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

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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

J. William Fulbright
College of Arts & Sciences

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Thank you for joining us at this exciting time for the King Fahd Center. Growth in our faculty and student body, and continued excellence in programming, curriculum development, and scholarship is helping us to proudly expand the study of the Middle East and North Africa at the University of Arkansas.

The Center is continues to develop new facets of the program with the addition of courses in historic and contemporary Islam and Christianity. Seminars on modern topics emphasize cultural, historic, and environmental issues, strategic country profiles, and literature, art, and language. Meanwhile, modern and classical Arabic translation expands to new heights of excellence.

The research of our students and faculty continues to focus on multidisciplinary approaches to examining and understanding the region, with innovative work on contemporary culture, music, art, resource management, history, and architecture. Our graduate students regularly earn prestigious grants and fellowships from outside institutions, and continue to strongly represent the MEST cohort with awards and honors won within the University. Exemplary mentorship, support, and upgraded financial awards for academic excellence enhances our undergraduate students' focus and commitment to scholarship and research.

In the footsteps of our College namesake, Senator J. William Fulbright, the Center continues to forge unique regional perspectives by linking aspects of landscape -- artistic, cultural, environmental, geographic, historic, linguistic, and political. We see these multidisciplinary connections as crucial to understanding, and the new face of Middle East Studies.

Dr. Thomas Paradise, Director
King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies



Cover: *The Red Sea at Aqaba, Jordan; photo courtesy of Andie Duplantis*



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INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas is pleased to announce the increase of award monies available for advanced undergraduate students majoring in Middle East Studies, effective Fall 2016 (visit [Page 17](#) for a list of scholarship recipients for Academic Year 2016-2017).

The MEST Undergraduate Academic Scholarship offers full and partial awards that range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per academic year, and are awarded only to undergraduate students majoring in Middle East Studies who have demonstrated serious commitment to study and excellence in their coursework.

“At the King Fahd Center, we have the privilege of mentoring and engaging the most promising new scholars in Middle East Studies,” said King Fahd Center Director Tom Paradise. “We are honored to be able to increase our support of their academic endeavors and the development of their expertise with this enhancement to the King Fahd Center Middle East Studies Undergraduate Academic Scholarship.”

Students are encouraged to apply for funding in the upcoming academic year if they will be undergraduate juniors with a minimum of 60 credit hours. Scholarship applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.25 and a GPA of 3.5 in MEST-related courses. The applicant’s academic record, letters of recommendation, and financial need will be considered. Transfer students are also eligible to apply.

Please address any questions about the application process to Nani Verzon, Program Coordinator for the King Fahd Center, at hverzon@uark.edu or 479-575-2175. Applications may be picked up in hardcopy in the Middle East Studies Office, 202 Old Main, or may be requested electronically via email.

MORE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE KING FAHD CENTER

Undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship

The King Fahd Center supports summer study abroad for undergraduate students majoring in Middle East Studies by providing partial merit and need-based scholarships. Applicants must be declared MEST majors and attain admission to a U of A Office of Study Abroad and International Exchange-approved program.

Graduate Assistantships

The King Fahd Center supports graduate study for students working in academic disciplines related to Middle East/Islamic Studies by providing Graduate Assistantships. Assistantships will be awarded only after admission into the Graduate School and a related department, along with a letter of nomination from the student’s proposed departmental faculty advisor.

Graduate Summer Research Grant

Graduate Students working in Middle East/Islamic Studies may apply for funding to support summer research or language study. All applications must include a research proposal indicating the nature of the project, relevance to academic program, and anticipated outcome. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis, based upon submitted proposal and budget justification.

Undergraduate and Graduate Conference Travel Grant

MEST undergraduate majors and graduate students working in Middle East/Islamic Studies 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.

For more information on deadlines and how to apply, visit mest.uark.edu or contact the King Fahd Center.

GRADUATE STUDENTS PUBLISH NOVEL TRANSLATIONS IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC

The King Fahd Center congratulates two of its senior graduate students, **Ali Almajnooni** (PhD CLCS) and **Nicole Fares** (PhD CLCS) on publishing their translations of novels *Passing* by Nella Larsen, from English into Arabic (Almajnooni), and *32* by Sahar Mandour, from Arabic into English (Fares).

Ali Almajnooni is a creative writer and critic from Saudi Arabia. His published work includes two collections of short fiction and a children’s novel, all in Arabic. His writings have appeared in several newspapers such as *AlHayat* and *AlWatan*. He received an MA in literature and criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Arkansas, where he studies comparative literature and cultural studies.

Originally from Lebanon, Nicole Fares completed her MFA in creative writing and translation. She is a PhD student in comparative literature and cultural theory at the U of A, where she teaches creative writing and world literature. Nicole translates from and into Arabic, English, and French, and she is currently completing the translation of a novel by Mahmoud Shukair. Her translations have appeared in *Jadaliyya*, *Alchemist Journal of Translation*, and *World Literature Today*.

First published in 1929, *Passing* firmly established Nella Larsen’s prominence among women writers of the Harlem Renaissance. Irene Redfield is a woman with an enviable life. She and her husband, a prominent physician, share a comfortable Harlem town house with their sons. Work arranging charity balls that gather Harlem’s elite creates a sense of purpose and respectability for Irene. But her hold on this world begins to slip the day she encounters Clare Kendry, a childhood friend with whom she had lost touch.



Passing by Nella Larsen, translated by Ali Almajnooni (ISBN 978-9938-880-46-5); *32* by Sahar Mandour, translated by Nicole Fares (ISBN 978-0-8156-1069-4). Fares’ translation of *32* is available for purchase from Syracuse University Press, and is part of their series on Middle East Literature in Translation. Almajnooni’s translation of *Passing* is not yet available for purchase online, but may be ordered by contacting the publisher at info@darathar.net.

Clare—light-skinned, beautiful, and charming—tells Irene how, after her father’s death, she left behind the black neighborhood of her adolescence and began passing for white, hiding her true identity from everyone, including her racist husband. As Clare returns, Irene is thrown into a panic, terrified of the consequences of Clare’s dangerous behavior. And when Clare witnesses the vibrancy and energy of the community she left behind, her burning desire to come back threatens to shatter her careful deception.

Sahar Mandour is a Lebanese Egyptian author who has written four novels. In *32*, five young Lebanese women navigate their professional and social lives in a city interrupted by random explosions. It is not a war zone, but there is no peace either; Beirut stands at the edge of both. These women, much like their country, have been shaped by the events of a long civil war, their childhood spent in shelters, their adolescence in an unrecognizable city under rapid reconstruction. And here they are now, negotiating the details of their adult lives, fighting to protect their identities, voices, and relationships in a society constantly under questioning.

2013 ARABIC TRANSLATION AWARD WINNERS HONORED WITH QATARI AWARD

The Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding has awarded Ferial Ghazoul and John Verlenden a third place prize of \$40,000 for their translation of the 2013 University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award winning *Chronicles of Majnun Layla and Selected Poems* (ISBN 978-0-8156-1037-3) by contemporary Bahraini poet Qassim Haddad. The Sheikh Hamad Award was founded in Doha, Qatar in 2015 and offers awards in five categories, including English to Arabic and Arabic to English translation.

Ferial Ghazoul is a noted Iraqi scholar, critic and translator. She was educated in Iraq, Lebanon, Britain, France and the USA, and earned her PhD in comparative literature from Columbia University in 1978. She is professor of English and comparative literature at the American University in Cairo. John Verlenden is an American academic, writer and award-winning translator of Arabic literature. He obtained a BA in English literature from Rhodes College in 1986 followed by an MFA in creative writing from Louisiana State University in 1988. He has taught at a number of universities in the US and the Middle East.

Ghazoul and Verlenden have been translating as a team for nearly two decades. Other award-winning projects include *Quartet of Joy* by Muhammad Afifi Matar, winner the University of Arkansas Translation Award in 1997, and the poetic epic *Rama and the Dragon*, by Edar al-Kharrat, which won the American University in Cairo's Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature.

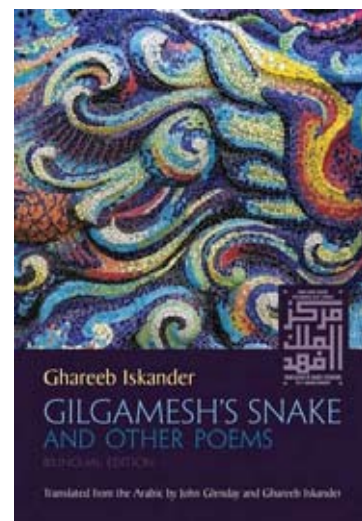
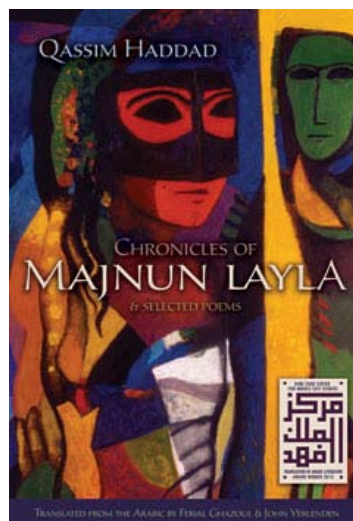
Chronicles of Majnun Layla & Selected Poems by Qassim Haddad, translated by Ferial Ghazoul and John Verlenden and Gilgamesh's Snake and Other Poems by Ghareeb Iskander, translated by John Glenday and Ghareeb Iskander. Available for purchase from Syracuse University Press.

WINNER OF THE 2015 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ARABIC TRANSLATION AWARD

The winner of the 2015 University of Arkansas Arabic Translation Award is *Gilgamesh's Snake and Other Poems* (ISBN 978-0-8156-1071-7), written by Ghareeb Iskander and translated by John Glenday and Ghareeb Iskander. The winning title is available from Syracuse University Press and is part of the Middle East Literature in Translation series.

In this luminous bilingual collection of poems, Ghareeb Iskander offers a personal response to the epic. Iskander's modern-day Gilgamesh is a nameless Iraqi citizen who witnessed the fall of the dictatorship, who exists in a constant state of threat, and who dreams, not about eternity, but simply about life. While Gilgamesh was searching for the elixir of life, Iskander's hero is searching for consolation.

Ghareeb Iskander is an Iraqi poet living in London. He has published numerous collections of poems, including *A Chariot of Illusion*. His critical work includes *Semiotic Trends in the Critique of Arab Poetry*. John Glenday is an award-winning Scottish poet and translator. He is the author of several poetry collections, including *Grain and Undark*.



RECENT EVENTS

Killing a Daughter in the Name of Honor: the Problem of Honor Killings in North America and Europe

April 28, 2016

Lisa Avalos, Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas Law School, collaborated with the King Fahd Center to present a lecture on the advocacy and legal complexities surrounding honor killings in Europe and North America. Avalos' research focuses on international human rights with an emphasis on women's human rights, gender-based violence, and sexual violence. With a background in the sociology of the inequalities of race, class and gender, Avalos works with international nongovernmental organizations to develop policy solutions that address persistent human rights violations such as rape, child marriage, and honor-based violence.

Avalos earned her JD from New York University School of Law. She also holds a PhD and MA in sociology from Northwestern University, and a BA in psychology from Northwestern University. Prior to law school, she was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Grinnell College, specializing in inequalities of race, class and gender.



Dr. Lisa Avalos answers questions about honor killings in America at the end of her lecture; photo courtesy of Nani Verzon

Arabic Speech Contest

April 21, 2016

The King Fahd Center assisted in sponsoring the annual Arabic Speech Contest, part of the Fulbright College Language Festival, held every April. A total of 23 Arabic language students participated across four divisions.

Mounir Farah (CIED) served on the judge's panel, along with **Hawraa Al-Zoin** (PhD CIED) and **Mohammed AlShammari** (PhD CLCS).

After the competition, students from the Arabic, Japanese, Chinese and Russian programs entertained with cultural performances at an Awards Ceremony where winners and runners-up across all divisions were announced. Please join us in congratulating our Arabic language students!

- Madison Lester (Winner, Elementary)
- Jarrod Almond (Runner-Up, Elementary)
- Joseph Largent (Intermediate, Winner)
- Kayla Cahill (Intermediate, Runner-Up)
- Hilary Zedlitz (Winner, Advanced)
- Chris Cowan (Runner-Up, Advanced)
- Kalynn Barlow (Winner, Post-Advanced)
- Marcos Macias (Runner-Up, Post-Advanced)



Graduating senior Kalynn Barlow delivers winning speech at the 2016 Arabic Speech Contest; photo courtesy of Nani Verzon

Syria, Revolution and the Islamic State

March 29, 2016

Dr. Sherifa Zuhur, Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley presented a guest lecture entitled 'Syria, Revolution and the Islamic State,' sponsored by the King Fahd Center. Zuhur spoke on the consequences of revolution in Syria, and addressed the influence of ISIS and the political economy of the conflict.

Zuhur holds a BA, MA and PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. She was a Research Professor of National Security at the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, served as a political advisor to the Office of Special Defense, has advised the CAG at CENTCOM, participated in a USIP-US government working group on Yemen, a multi-year NATO research team on Islamist extremism, and in Germany on the political economy of conflict in Syria. Her current research concerns Egypt since August 2013 and the trajectories of Syria's revolution. Zuhur is currently writing a book on Egypt; her most recently published book is *Saudi Arabia* (2012), and recent articles have appeared in *Contemporary Review of the Middle East* and *Middle East Policy*.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop

February 12, 2016

Tom Paradise (GEOS) offered a workshop in Arabic Calligraphy, introducing basic forms and penwork common to both eastern and western calligraphy, and the *kufic*, *diwan*, and *tughra* calligraphic styles. Over twenty students participated in the two hour workshop, practicing their Arabic penmanship and exploring various artistic styles.



(top) Dr. Sherifa Zuhur and Dr. Mohja Kahf at a pre-lecture Meet & Greet hosted by the King Fahd Center; (middle) Tom Paradise demonstrates calligraphy techniques and materials; (bottom) Saba Kouchehbagh and Jake Rowlett show off their art at the Arabic Calligraphy Workshop; photos courtesy of Nani Verzon

Interested in art and the Middle East?
 Watch for upcoming colloquium Islamic Art and Architecture (MEST4003), offered Spring 2017!



MEST Undergraduate Research Conference

December 4, 2015

The King Fahd Center sponsored its first regional Undergraduate Research Conference in Middle East Studies, bringing together students from Arkansas and Missouri to present research in culture, history, politics, religion, geography and more. The goal of the conference was to provide undergraduate students performing research on topics related to the Middle East and North Africa with a forum in which to present their work and collaborate with peers, and aims to advance undergraduate scholarship at the U of A, as well as to encourage interest in the geopolitical region.



The conference welcomed twelve presenters and was attended by over a hundred students and faculty. Lynda Coon, Dean of the Honors College, and **Tom Paradise** (GEOS), King Fahd Center Director, welcomed students. Students presented in five moderated sessions, and participated in discussion on their topics. The King Fahd Center congratulates all participants on their presentations, and encourages undergraduate students working on research projects and papers to consider submitting abstracts for future conferences.



(top) Tom Paradise opens the 2015 MEST Undergraduate Research Conference; (middle) Abigail Witty presents her research paper; (bottom) Dr. Lynda Coon discusses the importance of undergraduate research; photos courtesy of Nani Verzon



For more photos from the conference and a full list of paper titles, visit the event page on Facebook!

Special thanks to our student presenters, the U of A Honors College, and members of the MEST Undergraduate Conference Committee: **Sarwar Alam** (MEST), **Spencer Allen** (MEST), **Dan Brown** (PLSC), **Sanket Desai** (PhD HIST), **Matt Parnell** (PhD HIST), and **Nani Verzon** (KFC).

MESA Zajal Performance*November 21, 2015*

In November of 2014, Lebanese *Zajal*, the sophisticated art of spontaneous verbal dueling, was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In celebration of this great honor, **Adnan** (WLLC) and **Paula Haydar** (MEST) organized a poetic duel between two of Lebanon's master poets, Antoine Saade and Elias Khalil, bringing this revered Lebanese oral tradition to the 2015 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, sponsored by the King Fahd Center.

Zajal, a traditional form of oral poetry declaimed in colloquial Arabic dialects, is semi-improvised and semi-sung and is most often performed in the format of a lively duel between as many as 8 poets. Duelists engage in verbal play upon a common theme, and divide into teams to represent two sides of an issue. Their word play consists of original rhyme schemes, punning, satire and colorful insults. *Zajal* poets are complemented by *riddadi*, musical accompanists who repeat key verses or refrains, often to encourage the poets and heighten the spirit of competition.

The *zajal* poetic tradition is most popular in the North African and Levantine regions of the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and Palestine where professional *zajal* poets can attain high levels of recognition and popularity. The first recorded Lebanese *zajal* poem dates back to the year 1289, though the tradition is thought to have its roots in ancient Pre-Islamic Arabic literature and has grown into an integral part of Lebanese folk culture. Major developments in the tradition took place in the Lebanese mountains where *zajal* filled an important entertainment vacuum in villages. Modern *zajal* duels are well-organized public events comparable to poetry slams, attracting hundreds in festival settings that compete with musical concerts.

Antoine Saade is one of the leading *zajal* poets of his generation and one of the most famous senior duelists in Lebanon. He was born in 1948 in Deir Dourit, a village in the Shouf Mountains of southern Lebanon. He participated in numerous verbal duels prior to founding *Al-Masrah*, his own *jawqa* (team) in 1973. In recognition of his unique poetic and improvisatory talents, he earned many honors from various literary circles and organizations. In 1993 he published a volume of poetry, *The Pecks of a Bird*.

Elias Khalil was born in 1947 in the panoramic mountain village of Mayrouba. He taught philosophy, psychology, and Arabic literature at the University of the Holy Spirit, Kaslik and at Notre Dame University in Zouk Mosbeh. He is one of Lebanon's leading *zajal* poets and has appeared on the stage with Antoine Saade and other members of the famous *zajal* troupe *Jawqat al-Masrah* from 1987 until the present. His quiet demeanor off-stage is deceptive as he is one of the fiercest duelers on the stage. He has performed with Antoine Saade in Lebanon and around the globe. The thousands of students he has taught remember him as the teacher who opened every class session with *zajal* verses.



Adnan Haydar with Elias Khalil and Antoine Saade at the 2015 MESA Annual Meeting; photo courtesy Adnan Haydar



Sydney Cason welcomes students and community members to Fayetteville for Hope and Solidarity; photo courtesy Nani Verzon

Fayetteville for Hope and Solidarity

November 20, 2015

Students from the Middle East Studies program organized a gathering and moment of silence to honor those affected by acts of terror, and to promote freedom of religion, tolerance, and cultural understanding. MEST majors **Sydney Cason** and **Hilary Zedlitz** spoke during the gathering, along with fellow undergraduates Sarah Achab and Alexa Drake. The gathering concluded in a march to the Fulbright Peace Fountain for a moment of silence.

Theater and Diplomacy

November 16, 2015

The King Fahd Center hosted a Meet & Greet with Dr. Riad Ismat, award-winning Syrian playwright and diplomat, for students and faculty. Ismat visited Fayetteville to present a lecture as part of International Education Week, co-sponsored by the Departments of English, Theatre, World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Arkansas Graduate School and International Education, and the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Area Studies Programs.

ONGOING EVENTS

Arabic Conversation Table

Improve your spoken Arabic for class, for travel, and for study abroad by practicing with fellow students and native speakers. This Spring's sessions were led by senior graduate students and long-time organizers **Delilah Clark** (PhD CLCS) and **Shane Elder** (PhD CLCS).

***Al-Bisat*: A Casual Forum for Discussion on the Middle East**

In Bedouin culture *al-Bisat*, the carpet, serves as a primary setting for socialization whether it be hosting guests, eating and drinking, discussions, or entertainment. Led by **Matt Parnell** (PhD HIST), these meetings offer an opportunity for students and faculty to openly interact outside the classroom, to discuss developments in the region, and to foster a sense of community among those interested in the Middle East and North Africa at the U of A. The second semester of *al-Bisat* featured discussion topics such as recent developments in Turkey, sectarianism in the Middle East, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and American foreign policy, diplomacy and strategies in the Middle East.

Nadi Cinema

From Morocco to Saudi Arabia, Egypt to Iran, Nadi Cinema introduces viewers to the storytelling and vision of filmmakers across North Africa and the Middle East. All films are subtitled in English, and screenings are free and open to the public. A semester staple since 2006, the series is hosted by **Joel Gordon** (HIST) and generally meets biweekly, screening films from across the Middle East and often beyond. This semester's line-up included films from Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon and Palestine.

FACULTY NEWS

Mounir Farah (CIED Emeritus) served on the judges' panel for the 2016 Arabic Speech Contest.

Joel Gordon (HIST) presented 'A New Crisis of Orientation: Egypt's Liberals after Tahrir and Rab`a' at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in November. This paper will be forthcoming, expanded, in Dalia Fahmy and Daanish Faruqi (Eds.), *Egypt and the Contradictions of Liberalism: Illiberal Intelligentsia and the Future of Egyptian Democracy* (Oneworld 2016). He was also invited to present 'Return to Tahrir Square: Egypt Five Years Later' in April by the Middle Eastern Studies Program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock as part of a screening and discussion of the Academy-award nominated documentary *The Square*.

His article 'Three Tales of Obsession: Crosscutting Boundaries in Middle Eastern Film' appeared in *History Compass* (2016). Additionally, Gordon has published reviews on the following books:

- *The Aesthetic of Revolution in the Film and Literature of Naguib Mahfouz (1952-1967)* by Nathaniel Greenberg (Lexington 2014), in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (2015)
- *The Age of Efendiya: Passages to Modernity in National-Colonial Egypt* (Oxford University Press 2014) by Lucie Ryzova, in *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review* (2015)
- *Answering the Call: Popular Islamic Activism in Sadat's Egypt* by Abdullah al-Arian (Oxford University Press 2014), in the *Journal of Islamic Studies* (2016)
- *Humor in Middle Eastern Cinema* (Wayne State University Press 2015), an edited volume by Gayarti Devi and Najat Rahman, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2016).



Adnan and Paula Haydar with DeDe Long and their tour guide in Ibri, Oman; photo courtesy of Paula Haydar

During Spring Break 2016, **Adnan Haydar** (WLLC), **Paula Haydar** (MEST), and DeDe Long (Director of the Office of Study Abroad and International Exchange), traveled to Oman and the UAE to visit study abroad programs at the Noor Majan Training Institution in Ibri, Oman, and the American University in Dubai.

While in Ibri, they visited classes, attended lectures, and were treated to a tour of the area. The Noor Majan Training Institute offers four, six and eight week programs in Intensive Arabic throughout the year. The staff and faculty are highly qualified and have teaching and training experience with the US Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship Program. 26 CLS students will be hosted by the Institute this summer.

The American University in Dubai offers a semester-long study abroad program designed to provide students with a snapshot of the Middle East through the study of language, history and culture, with special attention on Dubai. AUD also offers a Middle East Studies Certificate, an 18-credit hour program designed to give students in the area an appreciation and understanding of the region.

Mohja Kahf (ENGL) published her book of poetry *Hagar Poems* (ISBN 978-1-68226-000-5) in August 2016 with the University of Arkansas Press. The central matter of this daring new collection is the story of Hagar, Abraham, and Sarah—the ancestral feuding family of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. These poems delve into the Hagar story in Islam. They explore other figures from the Near Eastern heritage, such as Mary and Moses, and touch on figures from early Islam, such as Fatima and Aisha. Throughout, there is artful reconfiguring. Readers will find sequels and prequels to the traditional narratives, along with modernized figures claimed for contemporary conflicts.

Jerry Rose (ANTH), along with former and current graduate students working under his supervision, took part in the following poster sessions:

- ‘The teeth of Tell el-Amarna, Egypt: A reconstruction of past lifeways from the perspective of a century of Nile Valley research and 30 years advancement in dental anthropology,’ with **Erika Morey** (PhD ANTH), at the 2016 Dental Anthropology Association Annual Meeting
- ‘Malaria at Amarna, Egypt: Evidence from the South Tombs Cemetery,’ with **Nicole Smith-Guzmán** (PhD ANTH 2015) and **Heidi Davis** (PhD ANTH), at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting
- ‘Evidence of malaria in a preliminary sample from the Amarna North Tombs Cemetery,’ with **Gretchen Dabbs** (PhD ANTH 2009), **Heidi Davis** (PhD ANTH), and **Ashley Shidner** (PhD ANTH) at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting

He also presented, with **Erika Morey** (PhD ANTH), ‘The Teeth of Tell el-Amarna, Egypt: An Investigation of Past Lifeways through Dental Pathology’ at the 2016 American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting.

Tom Paradise (GEOS) offered a workshop in Arabic Calligraphy in February, and spoke to a third grade class at Washington Elementary School about Geosciences and the Middle East in May. Paradise will be the Distinguished Speaker at the US State Department’s Fulbright Conference and Pre-Departure Orientation in June 2016 for all US Fulbrighters heading to North Africa and the Middle East, organized and overseen by the Office of Academic Exchange Programs in the Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs. Paradise will speak on the impact of his Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant (1998-2000) and its influence personally and professionally - from his years at the University of Hawaii and his early work in Petra, Jordan, to working in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas and his participation in the award-winning PBS Petra Special *Petra: Lost City of Stone*. Paradise will speak at a number of meetings, in addition to his plenary presentation.

Ted Swedenburg (ANTH) presented ‘On the origins of Pop-Rai’ at the conference ‘Towards a Society of Popular Music in the Arab Region’, organized by the Arab Media Centre, Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) in April. He also chaired the panel ‘Affect, Publicness and Politics’. He served as a discussant on the panel ‘Anthropology of Hope and the Future of the Middle East’ at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association in November.

Swedenburg was recently elected to the **Middle East Studies Association board of directors**. In addition to serving on the nine-member board, he will chair the association’s publications committee, which oversees the International Journal of Middle East Studies and the MESA Review of Middle East Studies. Swedenburg also serves on the editorial committee of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and has been invited to sit on the editorial board of *Anthropologica*, the journal of the Canadian Anthropology Society/la société canadienne d’anthropologie (CASCA). He is also a contributing editor of *Middle East Report*.



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Undergraduate Research Conference

December 2, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies invites students to take part in the 2nd annual Undergraduate Research Conference on Friday, December 2nd on the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville campus.

The conference will provide undergraduate students undertaking research on topics related to the Middle East and North Africa with a forum in which to present their work and collaborate with peers, and aims to advance undergraduate scholarship at the University of Arkansas, as well as encourage interest in the geopolitical region.

The conference will welcome topics in all disciplines relating to the Middle East and North Africa covering aspects of culture, history, politics, religion, geography, etc. Presentations will be limited in length to approximately 15 minutes, followed by a 5 minute question and answer session. Participants must submit a paper abstract of 200-300 words by Friday, October 14th for review.

Participation is free and attendance is open to the public. To submit abstracts or for more information, please contact Nani Verzon, King Fahd Center Program Coordinator, at hverzon@uark.edu or 479-575-2175.

GRADUATE NEWS

Ali Almajnooni (PhD CLCS) presented 'Riddled Performances: History and Memory in Tribal Poetry of Saudi Arabia' at the 2016 American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in January. His translation into Arabic of Nella Larson's novel *Passing* was published by Athar Publishing House (2015).

Mohammed Alshammari (PhD CLCS) served on the judges' panel for the 2016 Arabic Speech Contest.

Hawraa Al-Zoin (PhD CIED) served on the judges' panel for the 2016 Arabic Speech Contest.

Kaveh Bassiri (PhD CLCS) spent Spring 2016 in Iran undertaking research on Persian poetry, supported by a Sturgis International Fellowship.

Dhia Ben Ali (PhD PUBP) presented 'Regional Influences on the Democratization Process in Tunisia' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November, supported by the U of A Graduate School and the King Fahd Center. He was also awarded a Sturgis International Fellowship and will undertake research in Tunisia during the Fall 2016 semester.

Ali Capar (PhD HIST) travelled to Turkey in Fall 2015 to undertake research toward his dissertation, supported by the King Fahd Center and the government of Turkey.

Heidi Davis (PhD ANTH) presented posters 'Malaria at Amarna, Egypt: Evidence from the South Tombs Cemetery' with **Nicole Smith-Guzmán** (PhD ANTH 2015), and **Jerry Rose** (ANTH), and 'Evidence of malaria in a preliminary sample from the Amarna North Tombs Cemetery' with **Gretchen Dabbs** (PhD ANTH 2009), **Ashley Shidner** (PhD ANTH), and **Jerry Rose** (ANTH) at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting in April. She also presented 'Spinal Health at Tell El-Amarna' at the 2016 Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting.

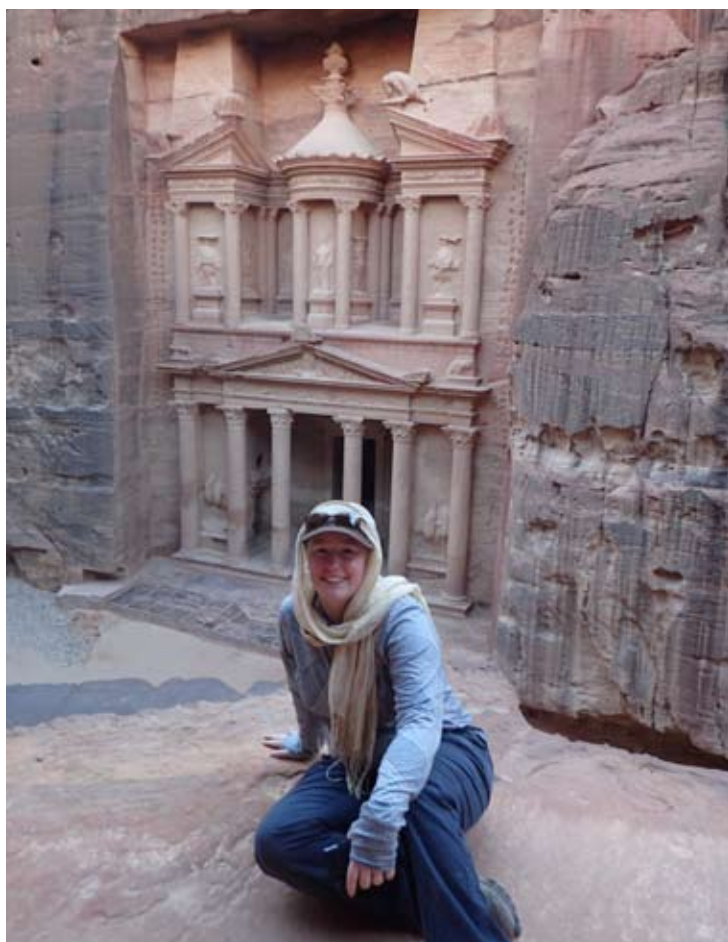


Dhia Ben Ali at the Sousse Archeological Museum in Tunisia; photo courtesy of Dhia Ben Ali

Sanket Desai (PhD HIST) was awarded the Willard B Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship for Summer 2016 and will conduct archival research toward his dissertation on the development and creation of the Iraqi nation in London, also supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center. Desai is the recipient of a Faculty Diversity Fellowship from Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA. The fellowship will entail a 2-3 teaching load with a salary and research stipend, and will commence Fall 2016.

Stephanie DeMora (MA PLSC) has been admitted into a PhD program in Political Science at University of California, Riverside and will begin in Fall 2016.

Andie Duplantis (MA GEOG) defended her thesis 'Perception of Urban Growth and Resource Availability Among Israelis And Palestinians In Jerusalem' in April.



Kaelin Groom in front of Al-Khazneh ('The Treasury') building in Petra, Jordan; photo courtesy of Kaelin Groom

Nicole Fares (PhD CLCS) presented 'History of Iranian Cinema' as part of a U of A Department of Communications series on international film. Her translation into English of Sahar Mandour's novel 32 was published by Syracuse University Press in March 2016. This summer Fares will undertake research toward her dissertation on the evolution of discourses in gender and sexuality in Beirut, Lebanon, supported by the King Fahd Center.

Kaelin Groom (PhD ENDY) undertook dissertation research in Jordan during the Spring 2016 semester, supported by a Sturgis International Fellowship. Her dissertation will look at the effectiveness and necessity of rapid field assessments for cultural stone decay in heritage management using rock art as a medium, with case studies from Arkansas, Grenada in the West Indies, and Petra, Jordan.

Mehreen Jamal (PhD HIST) presented 'Images of Women in Egyptian and Pakistani Literature: Two Classic Works by Latifa al-Zayyat and Khadija Mastoor' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November, and 'Feminine Voices in Pakistani Literature: A study of Nationalist works' at the 25th International Pakistan History Conference in Karachi, Pakistan in January 2016. She is one of only twenty recipients of a competitive new Summer Graduate Assistantship offered by the U of A Graduate School to support Summer research or study.

Steve Moog (PhD ANTH) will undertake preliminary research toward his dissertation on the intersection of Islam and the punk rock scene in Jakarta, Indonesia this summer, supported by the King Fahd Center.

Erika Morey (PhD ANTH) presented 'The Teeth of Tell el-Amarna, Egypt: An Investigation of Past Lifeways through Dental Pathology', with **Jerry Rose** (ANTH), at the 2016 American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting in April. They also presented poster 'The teeth of Tell el-Amarna, Egypt: A reconstruction of past lifeways from the perspective of a century of Nile Valley research and 30 years advancement in dental anthropology' at the 2016 Dental Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. This summer Morey will conduct archival research at the Griffith Institute Archives at Oxford University, supported by a grant from the King Fahd Center.

Ethan Morton-Jerome (PhD ANTH) presented 'Enforce the law? Politics and labor organizing with Palestinians on Israeli settlements' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, and 'Palestinian Labor in West Bank Settlement Industrial Zones' at the 2015 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in November, partially supported by the King Fahd Center. He has been selected as a fully-funded participant in the Middle East Political Economy Summer Institute sponsored by the Political Economy Project, held at George Mason University in June 2016.

King Fahd Center Graduate Student Support

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies supports graduate study for students at the Masters and Doctoral level working in related academic disciplines with a Center-affiliated faculty specialist in Middle East/Islamic Studies by providing graduate assistantships.

MEST Graduate Assistantships have been awarded to the following students for 2016-2017:

Farah Abu-Safe (MA PLSC)
Ikram Bahram (PhD ENDY)
Kaveh Bassiri (PhD CLCS)
Baris Basturk (PhD HIST)
Dhia Ben Ali (PhD PUBP)
Heidi Davis (PhD ANTH)
Kathleen Doody Ben-Ali (PhD PUBP)
Nicole Fares (PhD CLCS)
Mehreen Jamal (PhD HIST)
Joshua Moore (MFA CRWR)
Erika Morey (PhD ANTH)
Imene Moulati (PhD CLCS)
Mitra Panahipour (PhD ANTH)
Jacob Rowlett (MS GEOG)

Each Graduate Assistantship is a 50%, nine-month appointment that offers a stipend and tuition waiver. In order to qualify, applicants must be accepted by the U of A Graduate School and an academic department affiliated with the King Fahd Center.

Contact the King Fahd Center for more information on the application process and upcoming deadlines.



Mitra Panahipour (PhD ANTH) presented 'Remote Sensing Assessment of Ancient Irrigation Practices and Agricultural Potential In Upper Sirwan (Diyala) River Valleys, Kurdistan Region of Iraq' at the 2015 American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting in November. She will undertake research at the National Museum of Iran in Tehran this summer, supported by the King Fahd Center.

Aaron Shew (PhD ENDY) defended his thesis 'Geospatial Analysis of Droughts, Rice and Wheat Production, and Agrarian Vulnerability: A District-Level Study of the Self-Calibrated Palmer Drought Severity Index in India' in April, and will begin a PhD program in Environmental Dynamics in Fall 2016, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Ashley Shidner (PhD ANTH) presented poster 'Evidence of malaria in a preliminary sample from the Amarna North Tombs Cemetery' with **Gretchen Dabbs** (PhD ANTH 2009), **Heidi Davis** (PhD ANTH), and **Jerry Rose** (ANTH) at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting in April.

Keith Whitmire (PhD ANTH) undertook research toward his dissertation on the formation of masculinity in cafés in Cairo, Egypt during Spring 2016 and will continue into the summer, supported by the King Fahd Center.

Wawan Yulianto (PhD CLCS) presented 'Transcending Victimization, Dismantling Model Minority Status: Profiling Immigrant Muslim Americans in Wajahat Ali's Domestic Crusaders' at the Borders: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at the U of A, and 'No Literature for Immigrants Only: A Dialectical Reading of Ayad Akhtar's *Disgrace* and Wajahat Ali's *Domestic Crusaders* at the 2016 American Comparative Literature Association Annual meeting in March. His translation of 'Sleepless', a short story by Rahmad Ali, was published in Annie Tucker (Ed.), *A Graveside Ritual: Contemporary Indonesian Short Stories* (Rosda International 2016).

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Jarrold Almond (IREL, MEST minor) was named runner-up at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Elementary division.

James Arnold (PSYC, MEST minor) will study abroad in Amman, Jordan with AMIDEAST during Summer 2016.

Meghan Austin (IREL/MEST) presented 'Paper, Ink and Blood: How the Sykes-Picot Agreement Shaped the Middle East' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December. Austin graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies, with minors in Arabic and Political Science.

Kalynn Barlow (IREL/MEST) was accepted into the Northeastern University Project GO Amman, Jordan program for Summer 2016 with a full scholarship. She also participated in the 2016 Arabic Speech contest and won first place in the Post-Advanced division.

Colette Brashears (IREL) received a Sturgis International Fellowship and will study abroad in Nepal, Jordan and Chile during Fall 2016.

Christopher Bryant (ANTH, CLST) presented 'Karnak & Luxor Temples and the Procession of the Opet Festival' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December.

Luke Burton (BSIB) will study abroad in Amman, Jordan with CIEE during the Fall 2016 semester.

Kayla Cahill (PLSC/MEST) won runner-up at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Intermediate division.

Sarah Cory (GEOG/MEST) attended an ISA study abroad program in Amman, Jordan during Spring 2016, supported by a Sturgis Study Abroad Grant from the U of A Honors College.

King Fahd Center Undergraduate Student Support

The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies offers academic scholarships for advanced undergraduate students majoring in Middle East Studies. Scholarships range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per academic year, and are awarded only to students who have demonstrated serious commitment to study and excellence in their coursework and scholarship.

Scholarships have been awarded to the following students for 2016-2017:

Sarah Cory (GEOG/MEST)
Christopher Cowan (IREL/MEST)
Shelli Daniel (IREL/MEST)
Starr Ellis (IREL/MEST, PLSC)
Antonia Greet (ANTH/MEST)
Benjamin Krick (PLSC/MEST)
Joseph Largent (GEOG/MEST)
Amy Lyon (IREL/MEST, HIST)
Micayla Mosier (GEOG/MEST)
Jamie Nix (IREL/MEST)

Students are encouraged to apply for funding in the upcoming academic year if they will be undergraduate juniors with a minimum of 60 credit hours. Scholarship applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.25 and a GPA of 3.5 in MEST-related courses. In granting scholarships, the King Fahd Center considers the applicant's academic record, letters of recommendation, and financial need.

Contact the King Fahd Center for more information on the application process and upcoming deadlines.





Christopher Cowan delivers his speech at the 2016 Arabic Speech Contest; photo courtesy of Nani Verzon

Chris Cowan (IREL/MEST) presented 'The New Great Game' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December. Cowan was named runner-up at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Advanced division. He will continue his study of Arabic abroad this summer in Jordan at the Qasid Arabic Institute, and as part of the AMIDEAST Intensive Arabic program, supported by a Sturgis Study Abroad Grant from the U of A Honors College and a MEST Study Abroad Scholarship from the King Fahd Center. Beginning in Fall 2016, he will also assume co-leadership of the Gamma Kappa chapter of the geography honors society Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU).

Claudia De Santiago (PLSC/MEST) studied abroad in Amman, Jordan with ISA during Spring 2016.

Yasmeen Ebbini (IREL/MEST, PLSC) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations, Political Science, Middle East Studies, and a minor in History.

Starr Ellis (IREL/MEST, PLSC) will study abroad in Amman, Jordan with CIEE during Fall 2016.

Jessica Garross (BSIB) studied abroad in Morocco with ISA during Fall 2015.

Candace Ginn (COMM) presented 'Is God Afraid of Women's Hair? Religious Discourses and Cultural Practices of Maintaining Women's Hair in the Middle East and West' at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference at Butler University in April, supported by an Undergraduate Conference Travel Grant from the King Fahd Center.

Abram Greenbaum (PLSC/MEST) presented 'Desecration of the Body: Tattoos in Middle Eastern Culture' at the 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Workshop at the 2015 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November, supported with an Undergraduate Conference Travel Grant from the King Fahd Center. Greenbaum was one of just nine participants selected.

Ariane Hammouri (CMJS/MEST) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in Criminal Justice and Middle East Studies, and a minor in Arabic.

Elizabeth Heckmann (IREL/MEST) graduated Summa Cum Laude in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies, and a minor in Arabic.

Justin Hilton (IREL/MEST) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies, with minors in Arabic and Political Science.

Macyn Hunn (COMM/MEST) studied abroad in Amman, Jordan with AMIDEAST during the Fall 2015 semester, supported by funding from the King Fahd Center.

Nicholas Kahmann (INST/MEST) presented his paper 'Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December.



Joseph Largent with U of A alum Salem Thawaba in Palestine; photo courtesy of Joseph Largent

Benjamin Krick (PLSC/MEST) will study abroad in Amman, Jordan with CIEE during Fall 2016.

Joseph Largent (IREL/MEST, GEOG) gave a public lecture on the Israel/Palestine Conflict in September 2015, and presented 'ISIS Gaining Support from Central Asia?' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December. He was Music Director for a local performance of Veils, directed by former U of A alum Kholoud Sawaf and written by Tom Coash, in February 2016. He was awarded first place at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Intermediate division.

Madison Lester (INST) was awarded first place at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Elementary division.

Marcos Macias (IDST) was named runner-up at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Post-Advanced division. His paper 'Violence in Islam: Perception, Propaganda, and the Jihad' was accepted for presentation at the 2016 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in October and will attend with support from the King Fahd Center.

Marcus Montgomery (PSYC, MEST minor) studied abroad in Amman, Jordan with CIEE during the Fall 2015 semester.

Jamie Nix (IREL/MEST) studied abroad in Morocco with ISA during the Fall 2015 semester.

Andrew Newell (IREL/MEST) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies.

Jacob McCrary (FREN, IREL) presented 'A Walk in the Fires of Love: Show Love to All, Love Only One' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December.

Micayla Mosier (GEOG/MEST) presented 'My Blood, My Brother, My Rival, My Ruin: Brotherhood in Christianity and Islam' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December.

Jacob Rowlett (GEOG/MEST) will begin a Master's program in Geography at the U of A in Fall 2016.

Meghan Shrewsbury (HIST, PLSC) presented 'Students and Eslahaat in Modern Iran: A Comparative Analysis of Student Activism during the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 2009 Green Movement' at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference.

Ezra Smith (IREL/MEST, PLSC) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations, Political Science and Middle East Studies.

Kaitlyn Smithwick (IREL/PLSC, MEST minor) was accepted into the Master of Letters program at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and will begin in Fall 2016. Smithwick graduated with honors in Fall 2015, with a BA in International Relations and a BA in Political Science, with minors in Arabic and Middle East Studies.

Zachary Schwermann (IREL/MEST) defended thesis 'Terrorism Turnover: A Historic and Spatial Assessment of Radicalized Islamic Extremism from Al Qaeda to the Islamic State' and graduated with Honors in May 2016. He has accepted an internship for Summer 2016 with the Hudson Institute and will be working with Senior Fellow Eric Brown, who specializes in the Middle East and North Africa, Terrorism and Radical Ideologies, and East Asia.

Amanda Want (IREL/MEST) graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies, with minors in Arabic and Political Science.

Peyton Watts (IREL, PLSC) presented 'Jihad: For the Qur'an Tells Me So. The Mystical Journey of Jihad al-Akbar' at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (SWCRS) in March 2016, supported by an Undergraduate Conference Travel Grant from the King Fahd Center.

Claire Williamson (INST/MEST) presented "'Women, Oh Women! When Will You Learn Your Places?'" at the at the 2015 Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December. She also presented 'Cover Yourself, and Cover Your Feelings: The Double Standard of Women of Faith' at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (SWCRS) in March 2016, supported by the King Fahd Center.

Abigail Witty (IREL/MEST) presented 'The Young and the Restless: Egyptian Youth and the January 25th Revolution' at the Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference in December. Witty graduated in Fall 2015 with a BA in International Relations and Middle East Studies, with a minor in Arabic.

Hilary Zedlitz (PLSC/MEST) is an Outstanding Senior, and was the invited speaker at the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences 2016 Commencement Ceremony in May. She was awarded first place at the 2016 Arabic Speech contest in the Advanced division.



Congratulations to our 2016 Spring and Summer Graduates!

Shane Elder (PhD CLCS)
Mona Malkawi (PhD CLCS)

Stephanie DeMora (MA PLSC)
Andie Duplantis (MA GEOG)
Steven Meizler (MA GEOG)
Aaron Shew (MA GEOG)

Jeremy Alcorn (BA INST/MEST)
Kalynn Barlow (BA IREL/MEST)
Courtney Belcher (BA IREL; MEST minor)
Andrew Billingsley (Honors BA IREL/MEST)
Kayla Cahill (BA PLSC/MEST)
Myles Carfagno (BA IREL/MEST)
Sydney Cason (BA PLSC/MEST)
Lauren Curtis (BA IREL/MEST)
Claudia De Santiago (BA IREL/MEST)
Mary Goodwin (BA IREL/MEST)
Abram Greenbaum (BA PLSC/MEST)
Riley Jackson (BA PLSC/MEST)
Shelly Long (BA IREL/MEST)
Connor Malowskie (BA IREL/MEST)
Marcus Montgomery (BA PSYC; MEST minor)
Jacob Rowlett (BA IREL/MEST, GEOG)
Zachary Schwermann (Honors BA IREL/MEST)
David Sommi (BA IREL/MEST)
Madeline Upson (Honors BA IREL/MEST)
Hilary Zedlitz (Honors BA PLSC/MEST)

We look forward to your successes, and
congratulation each of you on a job well done!

ALUMNI NEWS

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

Khalid Ahmadzai (IREL/MEST BA 2015) published editorial 'Passing judgment: Parallels in the Christmas story' in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on November 20, 2015.

Travis Curtis (MA PLSC 2012) is in the second year of a PhD program in Political Science at Emory University. He presented 'The Limits of Linkage: The Political Economy of Human Rights Trade Sanctions', with Eric Reinhardt, at the 2015 International Studies Association Midwest (ISA) Annual Meeting in November, and 'Wartime Atrocities by Rebel Organizations: Domestic Constraints and Conflict Duration' at the ISA's 57th Annual Convention in March 2016.

Gretchen Dabbs (PhD ANTH 2009) presented poster 'Evidence of malaria in a preliminary sample from the Amarna North Tombs Cemetery' with **Heidi Davis** (PhD ANTH), **Ashley Shidner** (PhD ANTH), and **Jerry Rose** (ANTH) at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting in April.



Hilary Zedlitz addresses the audience at the 2016 Spring Fulbright Commencement Ceremony

Jamie Hamadi (MA ANTH 2014) graduated with an MFA from Parsons Paris program in Design and Technology. Her final project, **Refuge Network**, is an anonymous information sharing feedback system that works to connect refugees to help and use their input to discern their needs and bring global awareness to the current refugee crisis.

Tuna Kalayci (PhD ANTH 2013) is a post-doc at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete, conducting surveys in Greece and Turkey. He is also part of the Computer Applications in Archaeology scientific committee. He published chapters 'Images of the Past: Magnetic Prospection in Archaeology', with Kayt L. Armstrong, and 'Data Integration in Archaeological Prospection' in Apostolos Sarris (Ed.), *Best Practices of Geoinformatic Technologies for the Mapping of Archaeolandscape* (Archaeopress Archaeology 2015).

He published article 'A Remote Sensing Approach for Exploring Ancient Traffic' in *International Journal Heritage in the Digital Era* (2015), and co-authored 'How efficient is an integrative approach in archaeological geophysics? Comparative case studies from Neolithic settlements in Thessaly (Central Greece)' in *Near Surface Geophysics* (2015). His paper 'Settlement Sizes and Agricultural Production Territories: A Remote Sensing Case Study for the Early Bronze Age in Upper Mesopotamia' is forthcoming in *Science and Technology of Archaeological Research*.

Saba Naseem (JOUR/MST BA 2013) published editorial 'The biggest risk: Ignorance and fear, not refugees' in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on November 19, 2015.

Nicole Smith-Guzmán (PhD ANTH 2015) chaired the poster session 'Malaria in Antiquity: Methodological and Theoretical Approaches' at the 2016 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting in April. She also presented poster 'Malaria at Amarna, Egypt: Evidence from the South Tombs Cemetery' with **Jerry Rose** (ANTH) and **Heidi Davis** (PhD ANTH).

ETEL ADNAN POETRY PRIZE

Every year the University of Arkansas Press, together with the Radius of Arab American Writers, accepts submissions for the Etel Adnan Poetry Series and awards the \$1,000 Etel Adnan Poetry Prize to a first or second book of poetry, in English, by a writer of Arab heritage. Since its founding in 1996 the Radius of Arab American Writers has celebrated and fostered the writings and writers that make up the vibrant and diverse Arab American community; and the University of Arkansas Press has long been committed to publishing diverse kinds of poetry by a diversity of poets.

The series editors are Hayan Charara and Fady Joudah, and the prize is named in honor of the world-renowned poet, novelist, essayist, and artist Etel Adnan.

The series editors serve as the judges for the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. Together, they will select a winning manuscript and write a preface for the book. The University of Arkansas Press, which will publish the book, provides that the author's work will be produced with all the dedication and expertise they have to offer. This includes professional copy editing by expert poetry editors, design and production by veteran designers who specialize in the typesetting of verse, and production managed by a house with a history of printing first-rate books. Additionally, the Radius of Arab American Writers will award the author a \$1,000 prize and widely publicize the winning book. We believe this offers the poet the best possible opportunity to connect with his or her audience via the printed word.

For more information on application requirements and instructions, visit the University of Arkansas Press Submission Manager at www.uapress.com/

Supported in part by the Radius for Arab American Writers and the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas.

About Etel Adnan

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1925, Etel Adnan was educated in the French schools there and later studied philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris, the University of California Berkeley, and Harvard. She became a painter during the Algerian War of Independence and later, during the war in Vietnam, participated in the poets' movement against the war, becoming, in her own words, "an American poet." From 1972 until 1976, she lived in Beirut and worked as a cultural editor for two newspapers. Her novel *Sitt Marie-Rose*, published in 1977, has since been translated into numerous languages and is considered a classic of war literature. In 1977 she established her residence in Sausalito, California, with frequent stays in Paris.

Adnan has published nearly twenty books in English, including *The Arab Apocalypse*, regarded as "one of the most important works of literature" after the Lebanese Civil War; *In the Heart of the Heart of Another Country*, "a mix of prose, poetry, political insight, philosophic speculation, and historical remembrance honed to mineral perfection"; and *Sea and Fog*, winner of the Lambda Literary Award. Her poetry and prose has been recognized internationally and includes the France-Pays Arabes Award, the California Book Award, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award, the Arab American Book Award, and a lifetime achievement award from the Radius of Arab American Writers.

In 2014, she was named a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. The same year, a collection of her paintings and tapestries were exhibited as a part of the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art. MELUS, the journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, called Adnan "arguably the most celebrated and accomplished Arab American author writing today." More about Etel Adnan is available at www.eteladnan.com

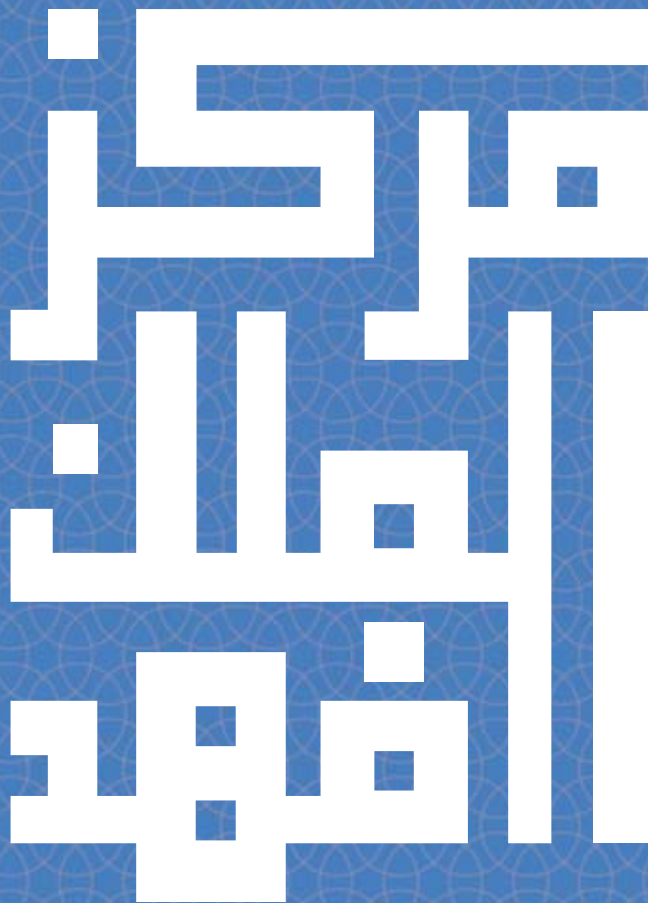


Fall 2016

MEST Course Offerings

MEST2003/H	Intro to Islam	Tu/Th	2:00 - 3:15 PM	Alam
MEST2013	Intro to MEST	M/W	3:05 - 4:20 PM	Alam
MEST2203/H	Intro to Christianity	Tu/Th	6:20 - 7:35 PM	Allen
MEST4003/H	Iranian Cinema	W	5:15 - 8:05 PM	Bassiri
MEST4103	War and Peace in Islam	W	5:15 - 8:05 PM	Alam
MEST4103	Hebrew Literature & Language	Tu/Th	12:30 - 1:45 PM	Allen
ANTH3033	Egyptology	M/W	3:05 - 4:20 PM	Morey
ANTH4533	Middle East Cultures	Tu/Th	12:30 - 1:45 PM	Swedenburg
ARAB1016-001	Intensive Arabic I	M/W/F Tu/Th	9:40 - 10:30 AM 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Haydar, P
ARAB1016-001	Intensive Arabic I	M/W/F Tu/Th	10:45 - 11:35 AM 11:00 - 12:15 PM	Haydar, P
ARAB3016	Intensive Arabic III	M/W/F Tu/Th	9:40 - 10:30 AM 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Haydar, A
ARAB4023	Advanced Arabic I	M/W/F	10:45 - 11:35 AM	Haydar, A
ARAB470V	Special Topics	TBA	TBA	Haydar, A
GEOS4043/H	Geography of the Middle East	W	6:00 - 8:50 PM	Paradise
HIST3033	Islamic Civilization	Tu/Th	12:30 - 1:45 PM	Antov
HIST3043	Modern Middle East	W	3:05 - 5:55 PM	Gordon
HIST4393	Early Modern Islamic Empires, 1300-1750	Tu/Th	3:30 - 4:45 PM	Antov
HIST4403/MEST4103	Islam in Asia	Tu/Th	9:30 - 10:45 AM	Hammond
HIST4433	Social and Cultural History of the Modern Middle East	T	5:00 - 7:50 PM	Gordon
PLSC3523	Politics of the Middle East	M/W	6:20 - 7:35 PM	Ben Ali
PLSC4593	Islam and Politics	Thu	6:00 - 8:30 PM	Ghadbian
WLIT3523	The Quran as Literature	Tu/Th	11:00 - 12:15 PM	Kahf

For more information, visit the Middle East Studies website at <http://mest.uark.edu>, call 479-575-2175, or email MEST@uark.edu



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