

Program in Middle Eastern Studies



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2017-2018

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

As we look back on academic year 2017-18, we would like to take a moment to congratulate our graduating seniors and to extend warm greetings to our continuing students and to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. This year has indeed been very challenging on many levels, both here and around the world, but we hope that in the midst of all the uncertainty and anxiety that it has been a rewarding and productive one.

This past year has been very rewarding and full of exciting lectures and cultural events. Once again MES benefited from the generosity of Suzie Schochet in support of our cultural programming, expanding possibilities for our students to enroll in immersion programs over the summer, and financial support for our Morocco winter session program. To honor the memory of Jay R. Schochet, and to thank Suzie Schochet, we launched a memorial series in Jay's name: **Middle Eastern Studies' Jay R. Schochet Cultural Events Series**.

The events we organized this past year ranged from academic lectures, artist talks to film screenings. Needless to say, none of these events would have been possible if it were not for the dedication and assistance of our wonderful administrative assistance, Robin Lush.

We opened our 2017-18 programming with an artist talk and conversation with artist Alia Ali '09 on September 21th, 2017. Alia is a Yemeni-Bosnian-American multi-media artist. Alia's work explores cultures, conflicts and borders through the mediums of photography, textile and the processes of making each.

The second event in our lecture series was a talk by Dr. Sophia Vasalou who holds a Ph.D. in Islamic theology from the Faculty of Divinity/St John's College, University of Cambridge. The title of her talk was 'Approaching The Virtues in the Islamic Tradition' and it took place on November 15th, 2017.

On February 21st, 2018, Dr. Annemarie Iddins gave a lecture titled 'Mamfakinch: From Protest Slogan to Mediated Activism In Morocco'. Annemarie's research and teaching focus on the global media subfield of communication, focusing on transnational media industries and cultural politics in the Maghreb and its diaspora.

On February 28th, 2018, Emily Sibley '06 gave a public lecture entitled 'When The Walls Talk Back: Art In The Age Of Tahrir Square'. Emily is finishing her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at NY University. Her research focuses on Arabic literature and street art. In addition to her lecture, she also held an informal Q&A sessions with students interested in pursuing the study of Arabic literature and Art once they graduate from Wellesley College.

On April 17th, 2018, film director Abe Kasbo visited Wellesley for a screening of his PBS commissioned documentary film 'Arab Americans: A Thousand Journeys'. The screening was held in Collins cinema and was followed by a Q&A with director Abe Kasbo as well as a reception in his honor.

On April 26 Dr. Diya Abdo gave a public lecture entitled 'On Being Arab, Muslim, Woman: Creative Translation and Dissident Interpretation in Arab Women's Fiction'. Diya is an Associate Professor of English and the founder and director of Every Campus a Refuge, a Guilford College Center for Principled Problem Solving initiative which advocates for housing refugees on campus grounds and assisting them in resettlement. In addition to her public talk, Diya held a small and informal Q&A session (on April 27th) with students, faculty and members of the local community to explore ways to help organizations such as hers that work towards refugee resettlement goals.

As we look ahead to academic 2018-19, we are delighted to say that MES is planning an exciting inaugural event for our 2018-19 series of events. This event will be a public lecture by Dr. Khaled Abou El-Fadl. Dr. Abou El-Fadl is one of the most important and influential Islamic thinkers in the modern age. An accomplished Islamic jurist and scholar, he is Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law where he teaches Islamic law, Immigration, Human Rights, International and National Security Law. Dr. Abou El-Fadl previously taught Islamic law at the University of Texas at Austin Law School, Yale Law School and Princeton University. He holds degrees from Yale University (B.A.), University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D.) and Princeton University (M.A./Ph.D.). This event will be scheduled for Monday Oct. 1 and will include a Q&A session as well as a book signing.

Finally I would like to thank Suzette Dauch Schochet '58 for her continuing support for our program. The Program in Middle Eastern Studies deeply appreciates her generous support. Indeed it is thanks to this support that we are able to complement our course offerings with informative lectures and exciting cultural events. As a token of our appreciation and gratitude, all of our lectures and cultural events this year were dedicated to the memory of Jay R. Schochet and his support for our program.

Sincerely,

Rachid Idir Aadnani, Ph.D.

Jay R. and Suzette Dauch '58 Schochet Director of Middle Eastern Studies

FALL 2017 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: Zitnick

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: None

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

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

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

Continuation of ARAB 201-202. 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 enhances communication skills in Arabic and attention to the use of language in its sociocultural context. Appropriate for students who have completed ARAB 201-202 at Wellesley or the equivalent in summer courses or international study programs.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 201-202 or permission of the instructor

Distribution: LL

MES 260 – Religion and Culture in Muslim Societies

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.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Cross-Listed as: REL 260

Distribution: REP; HS



REL 364 – Seminar: Sufism: Islamic Mysticism

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 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

HIST 284 – The Middle East in Modern History

This course provides a survey of Middle Eastern history from c. 1900 to present, with an emphasis on the Arab Middle East. It will focus on the historical developments of the period: the demise of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I; the Armenian genocide; the establishment of European "mandates" in most of the Arab world and the nationalist struggles for independence that ensued; the establishment of Israel and the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948; the



Lebanese Civil War of 1975-1990; the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 and the rise of Islamist political movements elsewhere; the regime of Saddam Hussein; the occupation of Kuwait and the Gulf War of 1990-1991; the failure of the Oslo peace process, Israeli settlements, and the increasing political power of HAMAS and Hizbullah; the war in Iraq; the challenge of a potentially nuclear Iran; and the still unfolding and perhaps misnomered "Arab Spring."

Instructor: Kapteijns

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: HS

POL2 217 – Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

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 US-led "war on terror" affected the prospects 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

Prerequisites: One unit in political science

Distribution: SBA

POL4 346 – Islamist Political Thought

in Comparative Perspective

Political Theory is usually understood as Western, but questions about the nature and value of politics are central to intellectual traditions in a wide range of non-Western cultures. This course is an investigation of the most visible but least understood Muslim intellectual tradition today: Islamist (often called fundamentalist) political thought from the early twentieth century to the present. It is organized around themes such as Islam and democracy; violence and political action; women, gender, and Islamization; and the politics of language (eg the terminology of fundamentalism, Islamism, Western/non-Western, Islam vs the West). Authors include Hasan al-Banna, Sayyid Abu'l-A'la Mawdudi, Sayyid Qutb, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Zaynab al-Ghazali, Nadia Yassine, and Osama bin Laden.

Instructor: Euben

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory, philosophy, or a course on Islam in the history or religion departments

Distribution: REP

ARTH 247 - Islamic Art and Architecture, 650-1500

The course provides a thematic chronological survey of Islamic art and architecture from their inception around 650 C.E. to the dawn of the

modern empires in 1500 C.E. Until recently, most scholarship approached Islamic art through stylistic taxonomies or technical studies of materials. In contrast, this course seeks to bridge Islamic art and social history, in order to uncover the dynamics between objects and users or viewers in specific social settings. We will look at the use of early Islamic monuments as stages for religious and political spectacles, at the exchange of portable objects designed as gifts and commodities around the Mediterranean, at the female patronage of religious buildings, among other things.

Instructor: Balafrej

Prerequisites(s): None. ARTH 100 and ARTH 101 recommended.



SPRING 2018 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: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 101

Distribution: None

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

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.

MES 263 – Islam in the Modern World (1.0)

A study of the modern history of the Islamic religion and to interaction with historical forces in shaping developments in Muslim societies from the late eighteenth century to the present.

The course explores the emergence and evolution of religious movements and discourses in the context of the colonial and postcolonial periods, with particular attention to the histories of modern nation-states, such as Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia. Readings encompass a variety of perspectives and address a range of topics, including religious practice, modes of interpretation, matters of governance and the state, economic issues, gender and gender relations, 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 of religion represented in a variety of modern and contemporary contexts.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Cross-Listed as: REL 263

Distribution: REP; HS

ARAB/MES 310 – Resistance and Dissent in North Africa and the Middle East (1.0)

An exploration of themes of resistance and dissent in the literatures and cultures of North Africa and the Middle East since the early 1980s. Topics include the rise of democratic movements, such as political parties, associations, and NGOs; the role and importance of Islam to the identity of contemporary nation-states in the region; the status of women and



minorities in the ideologies of the movements under study; and the status and implications of dissent. Materials studied include works of fiction and nonfiction, films, speeches, song lyrics, and online publications.



Instructor: Aadnani
 Prerequisite: Open to students who have taken at least one course in Middle Eastern Studies, and to juniors and seniors by permission of the instructor.
 Cross-Listed as ARAB 310
 Distribution: LL; SBA

urban environments; cultural heritages and conservation; and colonial and postcolonial interventions in the fabric and forms of urban life.

Instructor: Marlow
 Prerequisite: None
 Distribution: REP, HS

MES 310 is taught in English. Students who wish to take the course for credit in Advanced Arabic should enroll in ARAB 310. For these students, assignments will be in Arabic according to their levels of proficiency, and an additional weekly meeting will be held.

REL 261/365 – Cities of the Islamic World

In what ways have Muslim-majority communities shaped the diverse urban environments in which they have lived? This course examines and critiques the concept of “the Islamic city”. It focuses on the many and varied factors that have contributed to gradual processes of change in selected cities of Western Asia, North Africa, Iran, and Central Asia from late antiquity to the present. Discussion focuses on the distinctive experiences and qualities of particular cities, such as Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Istanbul, Isfahan, Samarqand, Lucknow, and Lahore. Topics include: migration settlement, and the construction of new cities; commerce and conversion; the emergence of “holy cities” as centers for pilgrimage, religious education, and Islamic legal scholarship; sacred space and architecture; religious diversity in

REL 269 – Religion and Culture in Iran

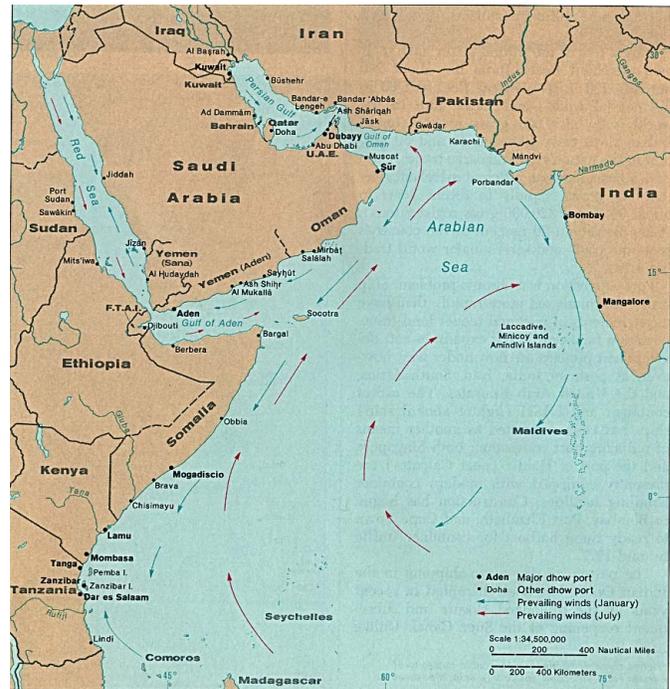
An exploration of the history of Iran and its peoples from antiquity to the present. Topics include cultural and religious life; social and economic developments; government and court policies; the interactions among rural, urban, and nomadic communities; the lives and roles of women; commerce, cultural exchange, and the impact of Iran on European imperial rivalries; the forging of the nation-state, discontent, and dissent; the Islamic Revolution, post-revolutionary Iran; and the Iranian Diaspora.

Instructor: Marlow
 Prerequisite: None
 Distribution: REP, HS

HIST/SAS 266 - Port Cities of the Indian Ocean in Historical Perspective

The history of Indian Ocean port cities situated on the littorals of the Red Sea, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the west coast of India, which together enclose the western Indian Ocean. Time period: from c. 1600 to the present, with special emphasis on the transition to, and impact of British colonial rule. Focus on the local life and contexts of these port cities, as well as their relations across the ocean: the movements and networks of people; products of exchange; technologies, legal and other; religious and political ideas, as well as common health challenges. Port cities to be studied include Zanzibar, Brava, Mombasa, Aden, Jeddah, Kuwait, Bahrein, Dubai, Diu, and Bombay/Mumbai.

Instructor: Kapteijns
Prerequisite: None
Distribution: HS



EVENTS

Middle Eastern Studies
presents

**When the Walls Talk Back:
Art in the Age of Tahrir Square**



A Lecture by
Emily Sibley '06
(& a conversation with the MES/ARAB310 class)

**Founders 120
February 28 @ 3:30**

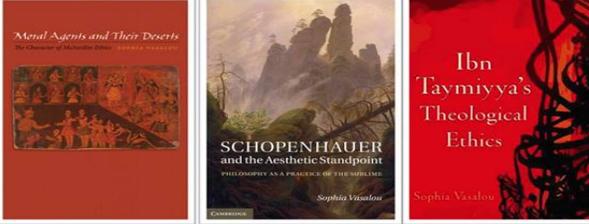
More info | raadnani
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434



Presented by the Religion Department Luce Moore Fund
and the Middle Eastern Studies Program

*Approaching The Virtues In The
Islamic Tradition*

A Lecture by
Sophia Vasalou
University of Birmingham and
Library of Arabic Literature Fellow



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 2017
CLAPP LIBRARY LECTURE ROOM
4:30pm**



Questions: rush@wellesley.edu Expires 11/16/17
Disability accommodations: disabilityservices@wellesley.edu (781) 283-2434

Middle Eastern Studies'
Jay R. Schochet Cultural Event Series

presents

**On Being Arab, Muslim, Woman: Creative Translation
and Dissident Interpretation in Arab Women's Fiction**



Dr. Diya Abdo
Professor of English
Guilford College

**Founder and Director of
Every Campus A Refuge**

**A lecture on April 26 @ 6:30
FND 207**

And an information session about



ECAR EVERY CAMPUS A REFUGE
OUR GLOBAL CALL: EVERY CAMPUS TO HOST ONE REFUGEE FAMILY

**April 27 @ 12:30 FND 120
Light lunch will be served**

More info | raadnani
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434



Middle Eastern Studies'
Jay R. Schochet Cultural Event Series

presents

The Arab Americans

The first feature length PBS documentary tracing the history of Arab Americans
and the rich legacies of Americans who hail from North Africa and the Middle East.



**Film screening & Q&A (followed by reception)
with producer and director Abe Kasbo**

**Collins Cinema
April 17 @ 5:00
Reception 6:30
FND/GNH link room 300**

More info | raadnani
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434





دردشة مع خريجات
برنامج دراسات الشرق الأوسط
A Conversation with an MES Alumna

الفنانة
علياء علي '09

artist
Alia Ali '09

FND 120
Thursday, September 21
5:30 – 6:30

Pastries, coffee & tea
will be served

Insoles - Cast No Evil Series
by Alia Ali
107 cm x 72 cm
Holmenulle Photo Rag 310er - Pigment Print
Textile covered frame
New Orleans, 2016



February 21st 4:00pm
Green Hall 136A

WELLESLEY
W

Disability Accommodations: disabilityservices@wellesley.edu

The Middle Eastern Studies Program
Presents

Mamfakinch:
From Protest Slogan to Mediated
Activism in Morocco

A Lecture by Dr. Annemarie Iddins
Assistant Professor of Communications
At Fairfield University



Disability Accommodations: disabilityservices@wellesley.edu

Exp. 2/22/18

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM TO INCREASE FLUENCY IN ARABIC

ARABIC LANGUAGE CLUSTER

The Arabic Cluster offers Wellesley College students the opportunity to communicate in Arabic and participate in Arabic cultural activities. Each year, Wellesley College hosts a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant from an Arabic-speaking country. The Fulbright FLTA lives with Wellesley College students in the Arabic Cluster and assists in arranging Arabic-related cultural events and programming.

ARABIC TABLE

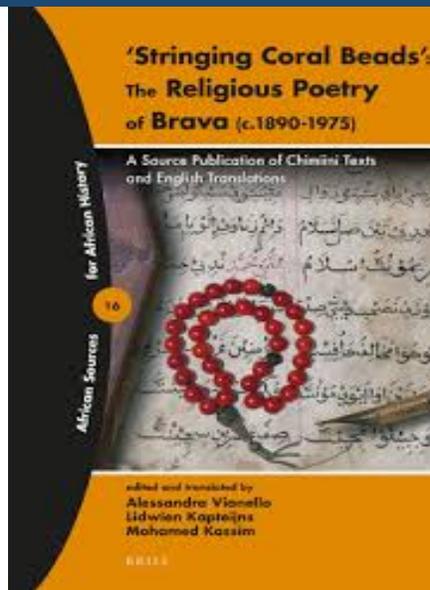
Open to all members of the Wellesley community, Arabic Table provides an opportunity to share a meal with others who speak or are learning to speak Arabic. This semi-weekly gathering is facilitated by the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant each year.



FACULTY NEWS

Lidwien Kapteijns

Apart from teaching her course on the history of the Modern Middle East, Lidwien introduced a new course this year, namely Port Cities of the (western) Indian Ocean from c. 1500 to the present, which encompasses the coasts of the Red Sea, East Africa, Southern Arabia, and the Gulf, as well as the west coast of South Asia. Next year she will introduce a new research seminar titled “Greater Syria from c. 1850 to 1950.” This seminar will deal with the region that today includes Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel-Palestine from the time of the Ottoman Tanzimat (modernization reforms) to the end of European Mandate rule, with an emphasis on cities. As for her research, the source publication of didactic religious poetry of Brava (c. 1890-1975) in the language specific to that town is now in press.



Co-edited with Alessandra Vianello and Mohamed Kassim, it testifies to the Sufi knowledge and devotion of the ulama and common people of the small port city of Brava on what is now the Somali coast south of Mogadishu.

Louise Marlow

As part of a new project focusing on pre-modern translations of Arabic texts into Persian, Louise Marlow presented a paper at the biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies in Tbilisi, Georgia.

www.persianatesocieties.org



Rachid Aadnani

As part of his ongoing research on North African and Middle Eastern vernacular poetry, Rachid Aadnani presented a paper at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies which took place in Seville, Spain.

<http://wocmes2018seville.org>



NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

Jülide Iye '18

Volunteered this past summer in Istanbul as a teacher for Syrian refugee children, creating her own psycho-social curriculum incorporating language learning in the classroom. She is also a 2018 Junior Fellow at the Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, researching Islamic bioethics and reproductive technologies. She was awarded the Davis Projects for Peace grant for this upcoming summer and will be returning to Istanbul to initiate a mobile library of Arabic and Turkish books with the goal of promoting peace and providing a community and learning space for Turkish and Syrian children to come together with access to books.

MES MAJORS

Jülide Iye '18
Jennifer Sjogren '18
Margaret Flynn Sapia '19
Lena Engbretson '19
Janjan Sun '19
Maria Barrera '20
Sophie Call '20
Sophie Hill '20
Kathryn Tyson '20

Lena Engbretson '19

Studied abroad in Amman, Jordan in the fall with CET Academic Programs Abroad where she studied Arabic and interned at Partners-Jordan Center for Civic Collaboration, a non-profit organization committed to advancing civil society in Jordan. While at her internship, she contributed to a report for the Open Government Partnership, a global initiative that aims to promote transparency, accountability, civic empowerment and strengthen governance.

MES MINORS

Nasreen Faris Al-Qadi '18
Emily Bader '18
Margaret Neel '18
Grace Owen '19
Naomi Whitney-Hirschmann '19
Madeleine Allan-Rahill '20
Aliyah Audil '20
Kaige (Nikki) Tong '20

Kathryn Tyson '2

This summer she will be interning in Washington D.C. at the Moroccan News Agency (MAP), an official news agency that covers breaking news on political, economic, and social issues in Morocco and abroad. Kathryn will work side by side with reporters to gather news to be written in French and Arabic for distribution in Morocco and to subscribers of MAP around the world. Her experience at MAP will help prepare Kathryn for her study abroad program this fall in Rabat!

ALUMNAE NEWS

Mary Kenefake '13

(History Major, MES Minor)

Mary moved to London in April to take on the position of Communications Specialist for Europe, Middle East, and Africa with Morningstar, Inc., an investment research firm based in Chicago, where she has worked since 2016. She recently completed a two-year term as Co-VP Of Communications for the Chicago Wellesley Club.

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. In 2017, the Jay R. Schochet Cultural Event Series was established to pay tribute to these gracious benefactors without whose generous support so many of our cultural events would not be possible.