Scopitone, and Nostalgia' at the Materiality of Affect in North Africa: Politics in Flux workshop sponsored by the Department of Performance Studies at NYU and the Nordic Africa Institute in October 2014 and 'Maghrebi Music in France: From Rap to Rai' at the City University Anthropology Colloquium Series in November 2014.

He also presented 'The New Social Media Archive of Maghrebi Popular Music (in Particular, PopRaï)', served as discussant for a session on 'Ethnographic Perspectives on Poverty in the Middle East', and co-organized and chaired a session entitled 'Social Media, the Digital Archive, and Scholarly Futures' at the Middle East Studies Association 2014 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Two books in the Indiana University Press series he co-edits, *Public Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa*, were recent prizewinners. Emilio Spadola's *The Calls of Islam: Sufis, Islamists, and Mass Mediation in Urban Morocco* (2014) won honorable mention in the 2014 Clifford Geertz Prize given by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association. Jonathan Smolin's *Moroccan Noir: Police, Crime and Politics in Popular Culture* (2013) was selected for the 2014 L. Carl Brown AIMS (American Institute for Maghrib Studies) Book Prize.



Charles Davidson poses with guest speakers and ForgivenSong staff at the 2014 Gala; photo courtesy ForgivenSong



Kaelin Groom explains zelijj tile work in the kasba of Tangiers, Morocco; photo courtesy of Kaelin Groom

GRADUATE NEWS

Dhia ben Ali (PhD PUBP) passed his comprehensive exam and was accepted into the Public Policy program at the University of Arkansas. He graduated in December 2014 with an MA in Political Science.

The 2014 Annual Fundraising Gala for **ForgottenSong**, a non-profit directed by **Charles Davidson** (MA ANTH) featured photography from all over the world and raised \$13K and awareness for the organization. ForgivenSong works in countries that have experienced war within the past 10 years including Iraq, Burundi, and Uganda, striving to empower and restore these communities to a place of sustainability by equipping them with skills and resources to help battle cycles of poverty and violence from its roots.

Nicole Fares (PhD CLCS) read an excerpt from her translation project *Jerusalem Stands There Alone*, a novel by Palestinian author Mahmoud Shukair at a Fiction, Translation, and Poetry event presented by The Burning Chair Readings in December 2014.

Kaelin Groom (PhD ENDY) co-led a 10-student winter study abroad program to Morocco through the University of Colorado at Denver. **Geography by Rail™: Morocco** allows students to explore countries via the rail system, travelling through the cities of Tangiers, Marrakech, Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Taza, and Casablanca.

Wawan Yulianto (ABD CLCS) will present his paper 'Explicitly Heretical, Unconsciously Political: The Unspoken Subversion in "Blasphemous" American Muslim Novels' at the 24th Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, Georgia in February 2015. His paper 'The Ruben Moment: How A Dance Taught Me that We Can't Afford to Let Cultural Differences Take Our Eyes off the Prize' won the University of Arkansas' 2014 International Education Week essay contest in November.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Khalid Ahmadzai (IREL/MEST 2014) completed his BA in Fall 2014, and was offered an Arkansas Fellowship, which seeks to attract and retain Arkansas's brightest entrepreneurial talent by partnering with the state's leading universities and most ambitious companies.

Kalynn T. Barlow (IREL) was awarded a ProjectGO scholarship to study abroad in Amman, Jordan during Summer 2015.

Isaac Hood (IREL) will study abroad during Summer 2015 in Amman, Jordan through Northeastern University's in partnership with AMIDEAS.

Joseph Largent (GEOG/MEST) has been selected as a semi-finalist for the US State Department's Critical Language Scholarship program.

Sydney Ross's (JOUR/GBUS) paper 'Religion: What is the Point?' was accepted for presentation at the Pacific NW Region of the American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature & The American Schools of Oriental Research (AAR/SBL/ASOR) Annual Meeting to be held in Portland, OR in March 2015.

Morgan Michel's (IREL/MEST) paper 'But God Said She is Free: A Critique of the Methods Used in Islam to Restrict Women's Rights and Movement' was accepted for presentation at the Pacific NW Region AAR/SBL/ASOR Annual Meeting in March 2015, as well as the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies to be held in Irving, TX in March 2015.

Abram Greenbaum's (PLSC/MEST) paper 'The People of Lot: Does God Hate Them?' was accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the SW Commission on Religious Studies to be held in Irving, TX in March 2015.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ARABIC TRANSLATION AWARD 2015

The King Fahd Center awards an annual prize up to \$10,000 for the best book-length translation of Arabic literature from any of the following genres: poetry, novel, short story collection, drama, or literary non-fiction such as autobiography or memoir. Submitted translations must be previously unpublished in book form. All translation rights must be cleared for publication.

For this award the original author (if still holding rights to the work) will receive, in lieu of royalties, \$5,000 and the translator (or translators) will receive a total of \$5,000. Independent judges select the award winning translation, which will be published by Syracuse University Press as part of its prestigious Middle East Literature in Translation series.

Submitted translations must be previously unpublished in book form. All translation rights must be cleared for publication. Submissions from current faculty, students or anyone affiliated with the University of Arkansas will not be considered.

Submissions for the 2015 University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award will be accepted through April 30, 2015. Award winners will be announced the following fall, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.

For more submission details and a list of previous winners, visit [the King Fahd Center website](#).



الطاولة العربية ARABIC CONVERSATION TABLE

January 13 - April 29 in the Arkansas Union

Tuesdays

3-4 PM in AU308SW

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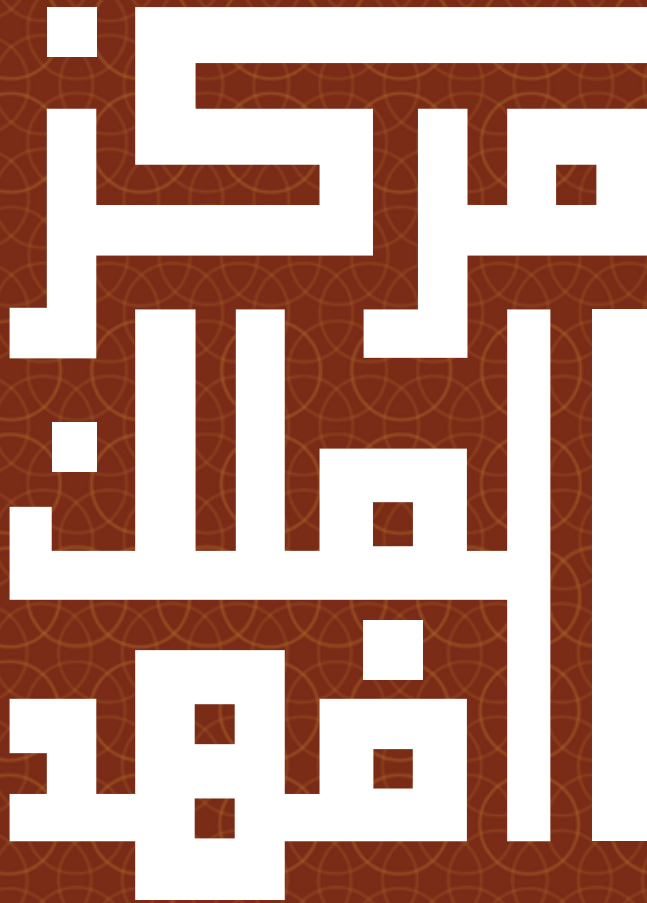
Wednesdays

5-6 PM in AU312NW

Practice your Arabic conversational skills with fellow students and native speakers, learn to speak about daily life and current events with confidence, and improve your spoken Arabic for class, travel, and study abroad.

مرحبا!

Join the Facebook group
Arabic Table at University of Arkansas
for updates and changes to the schedule.



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