



Middle East Studies

BULLETIN



Publication of Middle East Studies Center

Issue: Autumn 2012

Table of Contents

<i>Letter from the Director</i>	1
<i>Letter from the Editor</i>	4
<i>Scholarly Community Updates</i>	5
• Recruitment and FLAS Fellowships	
• New faculty Member, Nada Mountaz	
• Margaret Mills Retires, Conference held in her honor	
• Joy McCorriston, <i>The Ancient Middle East</i>	
• Parvaneh Pourshariati, <i>New ASPS Pres.</i>	
<i>Notes from the field:</i>	7
• Sultana Nahar, OSU-Cairo University Collaboration	
<i>Academic Outreach and Engagement Highlights:</i>	10
• Azami at International High School	
• "All Sides" Interview on Middle Eastern Identities	
• Denver Class explores Afghan geography	
<i>On the Horizon</i>	11
• Islamic and Jewish Law	
• Oil in the Global Economy	
• NRC Evaluation Conference	
<i>Intellectual Output</i>	12
• Dissertations	
• Publication Highlights	

Middle East Studies Center
321 Oxley Hall
1712 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210
614.292.5897 • mesc@osu.edu
<http://mesc.osu.edu>
<http://facebook.com/mesc.osu>

Letter from the Director

A Brief Review of the Arab Popular Uprisings and the Continuation of America's Longest War, the War in Afghanistan

The years 2011 and 2012 are regarded as extraordinary years in both the Arab World and in Afghanistan. In a short time the world witnessed the ousting of Tunisian President for life, Zain al-Abidin Ben 'Ali, the overthrow of Egyptian President for Life, Hosni Mubarak, and the removal of Libyan President for life, Moamar Gadhafi, followed by his murder. Brutal suppression of popular uprisings in Bahrain and Yemen continue. In Syria the conflict between the Syrian popular opposition and the 'Alawite-controlled government forces has become a ruthless civil war, bordering on ethnic cleansing.

These waves of popular uprisings, or the "Arab Awakening" movements, resulted mainly from the activities of younger and better educated segments of their respective populations. These young men and women effectively used the 21st century information technologies, such as cell phones and social networking media tools. According to many indigenous experts, initially, these young men and women remained unaffiliated with traditional Islamist and Jihadist parties and groups. Ironically, both tyrannical Arab regimes and their extreme Islamist or Jihadist challengers were caught off-guard and flat-footed by a bunch of young, educated, unconventional, and of course, un-experienced, new heroes.

At this stage, it seems that the struggle between authoritarian Arab regimes, and those who claim to be agents of change will continue for many more years to come. On September 11, 2012,

Letter from the Director (*continued*)

11 years since the infamous one, the war in Afghanistan became America's longest war. September 29, 2012 saw the 2,000th U.S. military fatality in the country. After 11 years, American and NATO troops are still fighting a resurgent Taliban movement, which continues to threaten stability and peace in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Most of us, who study Afghanistan from close range, have come to the consensus that, if ongoing military, political, and economic policies in Afghanistan continue, and Pakistan remains a safe haven for al-Qa'eda and the Taliban, the future may soon drastically tilt against the ineffective and corrupt Afghan government and its foreign supporters.

Once again, I was able to conduct field research in Afghanistan in June and July of 2012. I met with and interviewed Afghan government officials, military officers, soldiers, members of the parliament, university professors, tribal leaders, and ordinary people, or Awam, in Kaul, Zabul, Kandahar and Helmand provinces. I conducted interviews in the national and local languages of Afghanistan.

In my interviews, I was repeatedly reminded that all the above constituents dread a repeat of what the Soviets enacted over ten years of occupation: that the United States will withdraw its forces from Afghanistan after 13 years and leave behind an utterly war-torn country, ripe for civil war. Afghans, like the citizens of other countries that have been devastated by war, are in need

of talking about their country's past and current bad fortunes, and will tell anyone who will listen. In situations of such prolonged conflict there is a strong urge to get those things "off of one's chest," to share one's memory of war, and what has happened in one's own experience, past and present.

As a researcher, I had to set the boundaries of delimitation a bit tighter than that, and focus on a more manageable amount of information; i.e., top challenges or issues for Afghans. During my meetings and interviews the following four challenges were mentioned more than other issues and setbacks.

1. The failure of Afghan government and the U.S.-led International Security Forces (ISAF) to secure Afghanistan and Afghans, especially ordinary non-combatant defenseless Afghans, who are squeezed between the fighting forces of NATO and the Taliban.
2. The failure of Afghan government and its international supporters to reduce the unprecedented corruption in Afghanistan, especially in government offices.
3. The continuation of safe havens for al-Qaeda, as well as Pakistani and Afghan insurgent groups inside Pakistan.
4. The inability of the Afghan government to prevent Iranian attempts to further strengthen their influence in the country.
5. The failure of the Afghan government and ISAF forces to prevent the deterioration of mutual trust among Afghan and coalition security forces – leading to "insider attacks," or "Green on Blue attacks."

In the remaining sections of this brief review I will attempt to shed some light on the most contentious and passionately discussed recent challenge: "insider attacks." According to NATO, about 25% of these attacks are carried out by Taliban infiltrators, while the remaining 75% are caused by misunderstandings caused by cultural differences, personal grudges, and general disputes between NATO troops and Afghan troops. In an interview with CBS's "60 minutes," aired on September 30, 2012, General John Allen mentioned that "The signature attacks we are beginning to see [i.e., those which Afghanistan will be known for – similar to the roadside bombs in Iraq] are going to be the 'insider attacks.'" So far 53 members of the U.S.-led coalition soldiers have been killed in insider attacks.

These "insider attacks" have driven a wedge of mistrust deeper than before between Afghan and foreign forces and consequently caused the Americans and their international partners to question their support

Letter from the Director (*continued*)

for the ineffective and corrupt Afghan government.

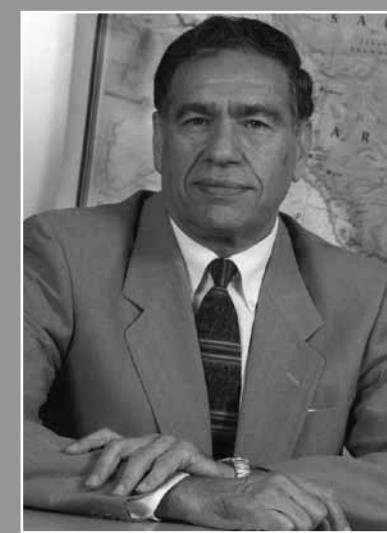
When I asked my interviewees in Afghanistan to share some of the disputes they knew of, and the cultural differences they perceived as a cause, each of them gave me a list. The following is only a very brief summary:

1. NATO's careless bombing of suspected homes and villages, which cause heavy civilian casualties and deaths.
2. Night raids and searches of homes conducted in an insulting manner. Historically, Afghans are not accustomed to home searches.
3. Coalition troops entering mosques with boots on during joint searches.
4. Insulting traditional tribal leaders and religious elders with body searches, and other expressions of disrespect, in front of their constituencies.
5. Using extremely foul language in their conversations with both Afghan villagers and Afghan soldiers. The "F-bomb" is understood throughout the world.
6. Burning Qur'ans in front of Afghan soldiers.
7. Urinating on dead bodies of Afghans.
8. Even lower-level NATO soldiers not paying necessary respect to higher-ranking Afghan officers.
9. Showing irritation when Afghan military and police request breaks to pray (an overwhelming majority of whom are practicing Muslims).

Beyond cultural differences, Afghans have never seen themselves as subjugated peoples. Thus, the current power dynamic of the U.S.-led coalition forces, over an extended period of over 11 years, is placing them in a very difficult position psychologically. This is according to their society's general belief in independence from foreign powers, which has been the norm for over 2000 years. Throughout history, almost all invading powers have regretted their intervention in Afghanistan – even Alexander the Great had a difficult time there. Having been continuously invaded throughout history, Afghanistan is notoriously difficult to subdue. The United States and NATO need to reflect on lessons from the three Anglo-Afghan wars in the 19th and 20th centuries and the failed Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989.

While initially Afghans cooperated with the U.S.-led coalition forces, in what they saw as a just mission

against al-Qa'eda, after ten long years of uncertainty, they are now beginning to question the foreign power's purposes. Yet, the majority of Afghans still do not regard the presence of Americans as an occupying force. Thus, one can only hope that in 2014 the U.S.-led coalition forces will leave behind an Afghanistan which will be less dangerous for international security as well as that in its own region. Hopefully it will be an Afghanistan which will look much different than the one left behind by the Soviet Union.



Director of MESC, Alam Payind

Letter from the Editor



Editor, Melinda McClimans
Photo Credit: Mehdi Bozorgmehr

Dear Readers,

The first thing you'll notice that's different about this issue is its new format, now printer-friendly. It's also a bit shorter, leaner and meaner. It is a reflection of a great number of changes we're adjusting, especially our leaner meaner budget! While adjusting to that over the past year, we've also had the quarter-to-semester conversion and a centralization of business operations. I take these major structural changing as an opportunity to reboot, to rethink the way we support Middle East Studies on campus and make the knowledge of our communities more accessible to each other.

As our long-time readers know, this Bulletin has always been beefier than a newsletter, with images and articles meant to educate as well as inform. As a part of the aforementioned rethinking, the educational pieces will be published as a part of our instructional materials col-

lection in the Knowledge Bank. Many of the articles focused on our activities will become subsumed by reports we publish there as well. This is a major enhancement to our accessibility and ability to disseminate knowledge and information. It is much more stable, too. The Middle East Studies Center Knowledge Bank Community will have these main sections and collections.

- Photo Gallery
- Publications

Collections:

- Events
- News
- Outreach
- People

We will continue to provide pieces of the instructional materials we're publishing in the Knowledge Bank, but we will not include the full materials here. Everything which has previously been in this publication is being streamlined in this manner. In this issue see "On the Horizon" for a preview of what will be available soon. We are still working on getting our community up and running fully, so please bear with us.

"On the Horizon" is venue where we share some of our long-term plans for programming. This is a way to promote our programs, of course, but also to start conversations so that we can learn about resources, people and ideas from you that will help build our programs. One of our major initiatives is to connect more with our communities through poetry, and we would

be delighted to hear from you, or anyone, who is interested in reading poetry from the Middle East, or their own poetry. Please send us an email at mesc@osu.edu with "Poetry" in the subject. Thanks!

I hope you enjoy this leaner version of our Bulletin. The director and I like to say we run a tight ship around here. One aspect of living on a boat as that one must keep only that which is necessary. That guiding principle is behind this new version of the Bulletin.

I hope you enjoy it! If you would like to contribute, please let me know. You can send me an email, mcclimans.2@osu.edu - and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,
Melinda

Scholarly Community Updates

Recruitment and FLAS Fellowships

In addition to offering 20 FLAS Fellowships per year (this year we awarded a record 35), we actively recruit students to international studies through the First Year Experience Program (students in the program gave us high ratings this year), the career fair for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and events with the Hale Black Cultural Center, offering cultural activities to raise interest in the Middle East and its languages. We also promote language and area studies during International Careers Week to multiple student groups. We will hold a poetry event for students at the Hale Center in October, and again in Spring. This is in response to student demand, and it is our hope that we will inspire more students to study the languages of the Middle East and its cultures by connecting to student interests.

New Hire: Nada Mountaz

We have a new faculty member in the OSU Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department, Nada Mountaz. Her specialty is Islamic law as it manifests in cultural phenomena, such as *waqfs*. We take this opportunity to extend her a warm welcome!

Margaret Mills Retires, Conference held in her honor

Professor Margaret Mills, retired in June 2012 from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Because she has made major

contributions to the study of women in contemporary Afghanistan, the folklore of the Persian-speaking world and South Asia, women's oral traditions, and traditional pedagogies, several units organized a conference in her honor on May 12, entitled "Tales of Trickery, Tales of Endurance." From the conference page: "She has helped us to think about the rhetorical dimension of oral traditions; the gendering of religious experience; the partitioning of the traditional public sphere into gendered and performative situations; how literacies and pedagogies are mobilized to form political identities; how individual and collective expressive repertoires respond to war and displacement." For more about the conference, see: <http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/events/11-12events/May12/talesoftrickerymay18.htm>

Joy McCorriston: Furthering our Understanding of the Ancient Middle East

Joy McCorriston is furthering our understanding of daily life in the ancient Middle East, while engaging students every step of the way. Her 2011 book, Pilgrimage and Household in the Ancient Near East

"examines the continuity of traditions over millennia in the Near East. Tracing the phenomenon of pilgrimage in pre-Islamic Arabia up through the development of the Hajj, she defines its essential characteristics and emphasizes the critical role that pilgrimage plays in en-

abling and developing socio-economic transactions. Indeed, the social identities constructed through pilgrimage are key to understanding the long-term endurance of the phenomenon. In the second part of the book, McCorriston turns to the household, using cases of ancient households in Mesopotamian societies, both in the private and public spheres. Her conclusions tie together broader theoretical implications generated by the study of the two phenomena and offer a new paradigm for archaeological study, which has traditionally focused on transitions to the exclusion of continuity of traditions." - Cambridge University Press

She regularly conducts fieldwork in the region, sojourning through most of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and Syrian Plateau. The Omani government invited her to do fieldwork there, and their partnership lasted for five years. Part of that project was to create strategies for the management of such sites, balancing the need for tourism with the need to preserve national heritage. During that time she took several of her students there: an awesome opportunity. She also teaches "Contemporary Views of the Ancient Near East" and "Archaeology of the Ancient Near East."

Scholarly Community Updates (*continued*)

Parvaneh Pourshariati, New President of ASPS, to expand its scope to include Late Antique Iranian Studies

Professor Pourshariati is now the president of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS - <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/>). As part of that position she will expand the organization's scope to include "the long-durée

histories and cultures of the Persianate and Iranian ecumene from the ancient to the pre-modern period." From her letter to the Association:

"As you are well aware, those of us who engage in research on the Persianate and Iranian civilizational world from the sixth century BCE to circa 1600 -- a truly impressive

scholarly group -- do not yet have an academic venue in the US... [Thus,] the ASPS is hereby extending an invitation to the Association and its first rate journal, the Journal of Persianate Studies (JPS)... issue 5:2 of the Journal, guest edited by myself, will be devoted to 'Recent Trends in Late Antique Iranian Studies'..."



Iranian coins from late antiquity

Notes from the field

Egypt, Dr. Sultana Nahar

Sultana N. Nahar
Astronomy, The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio, USA
Email: nahar@astronomy.ohio-state.edu

I was in Egypt in April to attend the 4th international workshop on Ultrafast Laser Technologies and Applications (UFLTA). The visit included several other events and work.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ohio State University and Cairo University in Egypt was completed at the signing ceremony held at Cairo University (CU) on April 8, 2012, headed by the Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research Dr. Gamal Esmat of CU. I represented the Ohio State University as Executive Dean Joe Steinmetz and Associate Provost Dieter Wanner were unable to attend. The signing event was covered by media and was published in an Egyptian newspaper. Current MOA covers the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, and Engineering, and work is in progress to extend it to Medical College. The collaboration between the two institutions under a MOA was formulated after the international conference on Modern Trend in Physics Research (MTPR) held in Egypt in 2008 as the common research grounds on atomic astrophysics and laser sciences were identified. The MOA was initiated at the Middle Eastern Studies Center at OSU with Dr. Alam Payind and Melinda McClimans in 2010 and was handled by the Office of International Affairs. Use of two languages, Arabic and English, and approvals from Cairo University up to the Egyptian Ministry of Education during revolution caused the MOA to complete it in 2 years. I was the initiator and had been the main coordinator of the MOA on OSU side for the last two years. At the signing event I was awarded with the prestigious "Shield of Cairo University" by the Vice President.

The laser institute NILES has been the main sponsor of international workshop UFLTA. I attended

the 4th UFLTA held both at Cairo University and in Luxor during April 8-12 and delivered an honorary keynote speech on x-ray laser application to cancer theranostics at UFLTA. Participants came from several universities and



Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between The Ohio State University and Cairo University



Dr. Nahar showing the official documents with Vice Provost for International Affairs, William Brustein

institutions in Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Korea, and myself from the USA. In the concluding session, I received the "Shield of UFLTA" award along with other invited speakers.

On April 8, the Topical Society of Laser Sciences (TSLS) celebrated its 25th anniversary where internationally known and prominent scientists of Egypt and number of international scientists were invited. Number of them were recognized with honorary "Shield of TSLS" for contributions to laser sciences and 14 were recognized with "High-

Notes from the Field (*continued*)

est Honor Medal". Among the 14 were Nobel prize winner Ahmed Zewell, Professor Moustafa El Sayed of Gerogia Tech (recipient of a number of US prestigious prizes), Professor El Kassas (recipient of UNESCO, King Faisal, Dubai etc prizes). I was honored to receive the same award. The cultural channel of the national TV NILE covered the event and broadcasted it on April 15, 2012. I was also interviewed by the TV channel.



Dr. Nahar receiving the "Shield of Cairo University"

Following earlier communications, I spent one day at Al Azhar University, known as the oldest university on the earth. The university has male and female branches with campuses next to each other. Each has its own faculty members but with the same academic curriculum. There are also some joint projects for Ph.D. or Master's research. I gave a seminar on atomic astrophysics. At my request, the students and faculty members of the female branch were invited to my seminar presentation at the male branch (picture). The audience was very enthusiastic about the topic and the astronomy chair commented that they were much behind the advanced research that I presented and that their internet communication was not up-to-date. The physics faculty members, both from male and female branches expressed difficulties in obtaining the right components for experimental research and funding. I gave a number of books for undergraduate astronomy courses and graduate research. Before the seminar I spent some time with the female physicists and chemists and we exchanged various information. Later

all of us, male and female groups, had another meeting where we spoke about STEM (a common acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, research, teaching, their funding sources, and collaborative projects. We spoke about promoting both teaching and research with students and made a draft proposal to submit to the Deans of Sciences of male and female branches. I will be finalizing the proposal with their input points and send it to Al Azhar University.

I had similar STEM, research, teaching, collaboration meetings with Cairo University. At the office of the Dean of Science identified teaching and research Policies geared generally toward improvement and encouragement of these areas, which we included in a joint proposal. We also agreed that I would teach a course on atomic astrophysics at Cairo University later in 2012. I also met Physics Professor Fayed Shahin of Beni Suef University regarding their undergraduate course and gave a number of books for the undergraduate astronomy course.



Dr. Nahar receiving the "Shield of Ultrafast Laser Technologies and Applications"

I had a few meetings with the women physicists at UFLTA and at Al Azhar University regarding the International Society of Muslim Women in Science (ISMWS). Our motto is "encourage Muslim women to be a part of the science profession."

Notes from the Field (*continued*)

Everyone, including the male scientists at UFLTA, showed great interest in the society. At this time, ISMWS has 64 members from 18 different countries. We discussed about the ways to encourage more Muslim women to science and keeping them in science profession. One issue of ISMWS was registration of the society. Because of its international nature, it has been difficult to find enough information for its registration. However, OSU Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Professor Valerie Lee has given some valuable information and Professor Lotfia El Nadi of Cairo University also has found that the Ministry of Society Affairs in Egypt could help. We also have another society, called International Society of Arab Women in Science, that Professor El Nadi and myself founded. There is a possibility that both societies could be united in to one.

The Egyptian Physical Society (EPS) was established in 1979 and has about a few hundred members. It publishes Egyptian Journal of Physics.

EPS annual membership fee is about \$4 compared to \$128 of American Physical Society (APS). Professor Sami H Allam, the current president of EPS, and myself met and discussed about membership and benefits of APS. Although Egyptian physicists are not much familiar with APS, but they would be very much interested in becoming members of the APS and be part of one network. I explained about the free APS individual and discount group membership. However, they prefer the discount unity membership that I proposed at the Forum of International Physics (FIP) meeting in Atlanta on March 31, 2012. The same support was echoed at Al Azhar University and by other participants at UFLTA. This strengthens my proposal to APS and I am collecting supports from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, UAE.

Dr. Sultana Nahar is a research scientist in the Department of Astronomy at The Ohio State University. Her areas of expertise are atomic astrophysics and biomedical nanoscience. In 2012 she received the Outstanding Mentor award for her work with undergraduates wanting to gain professional research skills, and one of the highest awards in Egypt, the Medal of Highest Honor, for teaching ultra fast laser technology and its applications at a national conference in Luxor, Egypt. This is one honor among many which she has received for her work there. She is also an advocate for a more diverse representation of people in the field of science, especially in regard to including Muslim women around the world.

Academic Outreach and Engagement Highlights

Academic Outreach and Engagement Highlights

Among over 50 outreach and academic engagement events took place over the past year, with media, schools, the military, the general public, various academic communities, and many others, on campus and beyond. There are many we could share, but here are recent highlights that give an idea of the kind of work we do.

Guest Scholar Visits Area High School

Many of our readers know that we do a summer institute for teachers, but it is not as well known that we go to schools, as well, and often our guest scholars go and present to young students there. Most recently, our guest Dawood Azami, visited Columbus International High School after he gave his presentation, “Ideology versus Profit: Drugs and Insurgencies in Afghanistan and Colombia” on April 2nd at the Mershon Center.

[photo of Mr. Azami - see: <http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/events/11-12events/Apr12/azamipr2.htm>]

From Amanda Comstock, Program Coordinator at the International High School:

Mr. Azami was absolutely wonderful! He presented in the morning to about 140 9th and 10th grade students about Afghanistan. His presentation contextualized Afghanistan both historically and culturally, and he reflected on his expe-

rience as both an Afghani and a journalist in current times.

Afterwards, he met with a group of 20 students who are themselves very interested in becoming journalists. He shared with them the tools necessary to become journalists, as well as personal stories from his journey. The co-editor in chief of our student newspaper handed him a gift from Columbus International High School.

For more on his lecture and a recording, see: <http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/events/11-12events/Apr12/azamipr2.htm>

MESC Director Makes Classroom Visit Via Video Conference

The Director and Assistant Director made a classroom visit via Adobe Connect, the university’s video conference program, on September 6th to a classroom in Denver. The Director shared his knowledge of Afghanistan, especially its people and places, as the class had been working on geography of the region. Here are a few of the students’ comments:

“I really thought that women were forced to hide their faces. It was cool to hear that they have some choice.”

“I liked being able to talk to someone who has been there and lived through it.”

“It made my heart sad to hear that Mr. Alam wasn’t able to go home. I wish people could

feel safe in their homes no matter where they live.”

WOSU’s Program “All Sides” with Ann Fisher

During our recent program on Middle Eastern Identities (September 19, 2012 Workshop by guest scholars Mehdi Bozorghmehr and Jonathan Friedlander, and MESC Director, Alam Payind - more to come in the next issue) we took the guest scholars to WOSU studios for an interview with Ann Fisher. Part of her program “All Sides”, the interview focused on Middle Eastern Americans, what that term means culturally and demographically, and addressed the stereotypes that have pervaded our popular culture, especially since 9/11, but also throughout U.S. history as a whole. You can listen to the interview by downloading the podcast from iTunes or linking to the stream. See: <http://streaming.osu.edu/wosu/allsides/091912a.mp3>



WOSU Studio: Circuitry

On the Horizon

We are organizing academic activities for the Fall 2013, Spring 2014 academic year and plan to include events around Islamic and Jewish legal traditions, the status of the uprisings in the Arab world and in Iran, articulations between American and Middle Eastern music and poetry (especially Hip hop), and Oil in the Global Economy.

Islamic Law mini-conference

We are organizing a day-long conference on Islamic and Jewish Law for Fall of 2013. Panels will be organized to focus on the similarities and differences between traditional and traditional Jewish and Islamic law codes through various academic disciplines and approaches. We will include at least one panel on the role of Shari'a/Halacha in contemporary Jewish and Muslim societies. OSU scholars are participating, and we intend to invite two guest speakers, one on Islamic Law and one on Jewish Law.

Oil in the Global Economy, Courses, Lectures, Online Materials

Few single issues are central to as many diverse policy matters as is oil. In spite of our living in the post-industrial Information Era, and in spite of the difficulties associated with oil dependence, petroleum's key economic and political role is likely to persist for at least 25 or 30 years more. This global issue is also crucial to understanding Middle East history. Thus, the Middle East Studies Center is proposing a new course on oil in the global economy. Additional fund-

ing is needed, but we expect it will remain housed in the Undergraduate International Studies Program where the pilot course was run.

Conference on Evaluation

The Middle East Studies Center, along with the other Title VI-funded National Resource Centers (NRC) at The Ohio State University is planning an NRC Evaluation Conference to take place February 27, 28, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. This conference will explore strategies for using evaluation to enhance federally-funded National Resource Centers. With increasing demand for accountability, NRCs face the challenge of demonstrating program outcomes through a continuous, systematic approach to evaluation. We will explore such questions as: What new directions we see for area studies, how do we articulate NRC leadership with evaluation, and what outcomes are important for NRCs. Members of the NRC community are encouraged to submit a proposal by October 31, 2012

Further information:
<http://easc.osu.edu/NRC2013/>

Preserving Musical Traditions

In the Fall of 2011 we hosted a concert by A.J. Racy and Soheil Kaspar. These artists, especially, Professor Racy, have performed in Columbus before and have quite a following here for their musical talents. What listeners may not know, is that both Professor Racy

and Mr. Soheil work to preserve Middle Eastern musical heritage by teaching, producing recordings, writing and taking part in global institutions and organizations focused on preserving artistic traditions. Dr. Racy is a professor of ethnomusicology at UCLA teaching courses on music and ethnomusicology at universities across the country. Mr. Sohail is a master drummer who teaches authentic rhythm and movement from the Middle East. Providing artistic and cultural events of the community is an important part of our mission, but an aspect of that which shouldn't be overlooked is the support it provide artists. Dr. Racy has contributed materials for teaching about Middle Eastern music, and Mr. Kaspar conducted a dance workshop while he was in Ohio last fall. We will post related materials in our Knowledge Bank community. In addition, we are looking into possibilities for musically-focused workshops and events to teach languages and cultures of the Middle East.



Professor Racy

Intellectual Output

Dissertations and Theses

Traces of Empire: Decolonization and the United States in Lebanon, 1941-1967

PhD, History,
2012, University of Akron

Labelle, Maurice Marc Jr.

Tweet Like an Egyptian:
The Role of Social Media in
the Arab Spring Uprisings

BA, Political Science,
2012, Ohio University Honors
Tutorial College

Schueller, Rebecca

Deconstructing the Dichotomy:
Muslim American University
Students' Perceptions of Islam
and Democracy

MA, Cross-Cultural,
International Education, 2012,
Bowling Green State University

Lamont, Sarah

Challenging the Biopolitical:
The Arab Spring and the
Multitude

MA, Political Science
(Arts and Sciences),
2012, Ohio University

Arnoni, Kiersten L.

Evaluating the Face Validity of
an Arabic-language Translation
of a Food Security Question-
naire in Arabic-speaking Popu-
lations

MS, Human Ecology:
Human Nutrition, 2012,
Ohio State University

Al-Ghadban, Fatima A.

To Serve the Interests of the
Empire? British Experiences
with Zionism, 1917-1925

MA, History
(Arts and Sciences),
2012, Ohio University

Smyser, Katherine A.

The city will follow you: Tunis,
Tunisia, and the Mediterranean

MA, Near Eastern Languages
and Cultures,
2012, Ohio State University

Bond, David M.

Living an Uncertain Future: An
Ethnography of Displacement,
Health, Psychosocial Well-being
and the Search for Durable
Solutions among Iraqi Refugees
in Egypt

PhD, Anthropology, 2012,
Case Western Reserve University

El-Shaarawi, Nadia

Therapeutic Spaces For Veter-
ans With PTSD

Master of Landscape Architec-
ture, Landscape Architecture,
2012, Ohio State University

Hartman, Jesse G. N.

All Politics is Local: Examining
Afghanistan's Central Govern-
ment's Role in State-Building at
the Provincial Level

MPA, Public Administration,
2012, Bowling Green State
University

Grant, Patrick J.

The Reintegration Myth: An
Interpretive Phenomenological
Inquiry into the Reentry Experi-
ences of Air Force Reservists
Returning from Afghanistan

PhD, Leadership and Change,
2012, Antioch University

French, Brent

The Role of Media in the Fram-
ing of the Afghan Conflict and
the Search for Peace

PhD, Mass Communication
(Communication),
2012, Ohio University

Noorzai, Roshan

Intellectual Output (*continued*)

Dissertations and Theses

Supradetachment Basin Tectonics and The Exhumation History of The Menderes Core Complex, Western Anatolia - Turkey

PhD, Geology,
2012, Miami University

Oner, Zeynep

Perceptions of High School Mathematics Teachers Regarding the 2005 Turkish Curriculum Reform and Its Effects on Students' Mathematical Proficiency and Their Success on National University Entrance Examinations

PhD, Curriculum and Instruction Mathematics Education (Education),
2012, Ohio University

Er, Sıdıka Nihan

The full abstracts are available online: <http://etd.ohiolink.edu>

Publication Highlights

Nina Berman, *Middle East: Discourses and Practices, 1000-1989*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011

Joy McCorriston, *Pilgrimage and Household in the Ancient Near East*. Cambridge University Press, 2011
(See description on p. 5)

John Quigley, "Camp David 1978", an entry in the Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Law, published by Oxford University Press.



Shah-Doh Shamshira Mosque