Greetings from the Chair!

I always enjoy writing for the Spring issue of the newsletter because it is here that I get to bring to your attention the many honors and distinctions earned by members of the NES family during the academic year. Here they are:

Assistant Professor Mirjam Künkler, together with her co-investigator Morgan Clarke (Anthropology, Oxford), received an Oxford-Princeton Collaborative Research Grant on “Traditional authority and transnational religious networks in contemporary Shi‘i Islam: Results from recent field research” and, together with Hanna Lerner of Tel Aviv University, was awarded a 250,000 Euro grant for a project on “Religion and Constitutionalism” that will come the 250,000 Euro grant for a project on “Religion and Constitutionalism” that will come.

Among the graduating seniors, Miriam Rosenbaum, a Woodrow Wilson School major who earned a Certificate in Hebrew Language and Culture, won a Rhodes Scholarship; Kevin Donahue (WWS and Certificate in NES) was awarded the Allen Macy Dullens Prize Award; Donahue and Chloe Bordewich (NES) both received Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) fellowships; and Ceymi Doenys (Psychology and Certificate in NES) received a ReachOut fellowship for a community service project in Istanbul, Turkey, and was given the award for the highest GPA in the Princeton Neuroscience certificate graduating class. Two members of the Class of 2013, Sajda Ouachtouki (WWS, pursuing certificates in Near Eastern Studies, Arabic Language and Culture, and Gender and Sexuality Studies) and Mark Stevens (WWS, pursuing certificates in Near Eastern Studies and African Studies) were selected for the Scholars in the Nations Service Initiative program run by the Woodrow Wilson School.

Graduate students were also well represented among the fellowship and grant winners. Lev Weitz was awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2012–13; Daniel A. Stolz, won a Whiting Fellowship for the 2012–13 academic year; Luke Yarbrough was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, for the 2012 fall term; Roza Kfront was named both a Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) Dissertation Writing Fellow and a Religion and Culture Graduate Student Fellow in the Center for the Study of Religion for 2012–13; Usama A. al-Azami received a Donald and Mary Hyde Summer Fellowship for Research Abroad in the Humanities for summer 2012; Nathan Hodson was given a PIIRS grant to do pre-dissertation fieldwork in Saudi Arabia for summer 2012; Alice Gissing received a CASA fellowship; and Maya Petrović (Ph.D. 2012) was awarded a fellowship to participate in Berlin University’s Zukunftsphilologie Winter School in Delhi.

Please join me in congratulating this impressive group of scholars and in celebrating their accomplishments!

M. Şükrü Hanioğlu
Chairman of the Department
Director of the Program in NES

Miriam Rosenbaum
At Oxford she plans to pursue a M.Sc. in public health, specifically in bioethics, focusing on how scarce healthcare funding is allocated "while taking into account expensive, vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and disabled." Following her study in England, Rosenbaum will return to the Woodrow Wilson School to enter the MPA program as part of the Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative (SINSI), a selective program designed "to prepare students for public service and that includes placement in federal employment as a core element." Rosenbaum earlier had been awarded a Jonas Salk Biomedical Ethics Fellowship at the Center for Jewish Life. "The CJL Jonas Salk Biomedical Ethics Fellowship is a selective semester-long forum for in-depth examination of Jewish views on abortion, reproductive technology, organ donation, life support, and the role of prayer in healing. Fellows meet with leading physicians and scholars and study the core Jewish texts that frame these debates." Rosenbaum noted that the “fellowship taught me to further apply Jewish bioethical sources to real-life situations, and I hope to continue using this skill throughout my education at Oxford and later on in my career in health policy."
children with autism so that this project can learn basic skills. I will observe and record their social communication abilities, and ties, lead more independent lives, improve there for a year, and teach the children how have recently started using iPads, and I will start the use of iPads in the only school for schools in the education of autism in the US described the project as follows: “Leading service project in Istanbul, Turkey. Doenyas also received the prize for highest GPA in the Princeton Neuroscience certificate graduating class.

Sajda Ouachtouki ’13

Sajda Ouachtouki, a Woodrow Wilson major and a certificate candidate in Near Eastern Studies, Arabic Language and Culture, and Gender and Sexuality Studies, was selected to be a member of the 2013 cohort of the Scholars in the Nations Service Initiative program run by the Woodrow Wilson School, and she was named the program’s Tom A. and Andrea Bernstein ’80 Scholar. Born in Morocco and a native speaker of Arabic and Berber, Ouachtouki focuses on religion’s ability to inform solutions to women’s human rights violations in the Middle East and North Africa. In previous summers she studied Arabic at Al-Akawayn University in Morocco and interned for the Islam and Civil Society Project at the Witherspoon Institute. This past summer she interned at the American Consulate General in Casablanca, Morocco.

Mark Stevens ’13

Mark Stevens, a Woodrow Wilson School major pursuing certificates in Near Eastern Studies and African Studies, was named a member of the 2013 cohort of the Scholars in the Nations Service Initiative program. SINSI’s Frank C. Carlucci ’52 Scholar, Stevens focuses on conflict resolution and state stabilization, specifically in the Middle East and East Africa, and is studying Arabic. He has been involved in immigration and refugee studies, interviewing migrants in Nicaragua as an intern with the organization Witness for Peace. This past summer he interned at USAID, the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lev Weitz

Lev Weitz, a 5th-year Ph.D. student, has received a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2012–13. His dissertation, "Family, Law, and Society: Syriac Christians in the ‘Abbasid Caliphate,” examines the development of a tradition of marriage law among East Syrian Christians in the intellectual and social context of the medieval Islamic world. His advisor is Michael A. Cook, the Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies. All ACLS fellowships are awarded through a rigorous peer-review process that relies on the voluntary effort of dedicated scholars.

Daniel A. Stolz

Daniel Stolz, a 4th-year Ph.D. student, has been awarded a Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities for the 2012–13 academic year in recognition of his distinguished work in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. His dissertation, “Astronomy and Islamic Authority in Late Ottoman Egypt,” is being advised by M. Qasim Zaman, the Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion. The Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowships in the Humanities, a national program at seven U.S. universities, support the very best scholars among all the humanities departments and are given in recognition of outstanding performance and professional promise.

Luke Yarbrough

Luke Yarbrough, a 6th-year Ph.D. student, was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, for the 2012 fall term. The 2012–13 theme for the interdisciplinary program is "Institutionalization, Innovation, and Conflict in 13th-Century Judaism: A Comparative View.” Yarbrough plans to spend his time producing a full critical edition and translation of a thirteenth-century work that marries political advice to religious polemic. Entitled Tajrid sayf al-dhimma li-istikhrāj mā fī dhimmat al-dhimma (Drawing the sword of ambition to extract what is owed by the dhimmis), it was authored by the bureaucrat and judge 'Uthmān b.
Ibrāhīm al-Nābulusī (d. 1262) to persuade an Ayyubid sultan to dismiss non-Muslim officials. No complete edition has yet been made, nor any section critically edited from the three extant manuscripts. He will also study the work in comparison with similar exclusionary literary productions from other Middle Eastern and Eurasian polities in the same period. Yarbrough has accepted an assistant professorship of Middle East History in the Department of History at Saint Louis University to begin following his fellowship.

Rozaliya Garipova

Rozaliya Garipova, a 5th-year Ph.D. student, was named both a Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) Dissertation Writing Fellow for the 2013 spring semester and a 2012–13 Graduate Student Fellow in the Center for the Study of Religion's Religion and Culture program. Her dissertation, which is being advised by Robert H. Niehaus '77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion M. Qasim Zaman, is on the transformation of religious authority and Islamic law in the Volga-Ural Muslim community of the Russian Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Usaama A. al-Azami

Usaama A. al-Azami, a 3rd-year Ph.D. student, received a Donald and Mary Hyde Summer Fellowship for Research Abroad in the Humanities for summer 2012. The fellowship, established by a generous gift to the university by the Four Oaks Foundation in 1981, is given to students of demonstrated academic merit to provide for travel and maintenance costs connected with research abroad.

Nathan Hodson

Nathan Hodson, a 2nd-year Ph.D. student, was awarded a PIIRS grant to do pre-dissertation fieldwork in Saudi Arabia during summer 2012.

Alice Gissinger

Alice Gissinger, a 1st-year Ph.D. student, received a Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) fellowship for 2012–13.

Maya Petrović

Maya Petrović (Ph.D. 2012) was awarded a fellowship to participate in Berlin University’s Zukunftsfilologie Winter School in Delhi. She will be presenting a paper, “Urfi would throw his Verse into the Fire: The Ottoman Retreat from Persianness,” at the Winter School.

Class Day 2012

On June 4, 2012, the Department of and Program in Near Eastern Studies hosted a Class Day reception in 1915 Hall, Butler College, for graduates and their families. At the event the following awards and honors were presented:

Departmental Honors

Highest Honors: Chloe Bordewich

High Honors: Raphael Balsam and Grace Zhu

Honors: Kerry Brodie, Rivka Cohen, and Katherine Costello

Ertegün Foundation Thesis Prize
(best senior thesis in Ottoman, Turkish, or Turkic Studies):
Katherine Costello: “The Representation of Social Issues in Turkish Television Dramas.”

NES Department Majors and Senior Thesis Titles
Pinchas Balsam, “Translation: The People of the Cave by Tawfiq al-Hakim” (Advisor: Andrew Arsan; Reader: Bernard Haykel).


Kerry Brodie, “The Young and the Restless: Palestinian Israeli Youth Between the First and the Second Intifadas” (Advisor: Daniel Kurtzer; Reader: Cyrus Schayegh).

Rivka Cohen, “Multiculturalism in Meadows of Gold: A Case Study of Intercultural Sentiment during the 10th Century Persian Invasion of Iraq” (Advisor: Bernard Haykel; Reader: Andrew Arsan).


Amina Igeh, “A State in All But Name: The Case for Somaliland’s International Recognition” (Advisor: Anne-Marie Slaughter; Reader: Michael Reynolds).


Grace Zhu, “Muslims in the Communist World: A Comparison Of Uyghur And Bosnian Muslim National Identities” (Advisor: Michael Barry; Reader: M. Şükrü Hanioğlu).

NES Program certificate recipients, departments, and senior thesis or independent work titles
Alexandra Azzolino (Religion), “Beyond the Fast: Perspectives on Ramadan in Morocco.”


Morris Breitbart (Politics), “Discounting Distance: The Effect of Military Technology on the Relationship Between Distance and Interstate Conflict.”


Bassam Chain (Politics), “War of Others on Our Land: Effect of Foreign Intervention in Civil Wars: Lebanon and Angola.”

Mika Devonshire (Comparative Literature), “Nuclear Terrorism as Depicted in International Film: Celluloid Protection Against WMD.”

Ceymi Doenyas (Psychology), “Analysis of the Earliest Discourses on Freud and Psychoanalysis during the Final Years of the Ottoman Empire and the First Years of the Turkish Republic.”


Program in Near Eastern Studies Senior Thesis Prize:

F.O. Kelsey Prize for best second term junior paper:
Thomas Ledford: “Politics and Style: Translation and Discussion of Two Turkish Short Stories.”

Erli Kalmbach ’09 Memorial Fund award for travel and research at the undergraduate level to Turkey/Turkic Lands:
To be shared: Thomas Ledford (NES ’13), Katherine Costello (NES ’12), and Michael Gibbs (WWS ’12)
Diane French (Politics), “Collateral Damage: The Effect of Iraqi Civilian Casualties on Homegrown Terrorism in the West.”

Jonathan Glatt (Chemistry), “Using Historical and Contemporary Trends to Chart the Course of Pan-Arabism in the Arab Spring.”

Paula Kift (French and Italian), “Germany, France, and the Other: Explaining Public Opposition to Turkey’s EU Membership.”

Daniel Kowalski (Politics), “Democratic Representation in Post Industrial America: The Case of Muslim Americans.”

Joshua Levine (Woodrow Wilson School), “Understanding the Content and Significance of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s Inspire Magazine.”


Kelly Roache (Woodrow Wilson School), “Rethinking Reconciliation: A Critical Assessment of Negotiation with the Taliban.”


Samuel Scott (Politics), “Turkey’s Kurdish Question In Western Diplomacy.”

Lauren Shanley (History), “Zealful Parties of God: An Analysis of the Trends Between the Hezbollah and Hamas Movements and Their Political Success.”

Alexander Simon (Politics), “Boycotts, Bombs, and Back Again: Armed and Unarmed Palestinian Resistance since the First Intifada.”


NES Certificate in Language and Culture Recipients and Departments:

Certificate in Arabic Language and Culture
Pinchas Balsam (Near Eastern Studies)
Chloe Borodewich (Near Eastern Studies)
Rivka Cohen (Near Eastern Studies)
Alya Forster (French and Italian)
Kelly Roache (Woodrow Wilson School)
Erica Zendell (Comparative Literature)

Certificate in Hebrew Language and Culture
Nathaniel Gardenswartz (Economics)
William Herlands (Electrical Engineering)
Miriam Rosenbaum (Woodrow Wilson School)

Certificate in Persian Language and Culture
Kelly Roache (Woodrow Wilson School)

Faculty News
Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs, Chair-
man of the Near Eastern Studies Depart-
ment, and Director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies M. Şükrü Hanioğlu was elected a permanent member of the Turk-
ish Academy of Sciences.

Mirjam Künkler received together with her colleague Morgan Clarke at the University of Oxford one of the Princeton/Oxford Collaborative Research Grants for a project on “Traditional authority and transnational religious networks in contemporary Shi’ism: Results from recent field research.” In the context of the project, the two PIs will convene several events on religious authority in contemporary Shi’ism at Oxford and Princeton between January 2013 and June 2014, starting with a workshop to be held at Oxford this winter. Künkler and Clarke hope the events will highlight fresh empirical research on the status of the marja’iyya and religious authority in contemporary Shi’ism and be of interest to students of religious authority more generally. NES post-doc Elvire Corboz and NES Ph.D. student Simon Fuchs will be two regular participants in the collaborative project.

Künkler also received together with her colleague Hanna Lerner from Tel Aviv University a 250.000 Euro grant for a project on “Religion and Constitutionalism” that will compare how religion has been conceptualized in various constitutional drafting processes in Asia and the Middle East. The project will commence in fall 2013 and bring together a group of 15 country experts from the disciplines of history, political science, law, and area studies.

Erika H. Gilson was the invited speaker at a workshop held at Portland State University, organized by the Western Consortium of Title VI National Language Centers’ as their “Spring 2012 Workshop on Content-Based Language Instruction.” In her presentation, “Content-Based Instruction in Turkish: Opportunities and Concerns,” Gilson reviewed historically what content-based meant in the field, successes and failures, before discussing the Turkish case, including current practices at American institutions as well as new promising venues on the horizon.

Gilson again was part of the Princeton Global Seminar in Istanbul, June 9–July 21, 2012, which spent the first week in Bucharest, Romania. 15 Princeton students and 3 Kadir Has University students participated.

Bernard Haykel and Amaney Jamal (Associate Professor of Politics and member of the Interdepartmental Committee of the Program in Near Eastern Studies) were discussants at the Cyril Black International Book Forum featuring Steven A. Cook, author of The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square held February 28, 2012.

H. Akun Ünver, Visiting Ertegün Lecturer of Near Eastern Studies, has been a frequent commentator and author on Turkey and international relations. On February 24, 2012, he spoke on “The EU and Turkish Foreign Policy: Regional Security Complex Theory” for The Program in Contemporary European Politics and Society. His article, “U.S. Foreign Policy and the Arab Spring,” appeared in Political Reflections Magazine 3, no. 2 (2012). He also appeared on the April 4, 2012, edition of Al-Jazeera’s Inside Story. To see the video of the program or to read a summary click here.

A Festschrift honoring Emeritus Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East Avram Uдовitch was published by Brill in 2010. Edited by former students Roxani Eleni Margariti (Ph.D. 2002), Adam Sabra (M.A. 1994, Ph.D. 1998), and Petra M. Sippesteijn (Ph.D. 2004) and with an “Introduction” by current Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East Mark Cohen, Histories of the

Recent Faculty Books


“Indonesian Islam is often portrayed as being intrinsically moderate by virtue of the role that mystical Sufism played in shaping its traditions. According to Western observers—from Dutch colonial administrators and orientalist scholars to modern anthropologists such as the late Clifford Geertz—Indonesia’s peaceful interpretation of Islam has been perpetually under threat from outside by more violent, intolerant Islamic traditions that were originally imposed by conquering Arab armies.

The Makings of Indonesian Islam challenges this widely accepted narrative, offering a more balanced assessment of the intellectual and cultural history of the most populous Muslim nation on Earth. Michael Laffan traces how the popular image of Indonesian Islam was shaped by encounters between colonial Dutch scholars and reformist Islamic thinkers. He shows how Dutch religious preoccupations sometimes echoed Muslim concerns about the relationship between faith and the state, and how Dutch-Islamic discourse throughout the long centuries of European colonialism helped give rise to Indonesia’s distinctive national and religious culture.

The Makings of Indonesian Islam presents Islamic and colonial history as an integrated whole, revealing the ways our understanding of Indonesian Islam, both past and present, came to be.”


This biography examines “the life and career of one of the most interesting late 15th and early 16th century Ottoman statesmen, an individual who began life as Prince Stjepan Vukči-Kosača of Hercegovina and ended his career as the five-time Ottoman Vezir-i Âzam (Grand Vezir) Hersekzâde Ahmed Paşa.”


This work “represents a preliminary attempt to focus attention on one important overlooked aspect of the past, namely, the architectural remains on Limnos which are linkable to the presence of the charismatic 17th century Muslim mystic and poet Niyāzī Mısır, who was twice banished to Limnos for heretical views (1677–1692 & 1693–1694), and, indeed, died and was buried on the island on March 16, 1694.”


“Long portrayed in the west, and throughout the Arab world, as an Albanian soldier who emerged from obscurity to become the founder of the modern Egyptian state, Mehmed Ali Paşa (aka: Muhammad Ali Pasha) was in fact an Ottoman Turk from his birth in the Macedonian port of Kavala (1770–1771) until his death in Alexandria, Egypt (1849).”


Streit’s account of the “nascent Turkish nationalist movement during the opening months of 1921” illuminates a particularly obscure period in the creation of the Turkish republic.


The volume is an annotated edition of a 9th/15th century literary anthology of poetry on the love for the House of Prophet Muhammad in pre-Safavid Persian literature.
Undergraduate News

Raphael Balsam ’12 won the Robert & Lynne Fagles Senior Thesis Prize for 2012 awarded by the Comparative Literature for the best senior thesis in Comparative Literature in translation or creative writing.

Kalmbach ’09 Prize Winners’ Plans

Thomas Ledford ’13 will use his Eliot Kalmbach ’09 Memorial Fund prize money to travel to Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey this summer for research; Kate Costello ’12, awarded a "recognition prize for outstanding performance and future promise," will be perfecting her Turkish as a Critical Language Scholar in Izmir; and Michael Gibbs ’12 (WWS), also awarded a "recognition prize for outstanding performance and future promise," hopes to be in the Foreign Service. Gibbs came to study Turkish after having to interrupt his semester abroad in Istanbul. Harris 23, to complete their Wilson School Task Force at the American University in Cairo. On Tuesday, the first protests of the Arab Spring in Egypt began in Tahrir Square within sight of their apartment balcony. A year later, they met with Daily Princetonian writer Caleb Kennedy to share their experiences. To read this article, "1 year later, reflections on Arab Spring," please click on the following link: http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/02/17/29992/.

Oren Samet-Marram ’12 (WWS and Certificate in NES recipient) directed a film documentary, “Out of the Mellah,” about the Jewish community of Morocco as it confronts the challenges of a shrinking population and an uncertain future. “I am interested in how Jewish diaspora communities around the world sustain themselves in the face of emigration and assimilation,” explains Samet-Marram. “I was drawn to Morocco, which was once home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the Middle East and North Africa.” The documentary, which was screened on several dates in May 2012, was the culminating project towards the film/video track certificate in the Program in Visual Arts. To read more about the project, please click on the following link: http://www.princeton.edu/arts/arts_at_princeton/film/about_the_program/screenings/student-films/.

Final Public Oral Examinations

Six FPOs (four Ph.D. and two M.A.) were held during the spring semester 2012.


Nevzat Uyanık defended his doctoral dissertation, “The Land of the Foreign Padisah: India in Ottoman Reality and Imagination,” on May 24, 2012. Her advisor was M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, and the examiners were Gyan Prakash and Michael F. Laffan (both History).

Maya Petrović followed her FPO with Director of Graduate Studies Michael A. Cook and examiners Gyan Prakash, M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, and Michael F. Laffan

Maya Petrović following her FPO with Director of Graduate Studies Michael A. Cook and examiners Gyan Prakash, M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, and Michael F. Laffan

Rivka Cohen ’12, a member of Raks Odalisque, Princeton’s belly-dance troupe, co-authored a Daily Princetonian article, “Sexual Slur?,” that discusses the role and interpretation of sexual gestures and comments during dance competitions and performances. To read the article click on the following link: http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/05/03/30870/.

Tal Eisenzweig ’12 (WWS and Certificate in NES recipient), Michael Gibbs ’12 (WWS and Kalmbach ’09 Prize Winner), Kelly Roache ’12 (WWS and Certificate in NES recipient), and Oren Samet-Marram ’12 (WWS and Certificate in NES recipient) arrived in Cairo on Sunday, January 23, to complete their Wilson School Task Force at the American University in Cairo. On Tuesday, the first protests of the Arab Spring in Egypt began in Tahrir Square within sight of their apartment balcony. A year later, they met with Daily Princetonian writer Caleb Kennedy to share their experiences. To read this article, "1 year later, reflections on Arab Spring," please click on the following link: http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/02/17/29992/.

Deniz Kilınçoğlu following his FPO with examiners Michael A. Cook, Michael A. Reynolds, and M. Şükrü Hanioğlu

Deniz Kilınçoğlu following his FPO with examiners Michael A. Cook, Michael A. Reynolds, and M. Şükrü Hanioğlu and Lecturer in Turkish Erika H. Gilson

Nevzat Uyanık following his FPO with examiners Michael A. Cook, Michael A. Reynolds, and M. Şükrü Hanioğlu and Lecturer in Turkish Erika Gilson

Final Public Oral Examinations

Six FPOs (four Ph.D. and two M.A.) were held during the spring semester 2012.

Bella Tendler defended her doctoral dissertation, “Concealment and Revelation: A Study of Secrecy and Initiation Among the Nusayri-alawis of Syria,” on May 31, 2012. Michael A. Cook was her advisor, and Patricia Crone (NES and Institute for Advanced Study) and Anne Marie Luijendijk (Religion) were the examiners.


Kevin K. Bell defended his M.A. thesis, “Yunis Khalis: The Tension between the Historiography and the Primary Sources,” on May 8, 2012. His adviser was M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, and the second reader was Michael A. Reynolds.

Graduate Student News

Alexander Balistreri spoke on the nature of political opposition in the first years of the Turkish Republic (“Zeki Bey’s Adventures in the Turkish Parliament”) at the April 2, 2012, Brown Bag Lunch.


Benjamin Buchholz, an M.A. student in the Program in Near Eastern Studies, published his first novel, One Hundred and One Nights, with Back Bay Books.


Deniz Kilincoglu accepted a job at the Middle East Technical University-Northern Cyprus Campus in Morphou, Cyprus. He is teaching courses on world economic history and Ottoman history. Kilincoglu held a 2011–12 Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Graduate Fellowship (PIIRS), an award which provides dissertation completion support, and discussed his research at the Graduate Fellows Lunch Seminar. Fellow NES graduate student and PIIRS Fellow Luke Yarbrough served as the discussant.


Marglin also presented a paper, “The Creation of the Ministry of Complaints in Morocco: Jews and Legal Reform in the Late Nineteenth Century,” at Ben-Gurion University’s 16th Annual International Workshop of the Department of Middle East Studies. Other Princeton-connected participants were Brown University’s Endgin Deniz Akarlı (M.A. 1973, Ph.D. 1976), who both spoke on the “Transition to the Modern Era: An Overview” on “The Legal System and its Conceptualizations” panel and served as a discussant on the “Moving People, Moving Law” panel; Tel-Aviv University’s 16th Annual International Workshop of the Department of Middle East Studies. Other Princeton-connected participants were Brown University’s Ehud Toledano (M.A. 1977, Ph.D. 1979), who served as a discussant on “The Legal System and its Conceptualizations” panel; Ben-Gurion University’s Nimrod Hurvitz (Ph.D. 1994), who chaired the “Moving People, Moving Law” panel; and Ben-Gurion University’s Dror Ze’evi (visiting fellow), who served as a discussant on the “Contested Power and Authority” panel.

Nadav Samin completed his fourth year of graduate work in the department in June 2012. With his dissertation, Samin is
investigating the emergence of a dynamic genealogical discourse in modern Saudi Arabia and the implications of genealogical disputation for the kingdom’s social fabric and political stability. Samin’s dissertation draws on previously unexamined sources from private libraries gathered during his fieldwork in Saudi Arabia, as well as over 100 interviews with Saudi citizens throughout the kingdom. His dissertation fieldwork was supported by short-term grants from Princeton’s Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies (CACPS) and the Project on Middle East Political Science, among other institutions. In April of 2012, the journal *Arab Media & Society* published a paper by Samin titled “Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Social Media Moment.” For this paper, Samin drew upon his fieldwork in Saudi Arabia as well as a decade of research into media culture in the Middle East to offer a note of skepticism about social media’s potency as a revolutionary force. Also forthcoming is a paper in the *Journal of Arabian Studies* titled “Contemporary Saudi Debates over Lineal Compatibility in Marriage (kafa’ā fi-l-nasab).”

On April 25, 2012, Samin gave a talk titled “Our Ancestors, Our Heroes: Saudi Tribal Campaigns to Suppress Historical Docudramas” at a CACPS Luncheon.

Dan Stolz and Lev Weitz were recipients of Center for the Study of Religion graduate student research awards in the Religion and Culture program. As part of the program, Stolz gave presentations in the program workshop on “Traditionalism and the Continuity of Islamic Astronomy in 19th-Century Egypt” and “Merit and Truth: Merging Astronomical Traditions in Late Ottoman Egypt,” and Weitz gave presentations on “Breaking the Bond: Divorce in the East Syrian Law Books” and “Kinship, Law, and Exegetical Tradition, or, Why Can’t an East Syrian Marry Her Cousin?” Both Stolz and Weitz also served as discussants for other presentations.

Bella Tendler accepted a two-year position as Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Yeshiva University.

David Weil was awarded an 8-week Critical Language Scholarship in Turkish for summer study in Bursa. Weil writes that during his time in Turkey, he “did get a brief opportunity to connect with my family in Izmir, and, in true Turkish fashion, I went to the city archives to discover they were closed, but after explaining my journey of filial piety to visit the city of my grandfather and my great woe at being turned away from the records of his father [a mayor of Izmir], a security guard [did] let me in and give me an impromptu tour of the building. At the end of the day, I did familiarize myself with the archives there and collected additional stories from my cousins.” He was also able to start reading for generals.


Yarbrough spent the year as a Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Graduate Fellow (PIIRS), an award which provides dissertation completion support, and presented his research, “Islamizing the Early Islamic State,” at the Graduate Fellows Lunch Seminar. Fellow NES graduate student and PIIRS Fellow Deniz Kılıçoğlu served as the discussant.

Four NES students, Zachary Foster, Eric Lob, Katie Manbachi, and Alexandra Buckey, received Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for summer 2012 intensive language study. Two other students, Nathan Hodson and Simon Fuchs, received NES Program funding for research and/or language study.

**Alumni News**

Peter Poullada ’75 (NES BA, Program Certificate in Near Eastern Studies) gave a talk titled “This is Not a Yurt: Central Asian Tribal Tents, Trappings and Wedding Ceremonies” sponsored by the Central Eurasian and Middle Eastern Studies Society, The College of New Jersey, on March 20, 2012. The talk presented “the results of several years of research into the structural and aesthetic differences between the domed, felt-covered tribal tents of Central Asia and their connections to the wedding ceremonies of the tribal nomadic peoples.” Poullada, an independent scholar, specializes “in the tribal ethno-history of Central Asia with particular reference to the Turkmen and to the use of their weavings to illuminate the cultural and historical traditions of the region” and has published in *HALI: The International Journal of Oriental Carpets and Textiles and Asian Affairs*.

Louise Marlow (M.A. 1984, Ph.D. 1987), Professor of Religion and Program Director for Middle Eastern Studies, Wellesley College, was a member of the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, during the second term of the 2011–2012 academic year. Her edited volume, *The Rhetoric of Biography: Narrating Lives in Persianate Societies*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2011.

“In the context of a growing scholarly literature devoted to the topics of biography and autobiography, especially in the Arabic literary tradition, the essays in this volume explore the forms and meanings of these genres with particular reference to Persian writings, as well as to writings in Arabic and Turkish that were also composed in Persianate societies. The authors address, among other topics, biographies and autobiographies of women; biographies of specific occupational groups, such as poets; the relation of traditional "lives of poets" to the reception of their literary works; intertextuality across biographical and autobiographical writings and across languages; and the processes involved in translating written biographies for the contemporary television screen. Readers are invited to glimpse the lives of figures from the past and to appreciate the historical, cultural, and literary contexts that shaped their biographical and autobiographical narratives, and to reflect on the continuing significance of these narratives into the modern era.”

William Diehl (MA ’89) writes: “After returning from my fifth tour of duty in Turkey I retired from the Army in 1998 and spent 12 years as a contractor serving as a senior military analyst to the US Army Training and Doctrine Command at Ft. Monroe, VA. In September 2009 my position was ‘civilianized’ and I became a Department of the Army civilian doing the same thing I did as a contractor. My wife Beth retired as the Director of a Pre-Kindergarten and then moved into a mentor and rater role. Both of our kids are out of college now and our
son is married and living in Pittsburgh, PA. The only news of relevance I have is running. In 2010 my family together (all five of us) completed the Shamrock 8k race on 20 March and the following day my son and completing the Shamrock 8k race Marathon with me. Last year both Beth and I finished the Shamrock Half Marathon. During October 2011 my kids, my niece and I ran the Virginia Tough Mudder at the ski resort in Wintergreen, VA.”

Dr. Akel Ismail Kahera (Ph.D. 1996), formerly Associate Professor of Architecture and Community Development, School of Architecture, and Director, Texas Institute for the Preservation of History & Culture, Prairie View A&M University, has been appointed Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in Clemson University’s College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. His most recent book, Reading the Islamic City: Discursive Practices and Legal Judgment (Lexington Books, 2012), “offers insights into the implications the practices of the Maliki school of Islamic law have for the inhabitants of the Islamic city, the madinah. The problematic term madinah fundamentally indicates a phenomenon of building, dwelling, and urban settlement patterns that evolved after the 7th century CE in the Maghrib (North Africa) and al-Andalusia (Spain). Madinah involves multiple contexts that have socio-religious functions and symbolic connotations related to the faith and practice of Islam, and can be viewed in terms of a number of critiques such as everyday lives, boundaries, utopias, and dystopias. The book considers Foucault’s power/knowledge matrix as it applies to an erudite cadre of scholars and legal judgments in the realm of architecture and urbanism. It acknowledges the specificity of power/knowledge insofar as it provides a dominant framework to tackle property rights, custom, noise, privacy, and a host of other subjects. Scholars of urban studies, religion, history, and geography will greatly benefit from this vivid analysis of the relevance of the juridico-discursive practice of Maliki Law in a set of productive or formative discourses in the Islamic city.”

Arnold Franklin (M.A. 1996, Ph.D. 2001) has published This Noble House: Jewish Descendants of King David in the Medieval Islamic East with the University of Pennsylvania Press (2012). “This Noble House explores the preoccupation with biblical genealogy that emerged among Jews in the Islamic Near East between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries. Arnold Franklin looks to Jewish society’s fascination with Davidic ancestry, examining the profusion of claims to the lineage that had already begun to appear by the year 1000, the attempts to chart the validity of such claims through elaborate genealogical lists, and the range of meanings that came to be ascribed to the House of David in this period. Jews and Muslims shared the perception that the Davidic line and the noble family of the Prophet Muhammad were counterparts to one another, but captivation with Davidic lineage was just one face of a much broader Jewish concern with biblical ancestry.”

Yossef Rapoport (Ph.D. 2002), senior lecturer in the School of History at Queen Mary University of London, has been named the Principal Investigator of the “Rural society in Medieval Islam: ‘History of the Fayyum’ project.” “The project aims to make a major contribution to the knowledge and understanding of pre-modern rural societies in the Islamic world. It offers a translation and study of the ‘History of the Fayyum,’ a unique and unparalleled tax register from a 13th-century Egyptian province, and the most detailed tax survey to have survived from any region of the medieval Islamic world.” The project Web site may be viewed at: http://www.history.qmul.ac.uk/ruralsocietyislam/.

Rapoport and Shahab Ahmed (Ph.D. 1999), who is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, holding a joint appointment between the Committee on the Study of Religion and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, edited a volume on Ibn Taymiyya and His Times (Oxford University Press, 2010), a collection of articles based upon a conference with the same name that they organized at Princeton on April 8–10, 2005. Ibn Taymiyya and His Times treats in depth “Taqi al-Din Ibn Taymiyya (1263–1328), one of the most controversial thinkers in Islamic religious history, who was repeatedly imprisoned during his lifetime. Today, he is revered by the Wahhabi movement and championed by Salafi groups who call for a return to the pristine golden age of the Prophet. His writings have also been used by radical groups, such as al-Qaeda, to justify acts of terrorism and armed struggle. In order to explain this modern influence, this volume offers a fresh perspective on Ibn Taymiyya’s life, thought and legacy. The articles in this volume, written by leading authorities in the field, study Ibn Taymiyya’s highly original contributions to Islamic theology, law, Qur’anic exegesis and political thought. Contrary to his current image as an anti-rationalist puritan, this volume shows Ibn Taymiyya to be one of the most intellectually rigorous, complex and interesting figures in Islamic intellectual history. This is the first comprehensive academic treatise of Ibn Taymiyya to appear in a Western language in over half a century. It is of major importance to scholars of Islamic intellectual history, as well as to the students of modern Islamic movements and ideologies.” Mona Hassan (Ph.D. 2009) contributed an article to the volume.

Kristina Richardson (History ’03, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies), Assistant Professor of History, Queens College, The City University of New York, has been awarded a two-year (2012–14) postdoctoral fellowship under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer at the University of Münster’s Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies. Her project is on blue and green eyes in classical Arabic literature.

Asad Ahmed (M.A. 2003, Ph.D. 2007) joined the Department of Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, as an Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Mustafa Aksakal (Ph.D. 2003), Associate Professor of History and Edmund A. Walsh
School of Foreign Service, Georgetown, received a $123,500 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a summer institute for college and university professors during the summer of 2012. The four-week seminar, "World War I in the Middle East," introduced NEH Summer Scholars to the newest trends in research of the war's causes, progress, and outcomes, with a focus on the lived experiences of Middle Eastern peoples themselves and the potential linkages to neighboring regions of Southeast Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and northern Africa. The broad themes covered were "The Ottoman Path to War before 1914," "The War Years: Strategic Choices, Mass Suffering, and Survival," "Post-war Trauma and the Creation of New Nations," and "The Paris Peace Settlement & War Memory in Comparative Perspective." NES Professor M. Siikru Hanoigli was a guest speaker in the seminar. For more information about the seminar and its research projects, click on: https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/world-war-i-in-the-middle-east/.

Aksakal was a member of the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, during the second term of the 2011–2012 academic year, and he published an article, "The Trained Triumphant Soldiers of the Prophet Muhammad: Holy War and Holy Peace in Modern Ottoman History," in Just Wars, Holy Wars, and Jihads: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Encounters and Exchanges, edited by Sohail H. Hashmi (Oxford University Press, 2012: 283–304).

Christine Philliou (NES MA 1998, History Ph.D. 2004), associate professor of History at Columbia, spent the spring semester 2012 as a fellow at Princeton's Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies. Her topic was "Authority Displaced: Ottoman Intellect in a Modern World." As part of the fellowship, she presented a paper titled "Between the Agony of Defeat and the Thrill of Victory: Ottoman Authority Displaced, 1918–1923" on April 6.

Asma Sayeed '91 (Politics BA, Program Certificate in NES, NES Ph. D. 2005) accepted a job at UCLA, where she is assistant professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her book, Women and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge in Islam (Cambridge University Press), is due out in April 2013 and analyses Muslim women's religious education, specifically their transmission of hadith from the rise of Islam to the early Ottoman period.


Mona F. Hassan (Ph.D. 2009), an assistant professor of Religion and History at Duke University, was awarded an ACLS Fellowship for her project, "Longing for the Lost Caliphate: Religious Imaginaries of State and Community among Premodern and Modern Muslims," which "explores Muslim engagement and entanglement with the notion of an Islamic caliphate following two poignant moments of symbolic loss, the Mongol destruction of the Abbasid caliphate in 1258 and the Turkish nationalist abdication of the Ottoman caliphate in 1924, in comparative perspective. It examines what Muslims across Afro-Eurasia imagined to be lost with the disappearance of the Abbasid and Ottoman caliphalates and how they attempted to recapture that perceived loss, and in doing so redefined the caliphate for their times, under shifting circumstances. Vivid collective memories of the caliphate created a shared sense of community among disparate peoples at the same time as they gave rise to differing and competing visions of the community's past, present, and future."

Amy Motlagh (Ph.D. 2009)'s book, Burying the Beloved: Marriage, Realism, and Reform in Modern Iran, has been published by Stanford University Press (2011). "Burying the Beloved traces the relationship between the law and literature in Iran to reveal the profound ambiguities at the heart of Iranian ideas of modernity regarding women's rights and social status. The book reveals how novels mediate legal reforms and examines how authors have used realism to challenge and re-imagine notions of 'the real.' It examines seminal works that foreground acute anxieties about female subjectivity in an Iran negotiating its modernity from the Constitutional Revolution of 1905 up to and beyond the Islamic Revolution of 1979. By focusing on marriage as the central metaphor through which both law and fiction read gender, Motlagh critically engages and highlights the difficulties that arise as gender norms and laws change over time. She examines the recurrent foregrounding of marriage at five critical periods of legal reform, documenting how texts were understood both at first publication and as their importance changed over time." Motlagh is Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at The American University in Cairo.

Intisar A. Rabb (Ph.D. 2009) left Boston College in July 2012 and joined New York University in a joint position as an association professor at NYU Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department and NYU School of Law. She was a 2011–12 fellow at The Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University where "she is working with a team to develop islammix, a project aimed at connecting news readers, media producers, and legal scholars with credible, authoritative information about trends in Islamic law."

Suleika Jaouad ‘10 writes: "This Monday (April 2 [2012]), I will be entering Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to begin the bone marrow transplant process. I will be in the hospital for approximately 45 days. During the first 10 days I will undergo intensive chemotherapy and/or total body irradiation, before receiving my brother's bone marrow. Although I’m feeling scared for this next chapter in my treatment, I feel incredibly grateful to have my brother as a donor and to have the option of a cure. I would also like to thank Dr. Lewis Silverman, Shymala Navada, and James F. Holland—my brilliant team of doctors at Mount Sinai Hospital.

On a more positive note, my weekly column "Life, Interrupted" has launched today on the New York Times Website. It will be out in print in the Tuesday science section as well. A video series about my experiences produced by NYT's Shayla Harris with also launch on Tuesday. I will be updating
my blog, www.secretsofcancerhood.com, regularly in the coming weeks.”

Amr Osman (Ph.D. 2010) joined the faculty of Qatar University, where he is an assistant professor of Islamic history in the Department of Humanities.

Following graduation from Princeton, Brittney Scott ’11 joined Teach for America and in 2011–12 taught 6th-grade math at the Panorama Middle School in Colorado Springs. She utilized her NES degree in running a “School-2-School” program with the Queen Noor School in Amman, Jordan, in which her students learned about Jordan and raised funds to purchase a Smartboard for their sister school. To learn more about this program and its effect on her students, please click on the following link: http://www.princeton.edu/nes/news/archive/?id=7160. In 2012–13, Scott is teaching math to 11th-graders in Sierra High School, also in Colorado Springs, and is continuing the “School-2-School” program.


Joseph Witztum (Ph.D. 2011) was named a Mandel Scholar at the Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. “The Mandel Scholars program offers two teaching and research fellowships per annum to young, outstanding PhDs in the Humanities. The positions are filled by researchers from Israel and abroad who have recently received their doctorates after having demonstrated exceptional abilities, conducted distinctive and extraor-
dinary research in fields relating to Jewish Studies, and whose research interests and expertise can enrich the academic and cultural discourse.”

Alumni News Request
The Near Eastern Studies Newsletter is interested in printing news from NES alumni. Items may include, but not be limited to, honors received, announcements of publications, new jobs, etc. Please send such information to the newsletter editor, Bill Blair, at blairw@princeton.edu.

Events
34th Annual Carolyn L. Drucker Memorial Lecture
The Carolyn L. Drucker Memorial Lecture was endowed in memory of Carolyn Louise Drucker, a member of the Class of 1980 who died in 1978. Drucker was studying Hebrew and shared her family’s interest in Jewish studies and Jewish affairs. This year’s lecture, “Jews into Israelis: Zionism as a Revolutionary Project,” was presented by Derek J. Penslar on April 17, 2012.

Penslar is the Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish History at the University of Toronto and is an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the American Academy for Jewish Research. He is the author or editor of ten books, including Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective (2006) and The Origins of Israel, 1882–1948: A Documentary History (with Eran Kaplan, 2011). Penslar has just completed a book, under contract to Princeton University Press, titled Uniform Identities: Jews, War and the Military in Modern History. Penslar is co-editor of two scholarly journals, The Journal of Israeli History and Jewish Social Studies. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard and Columbia, and next fall he will assume the Stanley Lewis Chair in Israel Studies at Oxford.

Advisory Council Visits
The department’s Advisory Council spent two days on April 19–20, 2012, meeting with students and faculty before preparing a report on their findings and recommendations.

Sophomore Open House
On April 10, 2012, NES held its annual Sophomore Open House for prospective concentrators. At the lunch meeting, Departmental Representative Michael A. Reynolds spoke about the requirements and benefits of majoring in NES, as well as the opportunities for pursuing a certificate in NES or one in language and culture, to an audience of fifteen students, faculty, and staff members.

Graduate Applicant Visit
Fifteen prospective Ph.D. and M.A. candidates visited Near Eastern Studies on February 24–25, 2012, for a series of faculty interviews and language testing on Friday, and a full day of presentations by the applicants on Saturday. Filling out the time...
experience, has resulted in a greater percentage of accepted graduate applicants attending Princeton, making all the intense effort involved worthwhile.

**Brown Bag Lunch Series**

**5-Day Intensive Course on Islamic Numismatics**
Over the 2012 spring break (March 19–23), sixteen participants gathered each day in Firestone Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections Department to study Islamic coins under the guidance of Professor Stefan Heidemann, who holds the chair of Islamic History at the University of Hamburg.

The course, “Islamic coins as a source for political, urban, legal, and economic history: a numismatic workshop,” utilized the library’s collection of Islamic coins uncovered during the Princeton-led excavations at Antioch, Syria, in the 1930s, emphasized the value of this collection for archaeologists and historians, and prepared students to participate in the cataloging and study of the Islamic coins in this collection. In addition, the participants were able to visit a state-of-the-art lab made available by the Chemistry Department to observe the right and wrong ways to use chemicals and scalpels to clean coins.

Heidemann, the course’s instructor, is a distinguished expert on Islamic history, numismatics, and archaeology and, as much of his research lies at the intersection of these three fields, he was an ideal teacher for graduates aiming to become historians capable of using numismatic evidence to answer historical questions, rather than numismatists who study coins in and for themselves.

Eleven of the sixteen participants were graduate students: three from Princeton (one each from the departments of Near Eastern Studies, History, and English), three from Chicago, two from Michigan, and one each from Penn, UC Berkeley, and Leiden. In addition, there were a junior faculty member from London, a postdoctoral fellow from the Bard Graduate Center, two research fellows (one from Columbia and the other from Oxford), and a collector from Maryland.

As with previous 5-day intensive courses, funding came from the David A. Gardner 69 Magic Project, and the course was organized and administered by Michael A. Cook, the Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies.

**Princeton University Middle Eastern Studies Seminar**
Launched in Fall 2009, the Princeton University Middle Eastern Studies Seminar provides scholars of the Middle East from across various university departments with a platform for exchanging ideas across disciplinary boundaries. Participants come from the departments of anthropology, art history, comparative literature, history, Near Eastern Studies, politics, sociology, religion, and the Woodrow Wilson School; to make this seminar as inclusive as possible, areas covered include the Middle East and North Africa as well as other Islamic communities and countries. The seminar meets three to four times a semester. PU professors and post-doctoral researchers present a paper; discussion is open to PU graduate and undergraduate students who specialize in the Middle East as well as to the PU community in general and the public. This spring there have been presentations by Niehaus Center for Globalization & Governance postdoctoral fellow Hoda Youssef, “Fiscal policy manipulation in non-democratic regimes—The case of Egypt”; Anthropology Professor John Bornemann, “Daydreaming, Intimacy, and the Intersubjective Third in Fieldwork Encounters in Syria”; and NES postdoctoral fellow Elvire Corboz, “An Ayatollah in Exile: The Transnational History of Khomeini’s Islamic Revolutionary Movement.”

**Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium**
The Islamic Studies Colloquium at Princeton (PISC) is a monthly forum for discussion and peer review of graduate students’ research projects and guest scholars’ work-in-progress in the field of Islamic Studies. The Islamic Studies Colloquium formed in the spring of 2009 with the hope of encouraging an interdepartmental discussion and circulation of ideas among graduate
students and professors with an interest in Islamic Studies, as well as familiarizing graduate students with leading Islamic Studies researchers from outside Princeton. Graduate students Lev Weitz (NES), "Marital Ethics: The Reception of al-Ghazali in the Muslim World"; Daniel Stolz (NES), "Islamic Astronomy in 19th-century Egypt"; Bella Tendler (NES), "Concealment, Revelation and the Role of the Nusayri Bab: rehabilitation of the heresiarchs of the Islamic tradition"; Amin Venjara (REL), "Between the Presence and Absence of a Legal Problem: Early 20th-century Discourse on Qur'anic Translation in Egypt and India"; and Michael Dann (REL), "Hasan Farbān al-Mālīki and Saving Islamic History: A Case Study in Contemporary Saudi Arabian Historiography" presented their research during the spring semester.

The PISC 2012 Capstone Lecture, "Law and Islamic History: A Case Study in Contemporary Saudi Arabian Historiography" presented their research during the spring semester. The PISC 2012 Capstone Lecture, "Law and the Qur'an in the Second Islamic Century," was presented by Ahmed El Shamsy (University of Chicago). As part of his visit to Princeton, El Shamsy also offered a graduate student workshop, "Doing Stuff with Manuscripts." Through a survey of the modern career of one particular medieval manuscript, this workshop covered a variety of things that scholars do with manuscripts: finding them, reading them, writing about them, and figuring out why they matter.

**Islam and the Islamic World Seminar Series**

During the spring semester, the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies presented two installations of the Islam and the Islamic World Seminar series. Ron Sela (Associate Professor of Central Asian History, Indiana University) spoke on "Tamerlane's Pilgrimage to the Tombs of the Prophets," and Devin DeWeese (Professor in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University) spoke on "A Khan on the Outside, a Dervish Within: Islamization, Rulership, and the Law in the Religious Vision of Muhammad Shabani Khan."

**Workshop on Arab Political Development**

Directed by Amaney Jamal (Associate Professor of Politics), the Workshop on Arab Political Development had an active spring semester, beginning with a talk, "Up to the Minute: The Latest Political Developments in Syria," by Richard Murphy, former U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Syria, the Philippines, and Saudi Arabia. Other events included a Graduate Student Symposium, "Academie and the 'Arab Spring': Disciplinary Approaches to Revolution in the Middle East"; the "Sixth Annual Northeast Middle East Politics Workshop"; lectures by Lina Attalah, Managing Editor, Egypt Independent ("Egypt 2011: A Year of Bridges and Walls"); and Jillian Schwedler, University of Massachusetts, Amherst ("The Political Geography of the Arab Spring"); and the "Arab Spring Exploratory Conference."

The Workshop is an affiliate of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia and the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies. To learn more about the Workshop's activities, please click on: [http://www.princeton.edu/~piirs/programs/APW/](http://www.princeton.edu/~piirs/programs/APW/).

**Reporting South Asia Seminar Series**

Recognizing that the study of South Asia is highly relevant to the study of the Near East, the Transregional Institute co-sponsored with the Program in South Asian Studies a seminar series, "Reporting South Asia." During the spring semester, the speakers were Steve Coll, journalist and president, New American Foundation ("Covering South Asia’s Insurgencies and Small Wars across Three Decades"); Imram Aslam, President, GEO Television, Pakistan ("Media in Pakistan: Hope, Hope, or Hysteria?"); Jim Yardley, South Asia Bureau Chief, The New York Times ("New York Times and South Asia"); Basharat Peer, Kashmiri journalist and political commentator and author of Curfewed Night ("India, Pakistan, and Kashmir: A Long War, a Cold Peace"); Beena Sarwar, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard University; editor, Aman Ki Asha ("The Media and the Pakistan-India Conflict"); and Vikas Bajaj, Mumbai correspondent, New York Times ("Covering the South Asian Economy").

**Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective Symposium**

Convened by Associate Professor of Religion Shaun Marmon (Ph.D. 1990), this symposium devoted to "Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies" was held on March 17–18. Eighteen scholars met at Princeton University for one and a half days of intensive, collegial inquiry into the historical phenomenon of the institution of slavery in Islamic societies and in societies in which Islam played a significant role. The symposium [focused], in particular, on the ways in which gender and categories of 'race/ethnicity' have informed the history and historiography of slavery within Islamic contexts. The Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia were among the many co-sponsors.

**Today’s Crisis Diplomacy at the Cross Roads: Afghanistan and the Macro Region**

This panel discussion held on April 26, 2012, focused on the recent and on-going attempts at diplomacy in the crisis-ridden countries of Syria, Iran, and Afghanistan, and the potential for success of such diplomacy in the region from the Mediterranean to the Hindu Kush. Speakers were Col. Sam Gardiner, Col. U.S. Air Force (retired), who has taught courses on strategy at the National War College, Air War College, Army War College and Naval War College and who has designed and conducted war games; Wolfgang Danspeckgruber, director of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University and lecturer in public and international affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, and Karam Nachar, a Ph.D. candidate in history who specializes on Syria and the Middle East. HE Ambassador Dr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the UN, delivered a special message from Afghanistan, and HE Archbishop Mar Gregorios of Aleppo, Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox joined the panel via Skype from Aleppo, Syria, to offer his perspective on the situation there and on possible solutions. The panel was sponsored by the Office of Public and External Affairs; the Woodrow Wilson School, the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD), and the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

**Workshop on Shi'i Clerics and Politics**

Postdoctoral Research Associate Elvire Corboz organized a workshop on "Shi'i Clerics and Politics: Local and Transnational Perspectives" held on April 27, 2012. The participants in the workshop were Babak Rahimi, University of California at San Diego ("State Power and Clerical Rule: The Case of Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti in Revolutionary Iran"); Nabil Al-Hage Ali, Georgetown University ("The Interplay between Sociopolitical Developments and
Transformation of Shi'i Discourse in Iraq: A Study on Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr's Political Thought); Rola el-Husseini, Texas A&M University ("Islam, the State and Democracy in Lebanese Shi'i Thought"); Robert Riggs, University of Bridgeport ("Leadership Succession in the Contemporary Hawza of Najaf"); Elvire Corboz, Princeton University ("The Politics of Sacred Lineage in Shi‘ism: The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and the Institutionalization of Family History"); and Mara Leichtman, Michigan State University ("Iran, Lebanon, and the Struggle to Influence Shi‘ism in Senegal").

New Jersey Teachers' Institute Workshop

Every year Near Eastern Studies sponsors teacher-training workshops on various Near East topics for public school teachers. Attending high school educators receive credit for six professional development hours. In recent years, NES postdoctoral fellows have organized these workshops around their research interests. The spring 2012 workshop, "Shi‘ism and Politics: Clerical Leaders and Organizations," was organized by Elvire Corboz and was held on April 28. After introductory remarks by Department Chair and Program Director M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, Babak Rahimi (University of California at San Diego) spoke on "Between Activism and Quietism: Shia Islam and Political Authority"; Robert Riggs (University of Bridgeport) on "Contemporary Shi‘i Structures of Authority and Patronage in Najaf, Iraq"; Mara Leichtman (Michigan State University) on "The Marja‘iyya and the Diaspora: A Case Study from West Africa"; Nabil Al-Hage Ali (Georgetown University) on "The Construction and Transformation of Shi‘i Islamic Discourse in Iraq: The Case of Da‘wa Party, 1958–2003"; and Rola el-Husseini (Texas A&M University) on "Hezbollah, from a Lebanese Resistance Organization to a Shi‘i Sectarian Party."

An Evening Oasis at the MET

On March 1, 2012, the Department of Near Eastern Studies hosted an exclusive and unforgettable after-hours event in the newly opened Islamic galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition to tours of the galleries, entertainment included music and fine Persian food.

Nowruz 1391 Reception

NES welcomed Persian New Year with an afternoon reception featuring Persian sweets, a traditional Persian haft seen, and music by Amir Vahab.

Persian Calligraphy Workshop

On April 3, 2012, Ahmad Reza Ghamvami spent the day teaching Persian Calligraphy to an enthusiastic and attentive room full of aspiring calligraphers.

Postdoctoral Research Associates

Andrew Arsan had another productive year in this, the second and final year of his postdoctoral fellowship. In the fall semester he spent six weeks in Beirut where he was a research associate of both the Centre for Behavioural Research at the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese Emigration Research Centre at Notre Dame University–Lebanon. There he was able to explore newspaper and library collections and track down private papers of some of the literati upon whom he focuses. Back at Princeton for the spring semester, he devised and taught a new course, NES 318, "Western Imperialism in the Middle East, 1800–2000," which examined the Western presence in the Arab world, from Iraq to Morocco, in the 19th and 20th centuries, the varying forms Western rule took across this vast region, and the local peoples' responses to imperialism, from Islamic insurrection and nationalist politics to state-building and popular culture. Forthcoming publications include articles for Journal of Modern History on the French far right and imperial migration in the 1930s; for the Journal of Global History on early twentieth-century Middle Eastern associational life and its foundations in normative conceptions of the social order and its reform; for Modern Intellectual History on the intellectual slights of hand of the Beirut man of religion and political reformer Shaykh Ahmad al-Tabbarah; and for the Historical Journal on the historiography of the modern Middle East. He completed the revision of his doctoral dissertation and has submitted it for publication, writing a volume on contemporary Lebanon to be published by Hurst & Company in London and Oxford University Press in New York, and secured a contract with Cambridge University Press for a history of Lebanon to be published in 2015. He also organized with Akram Khater of North Carolina State University and John Karam of DePaul a conference, "The Mashriq and the Mahjar: Migration from the Levant, 1800–2000," held in Raleigh this past April, which gathered together some twenty-four scholars from Europe, the Middle East, North and South America, all working on Eastern Mediterranean migration. Selected papers from this conference are being prepared for publication. In September 2012 he began a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Cambridge.

First-year postdoctoral research associate Elvire Corboz worked on preparing her dissertation for publication, conducting a number of follow-up interviews and collecting primary material to ensure that her case studies remain up to date, as well as finishing a book prospectus and revising two sample chapters. In addition, she finished a paper on the topic of Khomeini's exile in the Iraqi shrine city of Najaf prior to the Iranian revolution, using dozens of published memoirs of Iranian clerics and reproductions of SAVAK
In her second year as a postdoctoral research associate, **Iren Ozgur** ’98 finished the revising and editing of her book manuscript, *Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey: Faith, Politics, and Education*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press. The book contributes to the debate on the Islamization of Turkish politics by focusing on the Imam-Hatip schools, founded in 1924. Through textual analysis and interviews, it explores how Imam-Hatip education shapes students’ politics and behavior and examines the schools’ role in Turkey’s Islamization at both the high and grassroots levels of politics. One of her articles, “Busra: The Veiled Protagonist of a Comic Serial,” will appear in *Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa: A Postcolonial Outlook*, edited by Mounira Soliman and Walid El-Hamamsy, published by Routledge Press. A second article, “Transformations among Turkey’s Religiously Conservative Communities: A Look at ‘Islamic’ Horror Movies,” will be submitted to the journal *Anthropology of the Middle East*. Ozgur also presented papers at MESA and AAA and was invited to participate in the Holling Center’s Dialogue on Oral History in February 2012. She taught NES 207, an undergraduate seminar, “The Middle East through Popular Culture,” which explored “a range of popular media and sites of cultural expression that develop from and give voice to the experiences of ‘ordinary’ citizens in the Middle East.” She advised two students on their junior papers and was the second reader on a senior thesis which explored secularism in the early Turkish Republic.

**TRI Activities**

The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia sponsored or co-sponsored a full schedule of activities during the spring 2012 semester, many of which were devoted to the 2011–13 research theme of “Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World” and the Oil, Energy, and Middle East Project (OEME), as well as hosting two TRI fellows, **Carol Hakim** and **Samer Traboulsi**, and two OEME fellows, **Giacomo Luciani** and **Eckart Woertz**. The events and speakers included: “Up to the Minute: The Latest Political Developments in Syria,” a panel discussion with Richard Murphy, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Philippines and Mauritania, Marwa Daoudy, Woodrow Wilson School (WWS), Karam Nachar, History Ph.D. candidate, and Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, WWS; **Andrew Arsan**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Near Eastern Studies and Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies, “Lebanese-Syrian Relations in a Time of Revolution: Blurred Lines and Cross Purposes”; **Timur Kuran** ’77 (B.A. Economics), Professor of Economics and Political Science and Gorter Family Professor of Islamic Studies, Duke University, “Structural Inefficiencies of Islamic Courts: Ottoman Justice and Its Implications for Modern Economic Life”; Cyril Black International Book Forum, *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*, with author Steven A. Cook, Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, and participants Mark Bessinser, Politics, **Bernard Haykel**, Near Eastern Studies and TRI Director, **Amaney Jamal**, Politics, and Daniel Kurtzer, WWS; a graduate student symposium, “Academe and the ‘Arab Spring’: Disciplinary Approached to Revolution in the Middle East,” with participants **Abdellah Hammoudi**, Anthropology, K. Bennonou, Rutgers School of Law, **Cyrus Schayegh**, NES, John Borneman, Anthropology, Deepa Kumar, Rutgers University, and Lawrence Rosen, Anthropology; Eckart Woertz, OEME Visiting Research Fellow, “Sudan after the Secession of the South: Missing Petrodollars and the Quest for an ‘Agricultural Renaissance’”; a symposium, “Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective,” convened by **Shaun E. Marmon** (Ph.D. 1980), Religion, with participants Debra Blumenthal, University of California Santa Barbara, Gwyn Campbell, McGill University, Mariana Candido, History, Cristina De La Puente, Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Madrid, Chouki el Hamel, Arizona State University, Bruce S. Hall, Duke University, Benjamin Isaac, University of Tel Aviv, Amalia Levanon, University of Haifa, **Leslie Peirce** (Ph.D. 1988), New York University, Ahmad Sikainga, Ohio State University, Ramya Sreenivasan, University of Pennsylvania, Eve Troutt Powell, University of Pennsylvania, and Jerzy Zdanowski, The Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw; Robert Springborg, Department of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, “Economic Challenges Facing Egypt’s New Order” and “The Military and the Arab Springs”; Lina Attalah, Managing Editor, *Egypt Independent*, “Egypt 2011: A Year of Bridges and Walls”; film screening of *Habibi* and discussion with writer and director Susan Youssef; Jillian Schwedler, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “The Political Geography of the Arab Spring”; **Giacomo Luciani**, Princeton Global Scholar and

**TRI Fellows**

Visiting Associate Research Scholar Carol Hakim spent her year in Princeton working on secularism, Islam, and democracy in Egypt. She also gave a talk on “The Struggle for Syria Revisited.” Following her return to the History Department at the University of Minnesota, she was promoted to associate professor. Her book, The Origins of the Lebanese National Idea 1840–1920, has been published by University of California Press.

Samer Traboulsi, Associate Professor of History of the Middle East and the Muslim World at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton in 2005. He is mainly interested in the formation and development of religious groups in the Muslim World and has published a book and a number of articles on the Isma‘ilis in Yemen, the rise of the Wahhabi movement, and the history of Saudi Arabia.

**OEME Fellows**

During the spring semester of the second year of his three-year appointment (2010–13) as a Global Scholar, Giacomo Luciani taught a half-term course, WW 594L, “The Political Economy of Global Energy.” The course looked at the vital role that the Middle East plays as exporters of hydrocarbons to the rest of the world, covering global energy demand and supply scenarios and the role of the Middle East; the functioning of the global oil market and the potential role of major oil exporters; the resource curse, economic diversification and the experience of the Gulf countries; oil, accountability and conflicts; the global gas market and the role of Qatar; and the rational use of energy, renewable energy sources, and nuclear energy. Luciani also gave a talk in April on “The Redirection of Saudi Aramco’s Investment Strategy and Its Global Implications.” Among his recent publications were “The Role of Nuclear Energy in GCC Economic Development,” in M. Khamrava, ed., The Nuclear Question in the Middle East (Columbia University Press and Hurst, 2012); “Oil Price Benchmarks in International Trade,” Oxford Energy Forum 87 (2012); “Global Oil Markets: The Need for Reforms,” in R. Looney, ed., Handbook of Oil Politics (Routledge, 2012); “Energy and sustainability policies in the GCC,” with Steffen Hertog (LSE Center for the Study of Global Governance, Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States, August 2009), slightly abridged version reprinted in David Held and Kristian Ulrichsen, eds., The Transformation of the Gulf: Politics, Economics and the Global Order (Routledge 2012); “Price and Revenue Volatility: What Policy Options and Role for the State,” Global Governance, 17, no. 2 (2011); and “The Political Economy of Monetary Integration and Exchange Rate Regime in the GCC,” in M. Legrenzi and B. Momani, eds., The Shifting Geo-Economics of the Gulf (Ashgate 2011).

**Eckart Woertz** completed his third year in the Oil, Energy and the Middle East Project at Princeton University. During the spring semester, he taught NES 266 / ENV 266, “Oil, Energy and The Middle East.” The course presented an overview of the issues surrounding global energy supplies, oil’s unique economic properties, and its role in shaping the political economy of the Middle East and U.S. strategic interests in the region. The first part of the course discussed the basic science and availability of energy sources, the state of technology, the functioning of energy markets, the challenges of coping with global climate change, and the key role of the oil reserves in the Middle East, while the second part of the course focused on the history of oil in the Middle East and its impact on societies in the region. He also gave a talk on “Sudan after the Secession of the South: Missing Petrodollars and the Quest for an Agricultural Renaissance.” His forthcoming publications include Oil for Food: The Global Food Crisis and the Middle East, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2013, and “The Transnational Governance of Gulf Agro-Investments,” which will appear in Globalizations 10, no. 1 (2013), a special issue devoted to “Governing the Global Land Grab.”

**Language Activities**

*Foreign-language Film series*

Near Eastern Studies screened fifteen Middle Eastern films and three TV series, and hosted a presentation by an award-winning Israeli film maker during the spring semester. The theme of the Arab films was “Revolution in the Cinema,” and the films shown were The Land (1969), directed by Youssef Chahine; The Battle of Algiers (1966), directed by Gillo Pontecorvo; Chronicle of the Years of Embers (1975), directed by Mohamed Lakhdar-Hamina; Secularism, Inch‘Allah (2011), directed by Nadia El Fani; Goodbye Mubarak! (2011), directed by Katia Jarjoura; and Syria: The
About Elly

an

screened were


tenned Film-Making in Israel—An Af-

Rosenbaum and William Herlands; and

Laizy Shapiro, with a discussion by Miriam

Shapiro and Chava Divon and directed by

t by Eran Schorr entitled “The Reflection of

trayal of its Soldiers”;

rom the Ottoman administration—

War in 1768 until the destruction of the

Janissaries in 1826. “Dur-

ent on “The Janissaries’ struggle for

Janissaries in 1826. “Dur-

entalism, with a discussion by Cyrus Schayegh;

Sayed Kashua and directed by Shai Capon

Travelling of its Soldiers”;

rom season 3), created by Eliezer (Laizy)

Hilla Medalia, with a discussion by the

Forbes College on the after-

noon of February

ary 14. Featur-

ing in less-commonly

taught languages such as Arabic, Hebrew,

Turkish (with English translations), the

event also served up fountains of chocolate

fondue and sparkling cider. Senior lecturer

in Arabic Nancy Cofin and Patrick Cadeau

of Forbes College are the moving force be-

hind this Valentine’s Day event.

Language End of Year Party

On May 11 over thirty students, faculty,

and staff celebrated the conclusion of lan-

guage classes for the 2011–12 academic

year by attending a language end-of-the-

year party. Good food, cold drinks, and

Middle Eastern music provided a congenial

spend with the Anti-

tank Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment,

and then serving in France as a translator,

before returning to UNC. Following his

graduation in 1947 with a B.A. with Honors

in History, he entered Princeton’s Depart-

ment of Oriental Languages and Literature

for graduate study. He earned his Ph.D. in

1955, writing his dissertation on “Political

factions in Aleppo, 1760–1826.” During

this period he taught at the American

University in Beirut and McGill University

in Montreal. Afterwards he spent five years

working for the U.S. Information Agency

on the Middle East Desk in Washington,

D.C. In 1960 he took a job teaching Middle

East history at UNC, where he remained

until he retired in 1989. Bodman’s major

publication was his revised dissertation,

Political factions in Aleppo, 1760–1826

(Chapel Hill: University of North Caro-

line Press, 1963). The book describes the

struggle for power in Aleppo between the

three principal actors—the Janissaries, the

Ashraf, and the Ottoman administration—

from the outbreak of the Russo-Ottoman

War in 1768 until the destruction of the

Janissaries in 1826. Political factions in

Aleppo has been called “The most thorough

discussion of this political history” (Mar-

garet Lee Meriwether, 1999); the “seminal

study” on “[t]he Janissaries’ struggle for

power against the ashraj [sic] in eighteen-

century Aleppo” (Elyse Semerdjian, 2008),

and “The now classic study of this phe-

nomenon” (Bruce Masters, 1999). Many

of his publications reflect his strong inter-

est in developing teaching materials. He

compiled Women in the Muslim World: A

Bibliography of Books and Articles Primar-

ily in the English Language (Providence,

RI: Association for Middle East Women’s

Studies, 1991), a work described by Paul

Auchterlon as being “a straightforward and

very useful bibliography.” He was also the

Project Director of the Islamic Teaching

Materials Project, which was sponsored by

the American Council of Learned Societ-

ies and supported by a grant from the Na-

tional Endowment for the Humanities (for

description of this project see the note by

Bodman and Kathy Sullivan in the MESA


of this project he produced with R. Ste-

phen Humphreys The Lands and Peoples

of Islam: A Traditional Perspective ([New

York]: American Council of Learned Soci-

eties [publisher; Blacksburg, VA: Distrib-

uted by Media Resources Project], 1987), a

Language Lunch Talks

Ceymi Doenyas interacting with autistic child

During the spring semester, the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies sponsored lunch talks in both Persian and Turkish. These talks, presented at a level suitable for language students, included “LINEAR PORTRAITS: A Calligraphic Vision Inspired by Persian Arts” by the artist Ostad Farsad Labbauf (in Persian); “Ud ve Türk Müziği” (The oud and Turkish mu-

sic) by Murat Keyder, University of Penn-

sylvania; and “Türkiyedeki İlk Otizm Okulu” (The first school for autistic children in Turkey) by Ceymi Doenyas ’12.

Valentine’s Day Poetry Smash

In what has become an annual tradition, a Valentine’s Day Poetry Smash was hosted by Forbes College on the afternoon of February 14. Featuring poetry in less-commonly taught languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish (with English translations), the event also served up fountains of chocolate fondue and sparkling cider. Senior lecturer in Arabic Nancy Cofin and Patrick Cadeau of Forbes College are the moving force behind this Valentine’s Day event.

Language End of Year Party

On May 11 over thirty students, faculty, and staff celebrated the conclusion of language classes for the 2011–12 academic year by attending a language end-of-the-year party. Good food, cold drinks, and Middle Eastern music provided a congenial respite from preparing for exams.

In Memoriam

Herbert Luther Bodman, Jr. (Ph.D. 1955), Professor Emeritus of Middle East History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, passed away on February 6, 2011. He was in his eighty-seventh year. The son of Theodora Dunham Bodman and Herbert L. Bodman, Sr., Bodman was born in New York City on April 29, 1924 and grew up in Glen Head, Long Island. His undergraduate study in history at UNC was interrupted by World War II. He spent three years in the army, initially training with the Antitank Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment, and then serving in France as a translator, before returning to UNC. Following his graduation in 1947 with a B.A. with Honors in History, he entered Princeton’s Department of Oriental Languages and Literature for graduate study. He earned his Ph.D. in 1955, writing his dissertation on “Political factions in Aleppo, 1760–1826.” During this period he taught at the American University in Beirut and McGill University in Montreal. Afterwards he spent five years working for the U.S. Information Agency on the Middle East Desk in Washington, D.C. In 1960 he took a job teaching Middle East history at UNC, where he remained until he retired in 1989. Bodman’s major publication was his revised dissertation, Political factions in Aleppo, 1760–1826 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963). The book describes the struggle for power in Aleppo between the three principal actors—the Janissaries, the Ashraf, and the Ottoman administration—from the outbreak of the Russo-Ottoman War in 1768 until the destruction of the Janissaries in 1826. Political factions in Aleppo has been called “The most thorough discussion of this political history” (Margaret Lee Meriwether, 1999); the “seminal study” on “[t]he Janissaries’ struggle for power against the ashraj [sic] in eighteenth-century Aleppo” (Elyse Semerdjian, 2008), and “The now classic study of this phenomenon” (Bruce Masters, 1999). Many of his publications reflect his strong interest in developing teaching materials. He compiled Women in the Muslim World: A Bibliography of Books and Articles Primarily in the English Language (Providence, RI: Association for Middle East Women’s Studies, 1991), a work described by Paul Auchterlon as being “a straightforward and very useful bibliography.” He was also the Project Director of the Islamic Teaching Materials Project, which was sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (for a description of this project see the note by Bodman and Kathy Sullivan in the MESA Bulletin 20, no. 2 (1986), 187–89). As part of this project he produced with R. Stephen Humphreys The Lands and Peoples of Islam: A Traditional Perspective ([New York]: American Council of Learned Societies [publisher; Blacksburg, VA: Distributed by Media Resources Project], 1987), a
“collection of slides ... intended to provide a broad survey of the physical and human geography of the Muslim world.” His other publications include Women in Muslim Societies: Diversity within Unity (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1998), edited with Nayereh Tohidi; Lebanon: Emblem of Captivity; Forgotten Hostages (Research Triangle Park, NC: National Humanities Center), a sound recording (in LP) on which he discusses with Jerry Levin “present-day Lebanon as an emblem of cultural and political captivity, a country in which Christianity shares an uneasy balance with a growing Muslim population”; and The Humanities: Cultural Roots and Continuities, now in its seventh edition, on which he collaborated with Mary Ann Frese Witt and others. Bodman was active in the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society (SERMEISS). He also mentored high school teachers and encouraged others in the study of Islamic societies.

Bodman and his wife, Ellen (Taffy) Diggs (deceased in 2007), whom he married in 1947, raised four children, Carlie Martin, Whit Bodman, David Bodman, and Lydia Vandenberg, and had eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Library News

Rare Books Completes Müteferrika Collection

An earlier issue of this newsletter (vol. 2, no. 2 [2009]) noted that the Library’s Rare Books Division had fourteen of the seventeen titles published in the first half of the eighteenth century by Ibrahim Müteferrika, the founder of the first Muslim printing press. Since then, Rare Books has managed to complete its collection of Müteferrika books, acquiring Ahval-i Gazavat der Diyar-i Bosna (1741) in 2010, Tarih-i Timur Gürgân (1730) in 2011, and Füyuzat-i Mükânatsiye (1732) in 2012. Only the four extremely rare maps—Marmara Haritası (1719 or 20), Bahriye-i Bahr-i Siyah (1724 or 25), Memâlik-i İran (1729 or 30), and Iklim-i Misr (1730)—published separately by Ibrahim remain to be acquired.

Princeton Papers Volume 16 Published

Amy Singer (Ph.D. 1989) served as the guest editor for this issue of Princeton Papers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Middle Eastern Studies with the theme, “Starting With Food: Culinary Approaches to Ottoman History.” Food is a marker of identity, culture, and class, and it denotes power, routine, leisure, and celebration. Despite its importance to every aspect of historical research, this topic has not been sufficiently explored in Ottoman history. This volume places the study of food in the mainstream of Ottoman history by analyzing major issues—origins, identity, minorities, Ottomanization, the “golden age,” foreign relations, the nature of modernity—all from the perspective of food.

Peck Shahnamah Now Available Online

The Manuscripts Division of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collection has announced the completion of the digitization of the Peck Shahnamah, which is now available online at http://www.princeton.edu/~shahnama/. The Peck Shahnama was bequeathed to the Princeton University Library in 1983 by Clara S. Peck, sister of Fremont C. Peck, Class of 1920 and contains 45 high quality full-page miniatures and three double-page compositions of the Shirz school dated 988 H [1589 or 90]. This manuscript of Firdawsi al-Tusi’s work was likely produced in Shirz for the Safavid royal family and was copied by Qwâm ibn Muhammad Shirzâ in 998 H [1589 or 90]. For more information about the Peck Shahnamah, see the article, “A Persian Book of Kings: The Peck Shâhnâmeh,” by Louise Marlow (M.A. 1984, Ph.D. 1987) that appeared in the Princeton University Library Chronicle 46:2 (1985): 192–214.

S. Hammer reviewed the work in Choice: “Food is a looking glass through which one can view trends in culture, history, politics,
religion, and human affairs. The six meticulously researched essays in this volume highlight food in exactly this light. They unlock new, if narrowly circumscribed, insights into Ottoman life through discussions of feasts, fasts, public and private dining, and food-based social interactions among various groups, ranging from royalty to the indigent poor. The essays' focus on the region in and around Turkey may be attributed to the fact that they were originally presented during a 2007 symposium at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. They may reflect but do not report on the broader Ottoman phenomenon, which included a heterogeneous blend of hundreds of ethnicities in a sprawling, geographically, religiously, and culturally diverse region. The essays touch on the dynamism of the Ottoman food experience, which included influences from the Mediterranean, the Far East, Africa, and Europe. Recommended.


This issue also has been published by Markus Wiener Publishers as a book with the title Starting With Food: Culinary Approaches to Ottoman History and with the addition of a bibliography and index.
Kevin Donahue and guests

Associate Professor Michael Reynolds with Connor Reilly and guests

Senior Lecturer in Arabic Nancy Coffin with Amina Igeh and guests

Lecturer in Turkish Erika Gilson with Katherine Costello and guests

Kevin Donahue and guests
Raphael Balsam, Katherine Costello, Chloe Bordewich, and guest

Rivka Cohen, Chloe Bordewich, David Mazor, Amina Igeh, and Grace Zhu

Associate Professor Michael Reynolds with David Mazor and guests

Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies Michael Barry with Tal Eisenzweig and guests

Raphael Balsam, Katherine Costello, Chloe Bordewich, and guest
Lecturers in Arabic Tarek Elsayed, Judy Laffan, and Gregory Bell, Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion M. Qasim Zaman, Associate Professor Michael Reynolds, and Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies Michael Barry

Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies Michael Barry with Grace Zhu, and guest

Chloe Bordewich and Lecturer in Arabic Tarek Elsayed

Raphael Balsam and guests with Lecturer in Arabic Gregory Bell

Lecturers in Arabic Tarek Elsayed, Judy Laffan, and Gregory Bell, Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion M. Qasim Zaman, Associate Professor Michael Reynolds, and Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies Michael Barry
Graduating seniors: Mika Devonshire (P), Amina Igeh, Kerry Brodie, Rivka Cohen, Chloe Bordewich, Grace Zhu, Raphael Balsam, Katherine Costello, Connor Reilly, David Mazor, Tal Eisenzweig (P)