



Middle Eastern Studies

Fall 2006 Newsletter

Issue 30

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CENTER PLANS FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) a grant of nearly \$1.8 million to support area studies programming and scholarships for 2006-2010. The grant was made under the Title VI National Strategic Area Studies Act; it includes funding under the National Resource Center (NRC) program that will support academic programming and community outreach activities, and the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program that will provide scholarships for graduate students studying advanced Middle Eastern languages, including Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Tajiki, and Turkish. The Center has been continuously funded by Title VI since the 1960s, and we are pleased to have once again been granted funding at a time when overall funding available for these programs has decreased. We are also pleased that the three other existing NRCs on campus, representing Latin America, South Asia, and Russia, East Europe and Eurasia, have also been re-awarded by Title VI, allowing us to continue to work in collaboration with one another on various programming.

The National Resource Center award will help fund the Center's day-to-day operations and a variety of new and continuing initiatives. CMES will host international conferences on a range of topics, from Israeli studies to Iraqi reconstruction.

Following up on the successful Islamic Ideologies conference that CMES co-sponsored last year (see article on page 6), we will host two major conferences in 2007-08 and 2009-10 in collaboration with the other NRCs on campus. These conferences are designed to explore topics of cross-regional, cross-disciplinary concern by bringing together top scholars from around the world. CMES will also continue to sponsor the spring workshop for the Western Consortium of teachers of foreign languages, which it hosted in 2006.

Funding for the CMES Outreach program will support a wide range of educational and cultural activities aimed at K-12 educators, their students, and the general public. The jointly sponsored Hemispheres outreach consortium will continue to expand its services for K-12 audiences, such as the development of new curriculum units, educator training, and other services for which the consortium has received statewide recognition (see page 5). The Center is planning to take groups of educators abroad over the course of the new grant cycle, repeating the successful educator seminar in Egypt that we led in 2005 (see page 4). A face-lift is also in store for the Middle East Network Information Center (MENIC), once one of the most important resources for Middle Eastern Studies on the Internet, in

order to keep the site relevant and on the cutting edge of information technology.

The FLAS scholarship program will provide funding for graduate students studying Arabic, Persian, Tajiki, Hebrew, and Turkish over the next four years. The largest scholarship awarded to graduate students through CMES, FLAS scholarships for the full academic year fund tuition and fees and offer a stipend of \$7,500 per semester, and the summer FLAS scholarships provide tuition and fees along with a \$2,500 stipend. For the 2006-07 academic year, CMES has awarded a total of nine FLAS scholarships that will fund six students in the Arabic program, one in Persian, and two in Hebrew.

The Title VI program is funded as part of the Higher Education Act approved by Congress. Budget cuts in the Department of Education led to a substantial drop in the amount of available funding. CMES sustained the average cut in funding that other NRCs have seen this year, and the reduced funding levels will mean that we will be able to fund fewer FLAS students, and we will have to be more selective with Center programming. However, we have begun pursuing external funding from new sources, and even with the budget cuts, we are very excited about the Center's programs on and off-campus for the next four years.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that the Center for Middle Eastern Studies has once again been designated a National Resource Center (NRC) under the Title VI Strategic Area Studies program (see article on page 1). The competition for funding during this grant cycle was particularly fierce, as Congress cut the overall amount of funding available for the program. Despite this, we are pleased that CMES was awarded an amount commensurate with our level and ranking in previous cycles. This new grant cycle runs for four years instead of the usual three, so we are now planning for programs and events through the spring semester of 2010.

For the Middle Eastern Studies program, the past two years have been characterized by dramatic expansion of our faculty, academic, publications, and outreach programs. We have gained a significant number of faculty from numerous disciplines—including ethnomusicology, government and history—whose interests range from suicide terrorism to modern Arab identity, from Jewish literature to Yoruba culture.

We are particularly pleased to be able to welcome three new faculty members in Arabic who will help to boost our program—already one of the most reputable in the United States—to the top of its field, training students not only to speak and read Arabic, but also preparing them to teach Arabic as a foreign language. The number of course offerings in Arabic has also increased, incorporating media Arabic as well as instruction in Egyptian, Levantine, and Qur'anic Arabic for advanced students.

Likewise, the Jewish Studies program has seen a dramatic increase in interest and support. A \$6 million challenge grant



from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation of Tulsa has provided half of the seed money for the new Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies. The Center will support three new endowed faculty and will foster a newly invigorated environment for Jewish Studies at the University. We are pleased to be able to welcome Yoav Gelber, our first Schusterman Visiting Professor in Israeli Studies, to UT this fall.

I am also pleased to announce that we have received a substantial grant to develop online resources for Persian language learning. This multi-year project will create a new set of interactive multimedia resources for beginning and advanced students of Persian. The eventual goal of this project is to create a virtual classroom for teachers and students worldwide to connect.

The outreach program has sponsored a series of workshops for K-12 educators,

which have been held in Austin and other locations throughout the state of Texas. Curriculum resources developed by the outreach program are now available online. The innovative approach taken to develop resources in conjunction with educators in alignment with state and national standards has won the outreach program accolades from statewide and national organizations.

As part of the continuing reorganization of the Department and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the functions of department chair and center director have been separated, retaining a single set of support staff and a common executive committee for both units. The reorganization of the Center and Department has been a resounding success, and has allowed the Middle Eastern Studies program to expand in ways that were almost unthinkable a decade ago.

Finally, the Middle Eastern Studies publications program continues to produce quality publications reflecting ongoing research in the field. A grant from the Society of Iranian American Women for Education in Houston will enable the Center to publish Persian literature in translation, the first of what we hope will be many new and exciting new publishing projects.

I'm very excited to see the continuing patterns of growth and change in the Middle Eastern Studies program. I look forward to working with our faculty, staff, and students to enhance our academic program and expand our outreach to the community. It is a fun and exciting time to be part of this program.

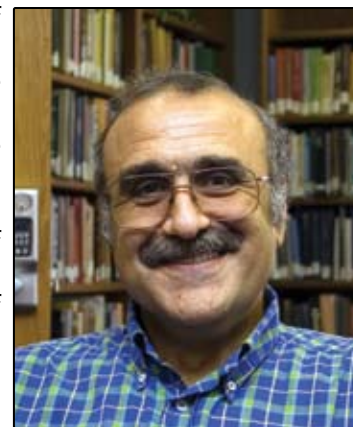
MES GRADUATE STUDENTS WORKING TO PUT RESOURCES ONLINE

Seeing a need for more accessible information about the their program and opportunities available to them, graduate students in Middle Eastern Studies are working on a project to build an online resource for graduate students through the Center's web site. Christine Baker, a Ph.D. student in the History Department who received her M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies in 2006 and is the outgoing president of the graduate student group, led the students in beginning work on the project and conducted a survey to determine what kinds of resources would be of most use. Aaron Colvin, the new presi-

dent of the MES graduate student group, will be working with CMES faculty and staff to realize the project. While plans are still underway for the online resource, the organizers hope to include program information such as major requirements; updated information about study abroad opportunities; information about FLAS and other scholarships; and job advertisements, which will be moderated by the students. The organizers also plan to set up a listserv for graduate students in the program.

DISTINGUISHED ARABIC FACULTY COME TO UT

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies is proud to announce that two distinguished Arabic faculty will be joining the University of Texas at Austin. **Mahmoud Al-Batal** and **Kristen Brustad**, formerly of Emory University, are both appointed with the rank of Associate Professor as of Fall 2006. Al-Batal received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies, with an emphasis on Arabic linguistics, from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1985. Brustad received her Ph.D. in Arabic Language from Harvard University in 1991.



Both scholars are widely published and have co-authored, together with Abbas El-Tonsi, *Alif Baa: An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* (1995, 2004) and *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya* (1995, 1996, 2004). Al-Batal brings CASA (The Center for Arabic Study Abroad) to UT, which will be the new host for the program. One of the most prestigious programs for Arabic language study, CASA has been responsible for training 1,350 American students and professors in various areas of Middle Eastern Studies since its inception in 1967. Al-Batal spoke to students and faculty on December 5, 2005, about his vision for expanding both Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas. Addressing the current gap between the demand for trained speakers of Arabic in the U.S. and the number of trained instructors, Al-Batal's vision involves making the Center and Department known not only for producing skilled Arabic speakers, but also for training highly qualified teachers.

Brustad is the author of *The Syntax of Spoken Arabic: A Comparative Study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian and Kuwaiti Dialects* (2000), and a co-author of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya* (1995, 1996, 2004); *Alif Baa: An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* (1995, 2004); *Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition* (2001); and *Advanced Texts in Egyptian Colloquial* (1982). Brustad continues to explore language ideology and the history of Arabic, which she discussed in a talk given at UT on December 6, 2005, and she brings with her an ambitious project to research the timeline for the formalization of Arabic grammar, from the classical poetic traditions through the modern era. She contends that once vernacular uses are written down, grammars become standardized, but that researchers should be aware of the political role that language



can play in forging identity. The earliest Arabic grammars were actually in Persian, and she maintains that the purpose was "to reclaim sacred language" and "to codify the language of power." Multiple languages exist simultaneously at any given time and may serve different functions or compete for the right to be seen as the "legitimate" version.

Since they arrived in Austin, Al-Batal and Brustad have already been active in raising the profile for Arabic teacher training at UT. They served as the instructors for the fourth annual National Middle East Language Resource Center (NMELRC) Arabic Teachers' Training Seminar, which was held August 7-12, 2006, and hosted for the first time by the University of Texas at Austin. The seminar participants were welcomed by Kamran Aghaie, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and Esther Raizen, Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. The seminar content is geared towards Arabic language professionals looking for a skills update; advanced teaching assistants preparing for a career as Arabic teachers; and instructors with primary training in non-linguistic areas who want to train for language teaching. The seminar was conducted entirely in Arabic and gave participants the chance to work on their own class syllabi in preparation for teaching in the fall semester 2006.



Dr. Brustad welcomes attendees to the Arabic Teachers Training Seminar

The Middle Eastern Studies Newsletter is published by the Center & Department for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin

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FULBRIGHT-HAYS GRANT ALLOWS TEXAS EDUCATORS TO EXPERIENCE EGYPT

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays award under the Group Projects Abroad program, allowing fifteen K-12 educators from around the state of Texas to travel to Egypt for a month of in-depth study and curriculum development. Led by **Kamran Aghaie** (then Associate Director and Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies) and **Christopher Rose** (Outreach Coordinator), the project entailed in-depth study of Egypt's history, culture, and government from the ancient period to the present day.

The 15 teacher participants were selected from a highly competitive pool of nearly 50 applicants and represented a large geographic sampling from Texas, as well as the Washington, D.C. area. Following a two-day pre-departure orientation held on campus, the group flew to Cairo in June 2005.

While in Egypt, the group stayed primarily in Cairo, taking side trips to Alexandria and the Sinai and a longer excursion to Upper Egypt. The Egyptian Fulbright Commission organized an impressive slate of lecturers for the group, including Dr. Wifaa Saddiq, Director General of the Egyptian Museum; His Eminence Picienti, Bishop of Helwan and Ma'asarah; and Ahmad Youssef, Assistant to the Secretary General of the Arab League.

Visits were arranged to most of Cairo's famous monuments, including the pyramids of Saqqara and Giza, the Egyptian Museum, the "old Cairo" area that is home to several churches and one of the few remaining synagogues in Egypt, and the core of the Fatimid old city. Many of the most valuable experiences, however, were unscheduled. For example, the excursion to Saqqara included a visit to a carpet school where young children were taught to weave carpets as a profession. The stop turned out to be one of the most valuable experiences for the group, serving as a clear example of how life in Egypt is different from life in the United States. The experience was revisited several times during group discussion throughout the program and remained one of the most vivid experiences for the participants.

The group also visited the brand-new Al-Azhar Park in Cairo, where they met with one of the architects of the project to learn more about revitalization efforts in Cairo's Darb al-Ahmar neighborhood. We spent a day with the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW), a non-governmental organization that works with women living in



Participants in the Egypt Study Tour and Curriculum Development Project 2005 in the 10th-century al-Aqmar mosque in Cairo's Darb al-Asfar neighborhood.

Back row, l-r: Larry Wolken, Rhonda Williams, Barbara Young, Roxanne Hackney, Gerry Waller, Lorelei Clark, Philip Bernhardt, Monica Birtwistle, Richard Goodwin, Trudi Niewiaroski
Front, l-r: Kerryn Rodriguez, Mary Muenster, Sarah Huett, Alicia Young, Judy Brodigan

a squatter settlement in Cairo. The teachers were able visit with participants in ADEW's microcredit program to understand how such programs help to empower lower-class women in a real-world setting.

At the conclusion of the program, participants committed to curriculum unit topics and began to work on their projects. The curriculum units, aligned to state and national teaching standards, address a variety of topics from ancient to modern Egypt. Throughout the fall of 2005, participants presented to

colleagues in their home districts.

The units will be made available through the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Web site and through the national OutreachWorld.org Web site. Also in fall 2006, the three curriculum trunks, with artifacts and collected units, will be made available to educators throughout Texas and beyond via the CMES Outreach Lending Library.

The participants in the program were:

- Philip Bernhardt, JEB Stuart High School, Falls Church, Virginia;
- Monica Birtwistle, Stephen F. Austin High School, Sugar Land;
- Judy Brodigan, Lewisville ISD;
- Lorelei Clark, Thurgood Marshall High School, Missouri City;
- Richard Goodwin, Townview Magnet Center, Dallas;
- Roxanne Hackney, Captain John L. Chapin High School, El Paso;
- Sarah Huett, Hughes Springs ISD;
- Mary Muenster, Northside Health Careers High School, San Antonio;
- Gertrude Niewiaroski, Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, Maryland;
- Kerryn Rodriguez, Cunningham Middle School, Houston;
- Geraldine Waller, Clara Driscoll Middle School, San Antonio;
- Rhonda Williams, Central Heights High School, Nacogdoches;
- Dr. Lawrence Wolken, Texas A & M University;
- Alicia Young, Dallas ISD;
- Barbara Young, Burleson High School, Burleson.

TEACHER TRAINING MOVES OFF-CAMPUS AND INTO THE COMMUNITY

The CMES outreach program has long focused on training and providing resources for K-12 educators to be better prepared to teach about the Middle East. Since 1998, the major teacher training event has been the annual Summer Teachers' Institute, held in early June. Coordinated by Hemispheres, a consortium of the four Title-VI outreach programs at UT, the institute offers as many as 40 attendees the opportunity to spend a week in residence at UT, learning from thematic content lectures presented by faculty, staff, and graduate students. Hemispheres' annual summer workshop has become extremely popular over the past several years, regularly reaching its registration capacity well in advance.

Over the past two years, teacher training has expanded from the Summer Teachers' Institute to include a series of curriculum development projects and related regional workshops held in

locations around Texas. These regional workshops allow CMES, operating in conjunction with the Hemispheres consortium, to increase its visibility and dramatically increase the number of educators reached through the outreach program.

The off-campus workshops are specifically targeted to teachers, library media specialists, and curriculum coordinators who do not have the opportunity to attend outreach events held on the UT campus. These workshops are usually full-day events, and focus on the presentation of co-created curriculum units (see article below), skills-building exercises, and region-specific content.

In the two years that the program has been offered, Center representatives have given numerous presentations throughout the state, particularly in underserved areas such as the Panhandle Plains and the Rio Grande Valley. The program has proven wildly successful,

averaging around thirty attendees per event. Events for spring and summer of 2007 are already being scheduled.

In addition to the on- and off-campus workshop programs, Center representatives have given content presentations at statewide educator conferences, such as the annual Texas Council for the Social Studies conference, the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association meetings, the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, and the Texas Conference on Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. CMES has also maintained a presence at national events such as the National Council for the Social Studies, the National Council on Geographic Education, and the National Council on History Education.

Hemispheres received national recognition for its innovative efforts to reach educators at the national meeting of Title-VI outreach coordinators in Madison, Wisconsin, in May 2006.

NEW CURRICULUM UNITS FOR K-12 CLASSROOMS

Over the past two years, the Hemispheres outreach consortium—a collaboration of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the South Asia Institute, the Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies—has overseen the development of complete and ready-to-use curriculum units in consultation with classroom educators and administrators. This marks the beginning of a significant new direction for the outreach program, as previous distribution was generally limited to resources that had already been developed by third parties.

A request from the Arlington and Garland Independent School Districts provided the impetus for the consortium to explore the development of its own curriculum materials. This development has allowed us to respond to teacher needs as they relate to topics addressed in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS); curriculum units are then aligned to both state and national standards in an effort to reach the widest possible audience. Each Center is able to contribute quality content representing its region, and together the individual components are used to analyze cross-regional trends and themes. The expansion of Hemispheres' programming into curriculum development was a logical progression to improve the consortium's service to educators in Texas and throughout the country.

In February 2004, Hemispheres successfully pilot tested its first curriculum unit, *Understanding Migration: Curriculum Resources for the Classroom* at on-site training sessions held in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Educators who receive or download the unit have all the tools (background information, readings, worksheets, activities) to implement the content in the classroom.

Hemispheres has been able to expand its reach by widely disseminating these units digitally. *Understanding Migration* has been available on the Hemispheres Web site since early 2004 and is now lauded as a "top resource" on OutreachWorld.org, a comprehensive one-stop resource for teaching international and area studies and foreign languages in the pre-collegiate classroom. After 18 months of field testing, feedback, and revisions, *Understanding Migration* was published in September 2005.

A second curriculum unit, *People & Place: Human-Environmental Interactions*, was presented for pilot testing in the spring of 2005. Based on Hemispheres' 2004 Summer Teachers' Institute, *People & Place* offers 14 contemporary case studies focused on ways in which humans adapt to and modify the physical environment. Case studies build critical social studies skills by incorporating primary and secondary sources, presenting information in a variety of formats (including graphs, charts, and maps), including varying points of view, and using mathematical skills to interpret social studies information.

A third unit, *Africa Enslaved: Comparative Slave Systems Outside the U.S.*, was developed jointly by CMES and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies. *Africa Enslaved* is an AP-style document-based question unit developed to explore trends and differences in historical slave systems outside the United States, addressing a long-neglected standard in world history education. The unit has been presented to critical acclaim at AP teacher institutes, and at state- and nationwide educator conferences.

New curriculum units are under development. All of the units are available to download free of charge via the outreach section of the CMES Web site.

CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS: IDEOLOGY, AESTHETICS, POLITICS

In February 2006, the University of Texas hosted scholars from around the world who came to Austin to participate in a conference on Contemporary Islamic Movements: Ideology, Aesthetics, Politics. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the South Asia Institute, the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, the Center for European Studies, the Department of Religious Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts at UT collaborated with the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (located in the Netherlands) to organize this international conference, which sought to explore Islamic thought, politics, and social life through interdisciplinary approaches. The presenters, who had conducted research in the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa, spoke on Islamist movements, theological debates, Muslim aesthetics, gender categories and politics, and Muslims living as demographic minorities. The conference's cross-regional and cross-disciplinary scope allowed a comprehensive engagement with the variety of ways Muslims experience social life and practice their religion over a range of geographical spaces and political circumstances.

The conference got off to a rousing and somewhat controversial start with keynote speaker Reza Aslan's presentation, discussing his celebrated book *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*. He likened the recent violence enacted by al-Qaeda and other radical Islamist groups to the violence of the Christian Reformation, arguing that the current bloodshed is not "a clash of civilizations" but rather an "internal civil



Reza Aslan, author of *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*, was keynote speaker at the two-day conference

war in Islam" dealing with questions all religions face in confronting modernity. Just as the Christian Reformation was a "bloody" argument about whether the institution or the individual defines faith, he argued, the current friction in Islam is a complex encounter with the same question.

The subsequent day and a half were taken up by a series of panels. The first, Pushing Boundaries: Gendered Lives in a Muslim Context, explored the multiple ways gender, sexuality, and religious practice intersect in diverse Muslim societies. Muslim Aesthetics, Popular Politics included papers on Iraqi immigrants and their everyday life in Lebanon, the

use of the Mughal Miniature in the art of contemporary Pakistan, and the place of fun in Islam. On the second day, panels included Jihadis in Action: Social Movement Actors, Anarchists or anti-Globalization Activists, which explored contemporary Jihadis in relation to their particular histories and social milieu; Islam: "Traditional" or "Modern", which explored the role of Shariah and Muslim identity in different geographies; and State and Civil Actors: Islam in Diverse Spaces, which discussed secular Muslim cultures trying to reclaim Islam. Barbara Metcalf, Professor of South Asian History at the University of Michigan, gave the conference's closing remarks, observing that the two days of deliberation seemed to coalesce around the nation-state and its boundaries, rather than trans-boundary issues, and that the papers sought to de-exoticize Islam and contextualize it within particular geographies and histories.

Participants in the conference included Reza Aslan, keynote speaker; Laura Adams, Princeton; Irfan Ahmad, University of Amsterdam; Schirin Amir-Moazami, Univeristy of Frankfurt-Oder; Asef Bayat, ISIM (Leiden University); Moustafa Bayoumi, City University of New York; Iftikhar Dadi, Cornell University; Lara Deeb, UC Irvine; Georgi Derluguian, Northwestern University; Faisal Devji, New School University; Najeed Jan, University of Michigan; Scott Kugle, ISIM; Barbara Metcalf, University of Michigan; Nazif M. Shahrani, Indiana University; Abdulkader Tayob, ISIM (Radboud University, Nijmegen); and Jenny B. White, Boston University.

URBAN GEOGRAPHIES OF CONFLICT

Held in February 2006, the workshop Urban Geographies of Conflict brought together scholars from across the US and abroad to explore why the promise of the modern city is giving way to ethnic, religious, and economic violence in many parts of the contemporary Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the South Asia Institute, and the Shehr Network (<http://www.shehr.org>). It provided a forum for its various participants to try to capture the experience of daily life in differently placed urban landscapes, and to analyze the differences between the need to live violently, on the one hand, and the problem of living with everyday violence, on the other.

Whether the product of externally or internally authored conflict, much of the vocabulary of "urban geographies of conflict" is premised on the notion of an abnormal space that can only be remade into a canonical modern city. The presentations and discussions at this one-day event focused on a number of questions: If what Partha Chatterjee (2005) calls "the bourgeois city" always has a pre-existing fractured history, then how might this history impact our understandings of the violent unmaking of urban projects? With the collapse of welfare economies and state-sponsored employment, as well as the postcolonial national ideologies that gave rise

to them, how do transnational flows of ideas and resources shape responses to contemporary forms of deprivation and marginality that are specific to these histories of the forever non-bourgeois city? How might scholars think of the everyday life of cities not as transitions among conflict, crisis, and normality, but rather as cities with histories of different intensities? What new forms of subjectivities or notions of public socialities are produced in cities that are sites of incessant violence? The workshop also explored the role of the modern city as a "stopping over" place rather than an end-goal in itself, as well as the constant movement of workers back and forth between urban and rural settings in the Global South as people try to find their way into the industrialized world.

Dilip Gaonkar suggested a potential framework for the day's papers in his concluding remarks, stating that he had "rarely been presented with six strong papers with such good empirical content." He saw in the papers a conversation that had already been going on for a long time about the nature of modernization, the role of the state, and the role of both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and aid provided by other state governments. There is, according to Gaonkar, a "vibrant tension" between societal modernization and cultural production, and he described each of the papers as attempts "to recuperate everyday life with

the sheer energy found in the streets that keeps media representation at bay." Gaonkar believes that scholars need to look at new social movements, both their creation and their continuation, with a view to examining the particular localities where they emerge, as well as how people "self-fashion" through consumption in urban terrains. He called for the creation of a new language to describe the issues of modernity and development needs, as well as an examination of the nature of the "development project" itself. In particular, Gaonkar suggested that we must reexamine the assumptions underlying most literature on the emergence of democratic societies, which posits a "normal" trajectory for the transformation of "people" into "citizens," a trajectory that may not mesh well with the realities of city life in situations of war or severe economic deprivation.

Participants (in alphabetical order) were Lori A. Allen, Pembroke Center, Brown University; Paul Amar, Law and Society, University of California-Santa Barbara; Stuart E. Corbridge, Cultural Geography, London School of Economics; Dilip P. Gaonkar, Communication, Northwestern University; Tariq H. Naqvi, Anthropology, University of California-Berkeley; Danny Hoffman, Anthropology, University of Washington; and Martina Rieker, Humanities and Social Sciences, American University in Cairo.

FALL 2005 EVENTS

Lectures:

- Adel Iskandar, "'I am not Bin Laden!' Said and the Audience-centric Contestation of Mediated Identity"
- Mervat Hatem, "A Nineteenth-Century Egyptian Woman's Interpretation of the Qu'ran: 'A'isha Taymur's View of Gender Rights"
- Kathryn Yount, "Gender, Family, and Health Across the Life Course: Perspectives from the Middle East"
- Hamid Naficy, "Women in Iranian Postrevolution Cinema"
- C. M. Naim, "A Hyper-Masculinized Islam?"
- Savyon Liebrecht, Author Discussion of Her Work
- Benyamim Tsedaka, "The Israelite Samaritans"

SPRING 2006 EVENTS

Lectures:

- Beshara Doumani, "Between Coercion and Privatization: Academic Freedom in the Twenty-First Century"
- Eric Santner, "The Matter of the Neighbor"
- Hillel Halkin, "A Theory About the Origins of Jewish Humor; Or, Where Does the Jewish Joke Come From?"
- Jack Kugelmass, "Poland 1946: Impressions of a Journey"
- Marwan Kraidy, "Television, Hybridity, and Authenticity in the Arab World"
- John R. Perry, "The Tajik Language—Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow"
- Richard W. Bulliet, "The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization"

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MIDDLE EAST FILM SERIES

Yaron Shemer, senior lecturer, together with graduate students Zeina Halabi (Anthropology), Mark Westmoreland (Anthropology), Emrah Zarifoglu (Engineering), Tessa Farmer (Anthropology), and Assem Nasr (Radio-TV-Film), in September 2005 launched a Middle Eastern film series that screens films from the region on an ongoing basis. Begun under the auspices of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, in Spring 2006 the series curators established the Middle Eastern Film Club, a student organization that has since overseen the screenings.

The films featured in the series reflect the diversity of populations, languages, religions, and cultures of the Middle East. Each semester, the series organizers choose a theme for its twice-monthly screenings. The theme for fall 2005 was "Children and Adolescents in Middle Eastern Cinema," and films shown included *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (Palestine/Lebanon), *Saint Clara* (Israel), *Ali Zaoua, Prince of the Streets* (Morocco), *Silence* (Iran), *Date Wine* (Egypt), and *Boats Out of Watermelon Rinds* (Turkey). The spring 2006 semester theme was "Minorities." Screenings included *The Silence of Palaces* (Tunisia), *Turtles Can Fly* (Iran), *Turn Left at the End of the World* (Israel/France), *The Syrian Bride* (Syria), and *OffSide* (Turkey).

The Film Club is open to all students and faculty interested in Middle Eastern cinema, and it welcomes new members who would like to assist with film selection and advertising. Screenings are free of charge and open to the public.



THREE NEW FICTION TRANSLATIONS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

A surrealist novel from Turkey, a collection of short stories from Morocco, and a collection of popular folktales from Syria are the most recent additions to the Center's Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series. The Series, which got its start in 1989, to date has published 33 translations of literary works from Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew.

The most recent addition to the Series comes from popular Turkish writer Nazli Eray, whose novel *Orpheus* has been translated by scholar and diplomat Robert Finn, with an introduction by Sibel Erol, senior lecturer in Turkish language and literature at New York University. Set in a rapidly urbanizing coastal resort town, Eray's novel is told from the perspective of a modern Eurydice who attempts to "relive" the Orpheus myth in 1980s junta-ruled Turkey. As Eurydice and her enigmatic assistant repeatedly return to an archaeological site from which they watch Orpheus' house, the narrative weaves together seemingly disparate, often humorous threads—from a statue that communicates through letters delivered by a carrier pigeon, to a personified capital city of Ankara who brings streets and developments to the resort town, to pieces of the Bertolucci film *Last Tango in Paris*. In Eray's sparse style, expertly conveyed in Finn's translation, the novel leads readers into a world that straddles myth, history, and fantasy, engaging such themes as modernity and the limits of historical vision.

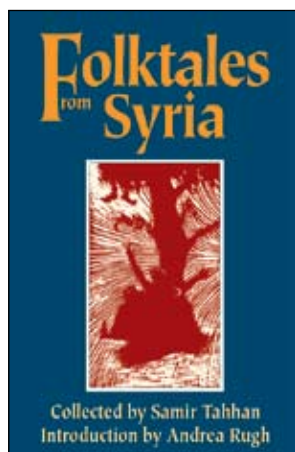
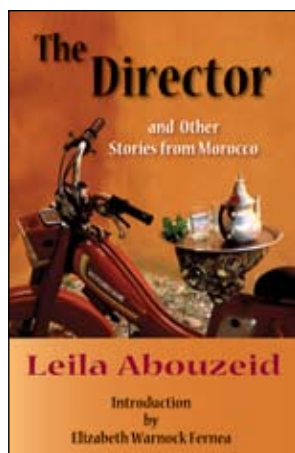
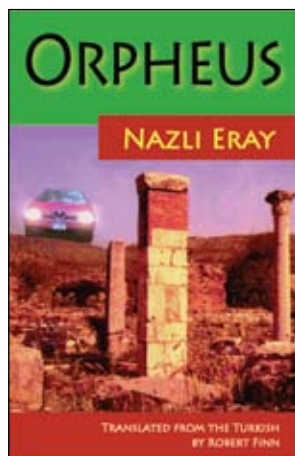
In fall 2005, the Center published a collection of new stories by acclaimed Moroccan writer Leila Abouzeid, author of the Center's best-

selling translation *Year of the Elephant: A Moroccan Woman's Journey toward Independence* (1989). Translated by Abouzeid herself and with an introduction by the Center's own Elizabeth Fernea, *The Director and Other Stories from Morocco* deals with issues both traditional and modern—relations between parents and children, between husbands and wives, and between citizens of newly independent Morocco and its new nationalist representative government.

Independence from French colonial rule brought many changes to Morocco, and Abouzeid's stories show us how these changes have affected ordinary men and women, how small everyday events loom large in individual lives. Abouzeid, who lives in Rabat, Morocco, writes first in Arabic, a political choice that makes her a literary pioneer in North Africa, where, until recently, most authors wrote in French.

Finally, in 2004 the Center published *Folktales from Syria*. Syrian poet Samir Tahhan collected folktales from old men sitting outside their houses in Aleppo, drinking tea. Afraid these stories would disappear with the passing of this generation, Tahhan also went to halls and events to hear professional storytellers and record their performances. Anthropologist Andrea Rugh helped translate the resulting stories from the original Arabic and wrote the informative introduction to this collection. Some of the tales appeared in rhyming verse in Arabic and some were based on events that are said to have actually taken place in Aleppo. With two of the poems, the Arabic

and the English are shown side by side in order to demonstrate the internal poetic structures of the original rhymes. Profes-



LITERATURES IN TRANSLATION SERIES GROWS WITH GRANT TO PUBLISH PERSIAN TRANSLATIONS

The Society of Iranian American Women for Education has awarded the Center for Middle Eastern Studies a grant of \$10,000 to publish English translations of works of Persian literature. This generous grant will allow the Center to build a larger presence for Persian translations and contemporary Iranian writers in its Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series, which has been publishing translations of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew literature since the series began in 1989.

The Center is excited by this opportunity to make more outstanding works of Persian literature available to English-readers in the U.S. and abroad. Although the Literatures in Translation Series has published translations from Persian authors in the past—most recently, the short story collection *A Mansion in the Sky* by award-winning Iranian writer Goli Taraghi (2003)—this new funding jumpstarts the Center's efforts to build this list. The program's already-extensive list of Arabic translations, which have been funded over the years by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, stands as evidence of the impact such funding can make in gaining wider international audiences for literature in Middle Eastern languages.

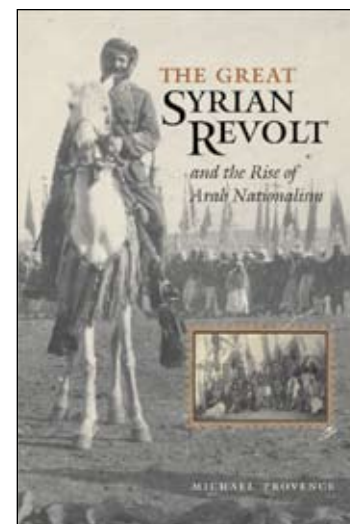
The Society of Iranian American Women for Education, based in Houston, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening relationships and deepening understanding between Iranians and Americans. Funded by donations from the community, the group provides scholarships for college students of Iranian origin, organizes community seminars, and promotes Iranian culture by sponsoring conferences, lectures, films, and performances.

sional illustrator Douglas Rugh has provided the book's black-and-white print illustrations, based on the stories and his experiences as a child growing up in the Middle East.

MODERN MIDDLE EAST SERIES TRAVELS TO SYRIA, YEMEN, AND IRAN

Historian Michael Provence has contributed the latest book in the Center's highly regarded Modern Middle East Series, which is co-published with the University of Texas Press. Provence's *The Great Syrian Revolt and the Rise of Arab Nationalism* was published in September 2005 and has already received excellent reviews in *Middle East Journal* and *Middle East Policy*. A history of the Great Syrian Revolt of 1925, the first mass movement against colonial rule in the Middle East, the book uses recently released secret colonial intelligence sources, memoirs, and popular memory to tell the story of the revolt from the perspective of the peasants, workers, and army veterans who were its participants. More than an account of one revolt, however, Provence's book shows how this event—though it failed to liberate Syria from French occupation—provided a model of popular nationalism and resistance that continues to operate today. In demonstrating the degree to which subsequent Arab uprisings against foreign powers have repeated the language and tactics of the Great Syrian Revolt, Provence makes a compelling case that it was a formative event in shaping the Modern Middle East.

The next two books forthcoming in the Modern Middle East Series move its



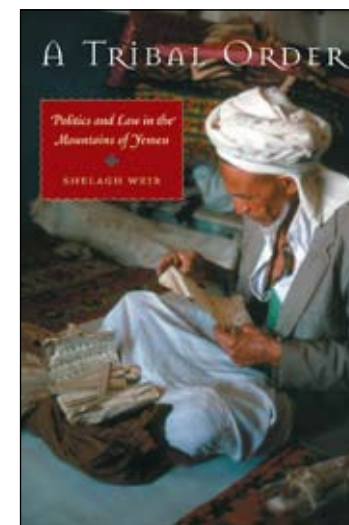
subject matter from Syria to tribal politics in Yemen and the Islamist movement in Iran. Shelagh Weir's ethnographic study *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen*, which is due to be published at the end of this year, is based on her field research beginning in the mid-1970s on the tribes of a remote area called Jabal Razih in the northwest highlands of Yemen. Of interest not only for specialists on Yemen, but for scholars of law, society, and tribal politics more broadly, Weir's study works against the common image of tribal politics as violent, chaotic, or lacking effective structures for government or dispute mediation. Instead, Weir analyzes the complexity of tribal social and political organization, the intricate relationship between forms of violence and structures of mediation, and the sophisticated and changing relationship between tribes and the state.

With a planned publication in fall 2007, Farhang Rajaee's book, presently titled *Islamism and Modernism: A Century of Islam-Centered Discourse in Iran*, trac-

es four generations of Islamist thinking and politics in Iran. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources ranging from letters and journals to personal interviews with protagonists of the movement, Rajaee follows the shifting encounter between Islamism and modernism throughout the twentieth-century and into the twenty-first. Through detailed examinations of the positions held by Iran's most prominent intellectual and religious figures, the book offers a nuanced analysis of the impact Islam-minded Iranians have had on the country's political history, from the Islamic revivalist voices that dominated during the Pahlavi era, to the revolutionary voices of Khomeini and others leading up to the 1979 Revolution, to the radicalism of the post-Khomeini period, and finally to a more progressive genera-

tion who advocate for a balanced restoration of Islam and modernity in the face of this radicalism.

The Center is proud to welcome these new additions to the Modern Middle East Series, which began in 1976 and has published 22 books to date. For more information on these and other titles in the series, see <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cmesc/publications> or <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/subjects/cmesc.html>.



SPRING 2006 EVENTS

continued from page 6

Lectures (continued):

- Nahid Rachlin, Author Discussion of Persian Novel: Jumping Over Fire
- Caryl Bertram, "Remapping Ottoman Memory: The New Armenian Pilgrimage"
- Tony K. Stewart, "Vaisnava Dhikr: The Case of the Converted Muslim Haridas"

Conferences and Workshops:

- Contemporary Islamic Movements, conference organized by Kamran Asdar Ali, February 16-17
- Urban Geographies of Conflict, workshop organized by Kamran Asdar Ali, February 28
- Language Proficiency Workshop, with keynote by June K. Phillips, April 21-23
- Suicide Terrorism in a Globalized World, conference organized by Ami Pedahzur, May 16-17
- NMELRC Arabic Teacher Training Workshop, workshop organized by Mahmoud Al-Batal, August 7-12

MEDITERRANEAN CROSSROADS PROGRAM 2006

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies once again conducted its faculty-led study abroad program, Mediterranean Crossroads, in the spring and summer of 2006. Mediterranean Crossroads is an interdisciplinary program devoted to the in-depth study of the lands and societies of the eastern Mediterranean in the past and present. Through a combination of coursework, four weeks of in-country travel, and individual research, the program offers students an exciting opportunity to study and experience firsthand the rich heritage and complex realities of a region that occupies a unique place in world history. Students explored a wide range of issues, from religion and language to space and identity, as a way of appreciating the forces that have shaped the region's landscapes and societies.

The program was directed by **Kamran Aghaie**, Director of CMES, and **Ami Pedahzur**, Associate Professor of Government. The eleven students—nine undergraduates and two graduate students—represented a variety of academic majors and interests. In the spring semester, students attended a required seminar course that provided background information and a structural framework for the in-country program. Students were also required to take two additional courses chosen from an ap-



Participants in the Mediterranean Crossroads program on the rooftop terrace of the Gayer-Anderson Museum in Cairo. From left to right: Tony Fam, Andrew Clinton, Christine Anderson, Tracey Gilliland, Kamran Aghaie (faculty leader), Spencer Bytheway, Christopher Rose (staff leader; kneeling with Bevo), Brian Boitmann, Holly Hanna, Lindsey Brown, Stephanie Poppy, Christian Casey, Ray Brister (chaperone), Shelley Vinyard.

proved list that related to their goals for the seminar.

The participants spent two and a half weeks in Israel attending lectures organized by the University of Haifa and visiting sites throughout the country. Visits to sites of historical and religious significance, such as the old city in Jerusalem, the walled city of Akko, Masada, and Bethlehem in the West Bank were an important part of the program.

Current events and the Israel-Palestinian conflict formed the basis of much of the discussion in Israel, and the students heard diverse points of view from

such lecturers as Dr. Ilan Pappé, one of the "New Historians" who has critically re-examined the history of Zionism and the state of Israel, and Dr. Dan Schuef-tan, one of the main advocates for the building of a physical barrier separating Israelis and the Palestinians. Students were also able to tour the Knesset and the Israeli Supreme Court.

The second half of the abroad program was spent in Egypt, focusing on the development of the modern nation by using the city of Cairo as a lens. Visits, walking tours, and lectures presented a range of historical, cultural, and political

topics from the ancient period to the present. Lectures addressing a wide range of topics were organized by the Egyptian Fulbright Commission, utilizing faculty from Egypt's most prestigious universities and institutions. In addition, students met with representatives from the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's Historic Cities Revitalization Programme to learn more about efforts for sustainable development and urban renewal in the city's historic core.

A side trip to Alexandria provided the chance for students to visit the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina, a multi-million-dollar state-of-the-art facility intended to revitalize the city as a center for learning and research in the eastern Mediterranean. En route, the group also visited the Coptic monasteries in Wadi Natrun, an important center for religious thought and pilgrimage since the advent of Christianity.

In the fall semester, each student will complete an independent research project based on their work in the spring and summer under the guidance of Dr. Aghaie and Dr. Pedahzur. The seminar is tentatively scheduled to run again in the summer of 2007.

CHARLES AND LYNN SCHUSTERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION HELPS CREATE \$12 MILLION CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The University of Texas at Austin will be home to the new \$12 million Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, thanks in part to a \$6 million challenge grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and to the original grant-proposal by **Adam Zachary Newton**, chair of the Jewish Studies committee. The College of Liberal Arts has committed to raising the matching \$6 million over the next five years to start the Center. The first of its kind in Texas, the Center will be dedicated to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of Jewish history, culture, and religion throughout the university and across the nation.

The Schusterman Center will greatly expand the range and depth of UT's Jewish Studies offerings across multiple disciplines. The Center will support three new endowed faculty chairs

in Jewish history, Jewish thought, and textual studies, as well as two new professorships in literature and the social sciences. In addition to offering scholarships to attract outstanding students in Jewish Studies, the Center will also foster a stimulating intellectual environment for Jewish Studies on campus, with funding to support faculty research and endowments for lecture series, symposia, special events, and exhibits.

Reflecting the goal of making UT one of the top institutions for Jewish Studies, the Schusterman Center will complement programs and resources already at the university, among them the Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies programs, the extensive Judaica collections held by the university libraries, and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center's Gottesman collection and archives of notable Jewish writers.

MES DEVELOPING ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PERSIAN LANGUAGE LEARNING

Continuing to stand at the forefront of innovative techniques for teaching Middle Eastern languages, UT is turning its attention to creating new resources for learning Persian. The College of Liberal Arts is raising \$300,000 in funding that allows MES to hire a dedicated professional who will develop a set of online resources for Persian language learning and instruction. Conceptualized by Professor **M.R. Ghanoonparvar**, who teaches Persian languages and literature at UT, the project is a collaboration between Middle Eastern Studies and the College of Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services, and we anticipate that it will be completed over the course of the next four years. The interactive, multimedia site will include an online grammar of Persian, an English-Persian and Persian-English dictionary, Persian language courses for beginners and advanced students, and an instructional unit based on a collection of idioms, among other resources.

These resources will be used for courses at UT and other institutions, and they will be available free of charge to the general public. The project organizers hope the resource will eventually serve as a means for connecting teachers and students around the world, and they would like to incorporate pages covering various aspects of Persian culture, from topography to history, from Persian literature to the visual arts, from

the interests of the youth in today's Iran to their counterparts abroad.

Dr. **Koorosh Angali**, who joins UT and MES in the fall of 2006 as a Senior Research Fellow, has been invited to work with Dr. Ghanoonparvar to launch the project. Angali received



his first B.A. in Public Relations in 1970, from The College of Mass Communication Sciences at Tehran. In 1976 he migrated to the United States, and he received his second B.A. in Fine Arts from Humboldt State University in 1980. In 1993 he enrolled in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his M.A. in 1998, and his Ph.D. in 2004, both in Iranian Studies. Until June 2006, he taught Persian Syntax and Grammar at the University of California at Berkeley and at De Anza Commu-

nity College in Cupertino, California. In addition to his work as a language instructor, Angali is also accomplished as a writer, artist, musician, and actor. In 1997 he published a compilation of his Persian poetry titled *In Search of One's Own Self* (Nashre Ketab Publishers, Los Angeles, California). His art exhibitions include: *Life As Art As Life*, a group show held in 2005, and exhibitions at the Seyhoun Gallery in Tehran (2002). He is also the first prize winner of the Ovissi Gallery Art Contest (1996) and Humboldt State University Art Contest (1980).

DMES GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS DOUBLE

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES) will be training more students in advanced Middle Eastern languages and cultures this year, thanks in part to a renewed focus on graduate student recruiting. The number of new graduate students admitted to the Department of Middle Eastern Studies M.A. and Ph.D. programs has more than doubled in the past year, with 16 new students admitted for 2006-07 as compared to the seven new students admitted in 2005-06. With the new class arriving, there will be a total of 30 graduate students in the program, a significant increase over the 20 students in the program last year.

The program's growth is largely due to proactive recruitment efforts by **Samer Ali**, the Department's Graduate Advisor. Instead of waiting for students to submit applications, Ali

sent notices to Middle East listserves in order to let colleagues know that UT was actively recruiting students for our M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian. In order to encourage students to complete applications, he created an e-mail list of more than 75 students who sent inquiries about the program, and he regularly sent out informational e-mails about the program's faculty, funding options, and minority recruitment efforts, as well as about life in Austin. Once the applications were turned in, Ali continued to communicate regularly with applicants about the process, and he encouraged students who were offered admission to visit campus. We are excited about this growth in the program, and we welcome the incoming students to Middle Eastern Studies at UT.

NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY JOINS CMES

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies is pleased to welcome new faculty member **Sonia Seeman**, who takes up a position as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology beginning Fall 2006. Dr. Seeman specializes in the music of Roma (or Gypsy) communities in modern Turkey, the Ottoman Empire, and Southeastern Europe. She comes to UT from the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), where she was a lecturer in ethnomusicology from 2004 to 2006, and where she previously held a two-year post-doctoral faculty fellowship that began in 2002. While at UCSB, she taught a variety of courses covering the music of Turkey, Ottoman communities, Roma communities, and Southeastern Europe, as well as seminars on ethnomusicological theory, world popular music, and the anthropology of music. Seeman received her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from UCLA in 2002. Her dissertation, “‘You’re Roman!’ Music and Identity in Turkish Roman Communities,” investigated the cultural construction of Roma social identity by exploring the tension between music as lived experience and as socially and politically constructed from the Byzantine and Ottoman periods through the present. Continuing to pursue her scholarly interests in Roma, Ottoman, and modern Turkish music, Seeman has articles published and forthcoming in *Middle East Studies*

Association Bulletin, *Ethnomusicology Forum*, and *Music and Anthropology*. Most recently, she has been researching emergent Turkish cultural expressions in the wake of the European Union accession processes. As a past Fulbright IEE, Fulbright Hayes, and Social Science Research Council grant recipient, she has done field research in Macedonia and Southeastern Europe (1985-87; 1989) and in Turkey (1995-1999; 2003), studying Ottoman-derived musical traditions, Macedonian wedding music and rituals, and the impact of transnational music market networks on Roma musical practices. Seeman’s interest in Roma and Turkish music extends beyond her scholarly research. A performer herself, Seeman plays the Turkish G clarinet and has performed in the UCSB Middle East Music Ensemble and with Turkish ensemble Garip Bülbül, under the direction of Ergun Tamer, in Los Angeles. In Austin, she plans to organize a Middle East Ensemble that will specialize in music of the former Ottoman Empire, modern Turkey, the Arab world, and North Africa. She has produced an ethnographic recording in collaboration with Thracian clarinetist Selim Sesler, written liner notes for CDs of Roma and Turkish music, and served as an ethnographic consultant for the Tajik Dance Initiative.



VISITING PROFESSOR FROM ISRAEL JOINS CMES

The Center is pleased to welcome visiting professor **Yoav Gelber** to UT for the 2006-07 school year. Dr. Yoav Gelber, Schusterman Visiting Professor of Israeli Studies, is Professor of Land of Israel Studies at the University of Haifa in Israel. Gelber, who received his Ph.D. in world and Jewish history from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, is the author of seventeen books on Israeli history, most recently *Israeli-Jordanian Dialogue, 1948-1953: Cooperation, Conspiracy, or Collusion?* (2004) and *History, Memory and Propaganda*, which will be published in both Hebrew and English. Other books have treated diverse subjects including Jewish Palestinian volunteering in the British Army during World War II; the history of the Israeli military and intelligence service; and the relationships among Israel, Palestine, and the Arab states. Gelber has in the past served as the Head of the Strochlitz Institute for research and study of the Holocaust (1985–1996); Head of the Herzl Institute for research and study of Zionism (1987-1996); and Chair of the School of History and the Department of Land of Israel Studies at the University of Haifa. He has twice won the Izhak Sade Prize for military history, and he has won awards for his research in Jewish history and Land of Israel history.

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- Kamran Scot Aghaie**, ed., *The Women of Karbala: Ritual Performance and Symbolic Discourses in Modern Shi’i Islam* (University of Texas Press, 2005).
- Kamran Scot Aghaie**, *The Martyrs of Karbala: Shi’i Symbols and Rituals in Modern Iran* (University of Washington Press, 2004).
- Samer Ali**, co-edited with Mohja Kahf, *Introduction to Arabic World Studies* (Edinburgh University Press, Introducing Ethnic Studies Series, under contract for Spring 2007)
- Diana Davis**, *Resurrecting the Granary of Rome: Environmental History and French Colonial Expansion in North Africa* (Ohio University Press, Series in Ecology and History, under contract for Spring 2007).
- Mohammed Ghanoonparvar**, *Persian Cuisine: Traditional, Regional and Modern Foods* (Mazda Publishers, 2006).
- Mohammed Ghanoonparvar**, *Reading Chubak* (Mazda Publishers, 2005).
- Mohammed Ghanoonparvar**, ed. and introduction, Al-e Ahmad’s *A Stone on Grave*, translated by Azafar Moin (The Blind Owl Press, 2006).
- Mohammed Ghanoonparvar**, ed. and introduction, Ja’far Modarres-Sadeqi’s *The Horse’s Head*, translated by Ali Anooshahr (The Blind Owl Press, 2006).
- S. Akbar Hyder**, *Reliving Karbala: Martyrdom in South Asian Memory* (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Ami Pedahzur**, *Suicide Terrorism* (Polity Press, 2004).
- Ami Pedahzur**, ed., *Suicide Attacks: Root Causes of the Culture of Death* (Routledge, 2006)
- Faegheh Shirazi**, *Velvet Jihad: A Quiet Islamic Revolution* (University of Florida Press, under contract for 2007).

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES WELCOMES NEW ARABIC INSTRUCTOR

Nader Morkus joined the Center for and Department of Middle Eastern Studies as a new Arabic language Lecturer in Fall 2005. Morkus, who teaches first and second-year Arabic as well as Egyptian Arabic courses, is currently working on his Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology in the World Language Education Department of the University of South Florida. His dissertation, which he plans to defend in 2007, focuses on intercultural communication between Arabs and Americans. Building on previous studies that have looked exclusively at intercultural communication in face-to-face exchanges, Morkus’s work compares face-to-face with computer-mediated communication, analyzing gender as well as cultural differences in how Arabs and Americans communicate through these media. Originally from Alexandria, Egypt, Morkus received his B.A. in English Language and Literature from Alexandria University in 1995. After graduating from college, he taught English first at a private language center in Alexandria, then for three years at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport. While he was teaching, Morkus started a

Master’s degree program in General Linguistics at Alexandria University, where he studied until his thesis director left before he could complete his degree. Looking to apply his theoretical interests in linguistics and language to the more practical setting of the classroom, Morkus applied to Master’s programs in the US, Canada, and Australia, settling on the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, where he also met his wife. His M.A. thesis, completed in 2001 and awarded the Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award at the University of Northern Iowa, applied speech act theory to a cross-cultural comparison of the act of verbally correcting someone. Analyzing how Egyptians and Americans correct others in speech, he was particularly interested in how speakers in various hierarchical social interactions mitigate or aggravate the potential affront involved in correcting someone. Morkus brings what he has learned through his M.A. program and his dissertation research to his work as an Arabic instructor, both at UT and at Middlebury College, where he will be teaching this summer.

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES WELCOMES...

The following faculty have joined the Middle Eastern Studies program over the course of the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academic years:

- **Hina Azam** (Middle Eastern Studies) *Islamic law and jurisprudence, women and Islam* (Spring 2006)
- **Mahmoud al-Batal** (Middle Eastern Studies) see p. 3 (Fall 2006)
- **Jason Brownlee** (Government) *Regime change and regime durability; domestic democratization movements and international democracy promotion* (Fall 2005)
- **Kristen Brustad** (Middle Eastern Studies) see p. 3 (Fall 2006)
- **Yoav Di-Capua** (History) *Modern Arab thought, with an emphasis on Egypt* (Fall 2005)
- **George Gavrilis** (Government) *International relations, comparative politics, conflict, boundaries* (Fall 2004)
- **Yoav Gelber** (Schusterman Visiting Professor in Israeli Studies) see p. 12 (Fall 2006)
- **Karen Grumberg** (Middle Eastern Studies) *Contemporary Hebrew literature, comparative Jewish literatures, Mizrahi writing, women’s writing in Israel* (Fall 2004)
- **Nader Morkus** (Middle Eastern Studies) see p. 13 (Fall 2005)
- **Fehintola Mosadomi** (Middle Eastern Studies) *Yoruba language and culture* (Fall 2006)
- **Ami Pedahzur** (Government) *Political extremism in Israel, political violence and political parties, theory and nature of suicide terrorism* (Fall 2004)
- **Sonia Seeman** (Ethnomusicology) see p. 12 (Fall 2006)



CMES BIDS FAREWELL TO A COLLEAGUE

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to a valued member of the Center. **Keith Walters**, Professor of Linguistics and Middle Eastern Studies, will leave UT to join the Department of Applied Linguistics at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, beginning in Fall 2006. Walters, who will continue to be active in the Center for Middle East Studies at Portland State, will take with him his work as Treasurer for the American Institute of Maghrib Studies (AIMS) program. AIMS provides grants for scholars studying in North Africa, supports the Tangier Summer Advanced Arabic Language Workshop, and sponsors the Journal of North African Studies. Having received his Ph.D. in Linguistics at UT in 1989, Walters joined the Center as an assistant professor in 1992, and his research has focused on sociolinguistics and language change in North Africa. Over the years, he has served the Center as Graduate Advisor, Associate Director, and most recently chair of the Center’s publications committee. Walters will be greatly missed. We appreciate the dedication he has shown to the Center and its mission, and we wish him all the best in his new position.

CMES WELCOMES NEW MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIAN

Robin Dougherty joined the University of Texas Libraries and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in March 2006 as the new Middle East Librarian. She comes to Austin from Cairo, where she was formerly Head of Collection Development for the American University of Cairo Library. Dougherty received her Master of Information and Library Science (MILS) degree from the University of Michigan; her M.A. in Contemporary Arab Studies from Georgetown University; and her B.A. in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dougherty, who is fluent in Arabic and has lived in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, originally became interested in the Middle East by way of ancient Egypt. She studied Egyptology as an undergraduate and first traveled to Egypt in 1981 to work on two archaeological digs. While the experience taught her that she wasn't cut out for life on a dig, it spurred her interest in contemporary Egypt. After graduating in 1982 she returned to graduate school to study Arabic. She participated in the CASA and Middlebury summer programs, then in

1985-86 spent a year with the CASA program in Cairo, during which she also performed as a dancer with the Reda Troupe for Folkloric Arts. Dougherty completed her M.A. in Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University in 1988. She returned to Egypt that year as an editorial intern at the American University in Cairo Press. After the internship came to an end, she stayed on at AUC as Cultural Programs Officer in the Office of Public Relations until 1991.

Planning to build on her background in Arabic to become a subject-specialist librarian, Dougherty entered the University of Michigan's Library School in 1991, the first student in that program to also be awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship for Middle Eastern Studies. After completing her degree in 1993, Dougherty held positions as an Arabic cataloguer for the United Arab Emirates University Library; Middle East Bibliographer for the University of Pennsylvania Library; and Senior Cataloguer for the Library of Congress, Middle East/North Africa Division. When her husband, Walter Armbrust, accepted a position in the Middle East Centre at

St. Antony's College of Oxford University in 2001, she moved to England with him and worked at the Oriental Institute and Bodleian libraries cataloguing Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew materials. While in Oxford, Dougherty also served as the Research Libraries Group's Member Services Officer for Europe and the Middle East. She returned to Egypt in 2004 to lead collection development for the AUC Library, where she worked until she arrived at UT.

One of Dougherty's primary goals in her new position is to integrate technology more effectively into daily library operations for the Middle East collections. Eventually, she would like to enable the public to see more easily what materials are on order in Middle Eastern languages, and to make it possible to view and search records containing Arabic script in the public catalogue. She also plans to evaluate and expand the library's periodical subscriptions for Middle Eastern Studies, and—building on her own experience in Egypt—she would like to develop a collection of classic Egyptian cinema resources for the collection.

NEW STAFF JOIN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Students looking to register for courses, remove a bar, or figure out whether they have enough credits to graduate will be seeing a new face in Middle Eastern Studies. **Kimberly Dahl** joined the Department and Center for Middle Eastern Studies in May 2006 as the new Graduate and Undergraduate Coordinator. Dahl comes to MES from the College of Liberal Arts, where she was an administrative assistant working on travel, professional services authorizations, and special projects such as the Keene Prize for Literature and Explore UT. She received her B.A. in Linguistics and Spanish from UT-Austin in 2004.

Dahl took over as Graduate Coordinator following the retirement this year of Diane Watts. The Center's graduate coordinator for over 26 years, Watts has helped hundreds of students through admission, course registration, and graduation. Also the artist for the Center, Watts designed the covers for most of the books in the Center's Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series. Her photography is on display in the 6th Floor hallway in the West Mall Building.



The Middle Eastern Studies programs are pleased to welcome **Michael Godwin** as our new Financial Affairs Coordinator. Godwin joins UT from the private sector, where he has served in a variety of administrative positions. Most recently, he was the Administrative Operations Manager for an Austin-based electronics company.

Godwin is a veteran of the United States Navy. He served for four years as an engineer onboard the *USS Independence* aircraft carrier, which was stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. Most of his service was completed over the course of several tours of duty in the Persian Gulf, where he had the opportunity to make repeated visits to the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain.

Godwin was drawn to his position here not only by his interest in administration, but also by his academic interests. He completed his M.A. in Religious Studies, with a research concentration in Biblical Hebrew and Second Temple Judaism, from Loyola University of New Orleans in 2003. He received his B.A. in 2001 from Texas A&M University, where he majored in History and Linguistics. Godwin, who is an avid traveler and reader, as well as an amateur fiction writer, is pleased to return to a university setting from the private sector.

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Hope Fitzgerald (Ph.D. student, Geography) studied Arabic at the University of Jordan in Amman during the summer 2006 semester. She will be a CASA (Center for Arabic Study Abroad) fellow in the 2006-07 Academic Year.

Hanan Hammad (Ph.D. candidate, History; MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 2004) taught Introduction to the Modern Middle East in the summer of 2006. She will spend the 2006-7 academic year in Egypt on a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant to research "Industrialization and Social Transformation in Modern Egypt: al-Mahalla al-Kubra 1910-1958." Hanan and her husband, **James Patrick Reidy** welcomed their second child, Leyla Sanaa Reidy, in early August.

Christopher Micklethwait (Ph.D. student, Comparative Literature) studied Arabic with CASA (Center for Arabic Study Abroad) during the summer 2006 semester.



WELCOMING THE NEW CLASS

An orientation session for new graduate students entering the Middle Eastern Studies programs was held on August 23, 2006.

Left: Associate Professors Kristen Brustad and Faegheh Shirazi were among the faculty and staff present to welcome the new students to UT.

With 32 new graduate students entering the program, enrollment in the Middle Eastern Studies programs for the fall semester of 2006 is at its highest level in recent years.

Among the incoming graduate students at the orientation were Mark Riniker, John Baskerville, and Thomas Ryan (l-r).



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Continuing Fellowships

- Mathew Boris (M.A. program, CMES): University Continuing Fellowship
- David Ingram (M.A. program, CMES): University Bruton Fellowship
- Luke Peterson (M.A. program, CMES): University Bruton Fellowship
- Ahmed Zaheed (Ph.D. program, Arabic): University Tuition Fellowship

2006-2007 Pre-Emptive Fellowships

- Joanna Caravita (M.A. program, Hebrew)
- Adrienne Dunlap (M.A. program, CMES)

CMES Scholarships

- Mahyar Entezari (M.A. program, CMES)
- Dan Gilman (Ph.D. program, Anthropology)
- Kristi Marks (M.A. program, CMES)
- Cameron Thibos (M.A. program, CMES)
- Christopher Ulack (M.A. program, CMES)

Ann Grabhorn-Friday Scholarship

- Alyssa Miller (M.A. program, CMES)

Hibbs scholarship for 2006-2007

- Adam Kaman (Jewish Studies)

Hebrew Studies Scholarships

Graduate students:

- Holly Blackwelder (M.A. program, Hebrew)
- Andrey Bredstein (Ph.D. program, Hebrew)
- John Messick (M.A. program, Hebrew)
- Michal Raizen (M.A. program, Hebrew)

Undergraduate students:

- Carli Bitting (Journalism)
- Miriam Estrin (Plan II)
- Daniel Rubenstein (Government)
- Erin Selleck (Government)

Various University Awards

- John Baskerville (Ph.D. program, Arabic): Academy Professorship (West Point)
- Patrick Boyle (M.A. program, Persian): COLA Fellowship
- Leili Devari (M.A. program, Persian): McNair Fellowship and COLA Fellowship
- Joanna Dilts (M.A. program, Hebrew): Pre-emptive Fellowship and Jewish Studies Fellowship
- Shon Hopkin (Ph.D. program, Hebrew): Fellowship
- Alexander Magidow (M.A. program, Arabic): Graduate Recruitment Fellowship and COLA Fellowship
- Mu Tong (M.A. program, Arabic): COLA Fellowship
- Marinka Yossifon-Halper (Ph.D. program, Hebrew): Graduate Recruitment Fellowship and Jewish Studies Fellowship

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DIVINE ECSTASY



Among the highlights of the **Mediterranean Crossroads program** (see p. 10) was a performance by the Egyptian Heritage Tannoura Sufi Dance Troup at the newly restored Wikala of Sultan al-Ghuri in Cairo.