

Program in Middle Eastern Studies



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Dear Faculty, Students, Alumnae and Friends of Middle Eastern Studies,

The academic year 2012-2013 has been one in which our eyes and minds have been focused on Syria, where a solution to the violence still does not appear to be in view, and on Libya, where the death of U.S. citizens, including a highly respected diplomat, is a reminder of an incomplete transition to peace. These topics, the fate of the Arab Spring in Egypt, the aftermath of the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, and its draw-down in Afghanistan, as well as the U.S. failure to achieve real progress in peace negotiations in Israel-Palestine have been the subject of formal and informal discussions among the faculty and students of the Middle Eastern Studies Program. Meanwhile, our students continue to go on study abroad, especially to Jordan and Egypt, and occasionally to Turkey and Oman.

During this academic year, Rachid Aadnani was successfully reappointed as Lecturer of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, while Dan Zitnick was appointed to teach beginning and advanced Arabic at Wellesley College during the next academic year. The Program expects to obtain formal approval to do a search for a tenure-track position in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies in 2013-2014.

While we did have a Middle East film series in the Fall, we have focused our energy this year on preparing important events for early next Fall, including a symposium on transnational feminist perspectives on war, memory, and nation-building and a campus visit by a Middle Eastern film director. This ambitious programming has been in part inspired by the generous donation by Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet of Newport, Rhode Island, whose ongoing support has been invaluable to our Program, which, in comparison with many other fields of study at Wellesley College, is still so young and so in need of support.

Meanwhile we supported the student organizations al-Muslimat and Wellesley Arab Women in their superbly organized and well attended events of Arab Awareness Week, including a symposium on Muslim women in academia, a lecture by Nasser Rabat on monumental mosques in the Arab world today, and a lecture by Rashid Khalidi about his new book *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*, all in April.

In May we held our final dinner for graduating seniors majoring or minoring in Middle Eastern Studies, featuring Middle Eastern food.

On July 1, I will be handing over the directorship of MES to Prof. Louise Marlow, who will be returning from a three-semester sabbatical. I am grateful for your support during the three semesters of my directorship and am committed to stay closely involved with the Program in the years to come.

Let me conclude with wishing you a wonderful, enjoyable, productive, and peaceful summer.

Lidwien Kapteijns
Kendall/Hodder Professor of History
Director of Middle Eastern Studies

COURSE OFFERINGS IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES 2013-2014

FALL 2013 COURSES

ARAB 101 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Instructor: Ramadan, Zitnick

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: None

Term(s): Fall. MTWTh 8:30-9:40; MTWTh 9:50-11:00

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.



ARAB 201 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

A continuation of ARAB 101-ARAB 102. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 101, ARAB 102 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: None

Term(s): Fall. MWTh 9:50-11:00 am; MWTh 11:10-12:20 pm
Each semester of ARAB 201 and ARAB 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 301 - Advanced Arabic I (1.0)

Continuation of ARAB 201-ARAB 202. Involving further development of students' skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing, this course exposes students to a variety of authentic Arabic materials, including print and online sources, incorporating MSA and diglossia. Focus on enhanced communication skills in Arabic and attention to the use of language in its sociocultural context. Appropriate for students who have completed ARAB 201- ARAB 202 at Wellesley or the equivalent in summer courses or study abroad programs.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 201-ARAB 202 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: LL

Term(s): Fall. MTh 11:10-12:20 pm

ARTH 247 - The Fabric of Society: Islamic Art and Architecture in their Social Context, 650-1500 (1.0)

Until recently, most scholarship approached Islamic art through stylistic taxonomies or technical studies, while limiting its effects to aesthetic pleasure. In contrast, this course seeks to bridge Islamic art and social history, in order to show how Islamic objects and monuments served to mediate a broad range of social relations, which shaped in turn the formal characteristics of the artworks. We will look at the interplay between the invention of the mosque and the construction of the new Muslim community from the seventh century onwards, the use of early Islamic palaces as stages for political and disciplinary spectacles, the exchange of portable objects designed as gifts and commodities around the Mediterranean, the female patronage of public devotional spaces.

Instructor: Balafrej

Prerequisite: None. ARTH 100 and ARTH 101 recommended.

Distribution: ARS

Term(s): Fall. MTh 11:10-12:20 pm

Normally offered in alternate years.

HIST 396 - Port Cities of the Indian Ocean in Historical Perspective (1.0)

This is a research seminar about themes in the history of Indian Ocean port cities, namely those situated on the littorals of the Red Sea, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and South Asia. The course engages with different dimensions of life in port cities, including their relations with immediate or distant overlords; diverse communities of traders; flows of religious experts, free and unfree labor, and other migrants; the technology that sustained ocean-wide links and the epidemics that threatened them; and the impact of colonial (especially British) rule. Covering the period 1500 to the present, the course emphasizes the period preceding World War II, yet traces some themes to the present. Student research papers are at the center of this seminar.

Instructor: Kapteijns and Rao

Prerequisite: By permission of the instructors

Distribution: HS

Term(s): Fall. W 2:15-4:45 pm

MES 331 - Islamic Cultural World in Premodern Travel Accounts (1.0)

The course engages with travel accounts produced by premodern Muslim travelers as well as European travelers writing about the Islamic world. Delving into such travel chronicles in order to make forays into the social and cultural fabric of premodern Islamic cultures, the course will attempt to foreground the permeability and diversity of the premodern Islamic world from North Africa to South Asia. In what sundry modes were these travelers' experiences constructed and preserved in these accounts? What insights into the operations of premodern Islamic cultures could we gain from these travel narratives? We will read extracts from representative travel accounts, and assess their contents critically to appreciate the modes and sensibilities instrumental in shaping the understanding of the premodern Islamic world.

Instructor: Latif

Prerequisite: None.

Cross-Listed as: SAS 331

Distribution: LL; HS

Term(s): Fall. T 1:30-4:00 pm

POL2 217 - Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (1.0)

How do Arab-Islamic history and culture shape politics in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa? Why is the Arab world—despite its tremendous oil-wealth—still characterized by economic underdevelopment and acute gaps between rich



and poor? How have the events of September 11 and the U.S.-led "war on terror" affected the prospects for greater freedom and prosperity in the Middle East in the future? What do the 2011 revolts mean for the existing regimes and prospects for Democracy? These are some of the questions we will examine in this course. In readings, lectures and class discussions, the analysis of general themes and trends will be integrated with case studies of individual Arab states.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisite: One unit in Political Science

Distribution: SBA

Term(s): Fall. MTh 9:50-11:00 am

POL2 358-01-F - Seminar. Political Conflict in the Middle East (1.0)

Topic for 2013-14: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
This class will provide an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the evolution of the conflict over time. Our goal is to develop an appreciation of the complexities and the dynamism of this conflict through an examination of its origins, the actors involved, and the key historical and political factors that have shaped it.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisite: POL2 217 or one unit in Middle Eastern history. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available on the political science department website homepage.

Distribution: SBA

Term(s): Fall. M 2:50-5:20 pm

REL 244 - Jerusalem: The Holy City (1.0)

An exploration of the history, archaeology, and architecture of Jerusalem from the Bronze Age to the present. Special attention both to the ways in which Jerusalem's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim

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CURRICULAR NEWS

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communities transformed Jerusalem in response to their religious and political values and also to the role of the city in the ongoing Middle East and Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Instructor: Geller

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Fall. MTh 4:10-5:20 pm

Normally alternates with REL 243.

REL 260 - Islamic/ate Civilizations (1.0)

Historical survey of Muslim-majority societies and the diverse cultural forms produced within them from the seventh century to the beginnings of the modern period. Topics include literary and artistic expression, architecture, institutions, philosophical and political thought, religious thought and practice. Critical attention to the concept of "civilization" and its uses and drawbacks for understanding the complex historical and cultural processes under study in the course.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Fall. TF 9:50-11:00

Normally alternates with REL 262.

REL 263 - Islam in the Modern World (1.0)

A study of the modern history of the Islamic religion, and its interaction with other historical forces in shaping particular developments in Muslim societies from the late eighteenth century to the present. The course explores the emergence and development of religious ideas and movements in the context of the colonial and post-colonial periods, and the histories of modern nation states. Readings encompass a variety of perspectives and address a range of topics, including religious practice and interpretation, matters of governance and the state, economics, gender and gender relations, dress (for men and women), and the participation of women in various arenas of public life. The course explores Islam as a diverse and dynamic religious tradition that is responsive to change, and enquires into the divergent understandings and connotations of 'Islam' to different speakers, groups and perspectives in a variety of modern and contemporary contexts.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Fall. TF 11:10-12:20 pm

REL 330 - Seminar. Religion and Violence (1.0)*

An exploration of the sources and manifestations of religious violence. Topics include the role of violence in sacred texts and traditions, intra- and inter-religious conflicts, religion and nationalism, and religious violence in today's global society. Selected examples from Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions and contemporary religious conflicts in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East.

Instructor: Marini

Prerequisite: HIST 205, REL 200 or REL 230, PEAC 104, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: SBA; REP

Term(s): Fall. W 2:15-4:45 pm

Normally alternates with REL 319.

*Discuss with instructor if you want to count towards MES Major or Minor before registering.



SPRING 2014 COURSES

ARAB 102 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Instructor: Ramadan, Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 101

Distribution: None

Term(s): Spring

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 202 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

A continuation of ARAB 201. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 101, ARAB 102, ARAB 201 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: LL

Term(s): Spring

Each semester of ARAB 201 and 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

REL 262 - The Formation of the Islamic Tradition (1.0)

Historical study of the Islamic tradition, from its beginnings in Arabia through its shaping in the seventh to tenth centuries in the diverse and newly integrated regions of Western and Central Asia and North Africa. Topics include the sacred sources of the Islamic religious tradition, the Prophet and the Qur'an; the formulation of religious law, ethics, theology and philosophy; varied patterns of piety and mysticism; and the development of Sunni and Shi'i understandings of Islam and Islamic history. Particular attention to the diversity within the Islamic tradition, its intercultural contacts, and its continuing processes of reinterpretation. The course also addresses approaches, methods, issues and new directions in the study of Islam and Muslim societies.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Spring

Normally alternates with REL 260.

REL 364 - Seminar. Sufism: Islamic Mysticism (1.0)

An interdisciplinary exploration of the diverse manifestations of mysticism in Islamic contexts. Topics include the experiences and writings of individual Sufis, including Rabi'a, al-Junayd, Hujwiri, Ibn al-'Arabi, Jalal al-Din Rumi, 'Abd al-Qadir Jilani, Ruzbihan Baqli; the formation of Sufi organizations and development of mystical paths; the place of Sufism in Islamic legal, theological and philosophical traditions as well as in Muslim religious practice; Sufism in local contexts; both urban and rural; holy men



and women; Sufism's permeation of artistic and aesthetic traditions, especially poetry and music; the reception, interpretations and practices of Sufism in Western countries.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors, students who have taken at least one unit in Middle Eastern Studies or Religion, and by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Spring

Normally alternates with REL 367.

WGST 299 - Sexuality and Gender in Muslim and Arab Worlds (1.0)

This interdisciplinary course seeks to understand sexuality in the Muslim and Arab worlds in a matrix of gender, race, class, geopolitics, and religion. It expands beyond the arbitrary designation of the "Middle East" and examines old and new diasporas in areas that include East and South Asia, Europe, and North America. It takes a relational approach that highlights historical and transnational linkages and relations of power between socio-cultural, political, and economic structures that construct sexuality in different locations and historical junctures. The course challenges mainstream representations of sexuality in the Muslim and Arab worlds, interrogates binaries of religious and secular, and applies micro and macro methods to examine sexuality as a form of governmentality in local and global contexts.

Instructor: Shakhari

Prerequisite: WGST 120

Term(s): Spring

RECENT EVENTS

On April 5, 2013, **Professor Nadya Hajj**, Political Science, participated in a panel lecture, "Critical Scholarship: Women, Islam and the Academy: Integrating the study of Islam and Gender across Disciplines." This lecture was part of Celebrate Islam Awareness Week.

On March 11, 2013, **Yasmine Ramadan**, the Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Arabic Studies,

gave a lecture as part of the Newhouse Salon Series, entitled "Shifting Ground: The City and the Countryside in Modern Egyptian Fiction."

On November 13, 2012, **Dr. Rahimeh Andalibian**, psychologist, family therapy expert, author, speaker, and producer, gave a reading and discussion of her debut novel, *The Rose Hotel*, which presents an intimate, true-life story of the impact of

trauma, war, and upheaval as the Andalibian family's life of beauty and tranquility is ruptured by the 1979 Iranian Revolution. This reading was organized by Professor Ramadan and co-sponsored by the Newhouse Center for the Humanities and Middle Eastern Studies.

In the Fall semester, the Arabic Program sponsored a Film Series: *le Grand Voyage*, and *Hawl*.

FACULTY NEWS

Rachid Aadnani, joined Professor Rollman in leading a Winter Session Course (HIST 290) in Morocco. Fifteen Wellesley College students participated in this program.

Rana Abdul-Aziz was on family leave in the Fall, welcoming daughter, Reema, on August 14. She returned to Wellesley in the Spring and taught ARAB 102. Rana will leave Wellesley College after this semester. We thank her for her dedication and collegiality these past five years and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Roxanne Euben was on leave for 12-13 and will return from sabbatical in the Fall.

Barbara Geller offered REL 243 Women in the Biblical World.

Nadya Hajj, in her second year at Wellesley College, published an article about her on-going research study of institutional formation in Palestinian refugee camps in Comparative Politics. In "Institutional Formation in

Transitional Settings," she delves into the formalization of property rights in transitional settings, where there is an absence of formal state structures. This paper hypothesizes that in the presence of capital for investment, a non-state hegemon with long time horizons can intervene to formalize property rights. The hypothesis is tested using 191 surveys and interviews collected in

Nahr al Bared (NBC) and Beddawi refugee camps in Lebanon. Results suggest that following an influx of remittances, Fatah, a non-state hegemon with long time horizons, formalized property rights through the creation of local camp committee offices that served as a third party enforcement mechanism. Findings reveal that in transitional settings, formalized property rights are central leverage points that serve critical state building functions by uniting and galvanizing a community around a new political party.

Lidwien Kapteijns chaired both the Department of History and the Middle Eastern Studies Program this year. On July 1, she will hand over the directorship of MES to Louise Marlow, who will be returning from her sabbatical.

Lidwien's book, *Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Turn of 1991* (University of Pennsylvania Press: Penn Studies in Human Rights, 2013) came out in January and is attracting much



attention from Somali websites and readers. She gave lectures about her book at the African Studies Association meeting in Philadelphia, the Nansen Peace Institute in Lillehammer (Norway), Oxford University, and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Lidwien's article on the U.S. Hollywood movie *Black Hawk Down* ("Black Hawk Down: Recasting U.S. Military History at Somali Expense"), in *Framing Africa: Portrayals of a Continent in Contemporary Mainstream Cinema*, edited by Nigel Eltringham (New York: Berghahn Books, 2013), is expected to appear this month. Lidwien is also part of a small team of scholars editing a source publication consisting of English translations of the religious poetry of Brava (the Indian Ocean city south of Mogadishu), which were composed in the language of that city, a form of northern Swahili called Chimiini.

Fran Malino offered HIST 115, *Routes of Exile: Jews and Muslims*, a first-year seminar.

Louise Marlow was on leave for 12-13 and will return from sabbatical in the Fall.

Yasmine Ramadan completed her first year as the Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow in Arabic Studies. The two-year post-doctoral fellowship began in fall 2012 and continues through the academic year of 2013-2014. Professor

Ramadan will teach Elementary Arabic next year, while continuing to conduct her research as a fellow at Wellesley's Newhouse Center for the Humanities.

The publications of **Sima Shakhsari** (WGST) this year included an article titled "Transnational Governmentality and the Politics of Life and Death." This article was published in May 2013 in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, as well as an article titled "From Homoerotics of Exile



to Homopolitics of Diaspora: Cyberspace, the War on Terror, and the Hypervisible Iranian Queer" in the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, *Special Issue: Queering Middle Eastern Cyberscapes* (Fall 2012).

Sima also had the honor of being published in the *Transgender Studies Reader II*, published by Routledge in February 2013. The title of the article in the *TSR II* is "Shuttling between Bodies and Borders: Transmigration and the Politics of Rightful Killing." A

different version of this article, titled "Killing Me Softly with Your Rights: Queer Death and the Politics of Rightful Killing" is forthcoming (December 2013) in the book *Queer Necropolitics*, edited by Jin Haritaworn, Adi Kuntsman and Silvia Posocco, and published by Routledge.

Wilfrid Rollman, joined by Professor Aadhani and 15 Wellesley students, led the Wellesley College Wintersession Program in Morocco (HIST 290).

On his return from Wintersession 2013 in Morocco, Wil Rollman made a short layover in Paris to pursue research for his book on Qaid Najim al-Lakhsassi. While there he read French Embassy and Consular correspondence pertaining to pre-colonial Morocco now housed at the new Centre du Archives Diplomatiques de la Courneuve. During the Fall term of 2012 he gave

a short course on the "Arab Spring" as part of the Sherborn Council on Aging's Lifetime Learning Program. More recently (May, 2013) he gave a lecture to the Natick Historical Society on "History and the Arab Spring. He will offer a courses on "Islam in Middle Eastern and North African Politics" at Boston University and on "the United States and the Middle East since 1945" at Wellesley College during the summer term.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE

■ Carolyn Brunelle '07

is a PhD Candidate in Islamic law at the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently in the early stages of a dissertation exploring medieval Zahiri legal thought as a window onto a number of trends in modern Islamic legal reform. She recently won Penn's Ezra Pound prize in literary translation for a story she translated as part of her MA thesis in contemporary Arabic literature. She is happy to speak with any Wellesley students or alumnae considering graduate school in Middle Eastern studies, and can be reached at bcarolyn@sas.upenn.edu.

■ Kacie Lyn Kocher '09

has been completing her MSc at the London School of Economics in a joint program of the International Development and Economic History departments. She is continuing her work with the NGO she founded in Istanbul, Canimiz Sokakta (roughly meaning, 'We're alive on the streets' in Turkish), which seeks to use mobile technologies to address problems of street harassment and other forms of gender-based violence. Recently, she gave a TEDx talk about her work, entitled 'Silence is a Choice' in Istanbul. Unsure of what's next, she will complete her master's degree in the fall and is searching for opportunities that integrate technology-based solutions within development programs. Kacie would be happy to talk with any alumnae or current students: klkocher@alum.wellesley.edu.



wellesley.edu .

■ **Ameera Keval '12** spent the summer after graduating from Wellesley studying Arabic in Amman, Jordan. She also traveled around the region with family and friends and then moved to California and started graduate school at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies. At MIIS she continues to study Arabic and expanding her knowledge of the MENA region. She also joined her school's softball team (The MIISfits) and enjoys the beautiful California coast!

■ **Dana Montalto '09** is graduating this May from law school and returning to Boston. After the bar exam this summer, she will be clerking at the Massachusetts federal district court.

■ **Parnian Nazary '10** has been working as a Program Associate with Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in New York, working with the United Nations to strengthen its

understanding of conflicts: their causes, dynamics and possible solutions. Focus on regions of conflict in the Middle East and Asia Pacific--most recently Syria and Egypt. She gives the UN access to outside expertise by commissioning field research papers for concise and incisive policy options, bringing subject-matter experts

together for small conferences with senior and operational level UN staff or arranging face-to-face briefings for UN officials. Prior to joining the SSRC, Parnian worked with the Afghanistan-Pakistan Regional Project at NYU's Center on International Cooperation in New York. She continues her voluntary engagement with Seeds of Peace, which works with youth from the Middle East and South Asia, and the Paula Loyd Foundation, which provides scholarships for Afghan women. In this tough job market, her language skills (Arabic, Dari/Farsi, Hindi/Urdu), understanding of the history, politics, and cultures of the regions, and writing skills have been extremely helpful. Advice to MES majors: focus on language and writing skills and travel to the region as much as you can.

■ **Colleen Purcell '12** will be graduating from Brandeis University International Business School with a Masters of Arts in International Economics and Finance. She will take the CFA on June 1st and is pursuing jobs in Dubai at energy consulting firms. She plans to move to the UAE in July.

■ **Seema Rathod '05** finished her master's degree in Education Policy and Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in December and will walk in graduation ceremonies this May. She is now a policy analyst in the Office of Planning and Research at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The piece of news she is happiest to share is that she had a son last year, who will turn 1 on May 29. She hopes to teach him some Arabic when he is young and hopes that he will be fluent in the language some day.

■ **Christina Satkowski '07** is completing her M.A. in Arab Studies at Georgetown University. In 2011, she began a year-long Fulbright research fellowship in Amman, Jordan, where she studied professional development networks among middle school teachers. She is now back in Washington, D.C., doing research for a book about the war in Afghanistan together with a journalist.

■ **Alex Stark '10** is currently completing a Master's in International Relations at the London School of Economics. She will begin a PhD in Government (sub-field International Relations) at Georgetown University next fall.



NEW FACULTY

Lamia Balafrej is currently completing her Ph.D. at the Université de Provence with a dissertation entitled "Traces of the Painter: Form, Representation and Agency in Late Timurid Book Painting (ca. 1470-1500)." Currently a Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she has held a pre-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Museum and has taught at Harvard University, the University of Aix-Marseille and the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Lamia will offer courses in Islamic, Medieval, and trans-Mediterranean art as well as joining the ARTH 100 team.

Dan Zitnick is currently completing an MA in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language at the University of Michigan. He also holds an MA in Modern Middle East Studies. Dan will teach both Elementary and Advanced Arabic this Fall.

FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN ARABIC 2013-2014

This coming fall Fulbright scholar Lana Nabil Qaddoura, from Jordan, will be joining the Arabic/MES family. Ms. Qaddoura will be assisting with the teaching of Arabic, organizing the weekly Arabic Tables and also overseeing other Arabic student oriented cultural events. Ms. Qaddoura has taught secondary school in Jordan.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to Huda Tallaq, our Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Arabic during 2012-2013. Ms. Tallaq, who is from Bahrain, has been a wonderful addition to our Program in Arabic. We offer her our best wishes for the future.



NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

■ The Middle Eastern Studies Program congratulates the following graduating Majors and Minors:

Grace Abuhamad '13, Eden Bass '13, Selema Beg '13, Leila Chaieb '13, Nisreen Dahod '13, Marwah Maasarani '13, Lois Taylor-Kamara '13 (Majors).

Misbah Aslam '13, Jessica Beckhart '13, Gayron Berman '13, Mary Elizabeth Kenefake '13, Shogher Talar Keskinyan '13, Kim Quarantello '13, Ariel Robinson '13, Samantha Spiga '13 (Minors).

■ **Grace Abuhamad '13** graduated a semester early and moved to Washington, DC to work at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy in the Arab Politics program. At the think tank, she focused on Syria, witnessing—up close—the frustrating policy

debates. Grace also worked on a publication about Israeli/Palestinian incitement to violence. She plans to stay in DC but is looking for a more permanent position in research or policy focusing on the Middle East.

■ **Emily Bary '14** is a rising senior double majoring in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, who has enjoyed her coursework in Wellesley's Middle Eastern Studies Program and likes observing the overlaps between her two majors and areas of interest. Last year, she began studying Arabic and has just finished her fourth semester. She is interested in journalism and hopes to be able to apply her language skills and her study of politics in the Middle East to an eventual career as a reporter.



■ **Mary Kenefake '13** is a MES minor (History major). In March, she traveled to Doha, Qatar to present original research written for HIST 334 (World Economic Orders) about the economic history of Iran. The conference was organized by the Middle Eastern Studies Students Association at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. In spring 2012 she studied abroad at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. She's currently looking for jobs in the media and journalism field.



DONORS

The Program in Middle Eastern Studies gratefully acknowledges the generous support it has received from Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet of Newport, Rhode Island.