Greetings from the Chair!

Welcome to the 2013–14 academic year, a year of great change for Near Eastern Studies. Last spring we said goodbye to four professors who represented 28.6% of the department’s core faculty. Three faculty members, Mark Cohen, András Hámos, and Heath Lowry joined the ranks of emeriti professors, and one, Liora Halperin, left for another job. But with departures, there are new hires, and this year we welcome assistant professor M’hamed Oualdi, who holds a joint appointment in NES and History and specializes in the social and political history of post-1500 North Africa.

There are also job searches, and this year the department is undertaking six searches, three for senior or tenure-track positions and three for language lecturers. The three professorial positions are: a tenured, or tenure-track position in the history of the Jewish and/or Christian populations of the pre-modern Muslim world; a tenure-track position in Israel Studies (this position is also affiliated with the Program in Judaic Studies); and a tenured or tenure-track position in the study of women and gender in the Middle East.

This year two, long-time language lecturers, Erika Gilson in Turkish and Esther Robbins in Hebrew will be leaving us, and searches are underway to find replacements for them. There is also a search being conducted for a lecturer in Arabic, needed because of the continuing strength of our Arabic-language program.

Some things have not changed. Enrollment in NES and languages courses remains strong, with 337 undergraduates and 49 graduate students enrolled in NES courses during the fall semester and 201 students taking language courses (Arabic leading the way with 134 students).

Nor has the outstanding quality of NES faculty and students changed, as is evidenced by the numerous prizes and honors that have been won since the start of the academic year: Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael Cook was awarded the 2014 Holberg Prize, which has been called the “Nobel Prize” for the arts, humanities, social sciences, law, and theology and which recognizes outstanding scholarship in these areas; Lecturer Michael Barry ’70 won the World Book Award of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as Le Prix du Cercle Montherlant for Literature on Art in the French language by the Académie des Beaux-Arts for his book, Le Cantique des Oiseaux d’Attâr illustré par la peinture en Islam d’Orient (Paris: Éditions Diane de Selliers, 2012); Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion M. Qasim Zaman received the 2013 British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies for his book, Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age: Religious Authority and Internal Criticism (Cambridge University Press, 2012); NES Postdoctoral Research Associate Kevan Harris won the 2013 American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Outstanding Article Award for his 2012 Mobilization article, “The Brokered Exuberance of the Middle Class: An Ethnographic Analysis of Iran’s 2009 Green Movement;” Graduate student Simon W. Fuchs received a Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for the 2013–14 academic year and was named a Graduate Fellow in Religion and Culture by the Center for the Study of Religion; and Robin Palmer ’15 was awarded The James W. Redhouse Student Prizes for Best Progress in the Turkish Language, a prize which recognizes the student who has made the best progress in Turkish in the academic year in each of four regions of the United States and Canada.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Robert Garrett ’59 on March 12, 2014. Garrett had served for many years as the chairman of the NES Advisory Committee, and his presence will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Garrett family.

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

New Faces

M’hamed Oualdi
M’hamed Oualdi is an assistant professor specializing in the social and political history of Post-1500 North Africa. His research interests include the social effects of imperial transitions and state reforms in the nineteenth century. He is jointly appointed in the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History.

Based on Arabic and European historical sources, his first book, Esclaves et maîtres:
Les mamelouks au service des beys de Tunis du XVIIe siècle aux années 1880 (Publications de la Sorbonne, 2011), is a study of the mameluk who served the governors of the Ottoman province of Tunis from the 1630s until the 1880s. Coming from various social and cultural backgrounds, the mameluk formed a really flexible political and social category that helped their masters, the Tunisian governors, to interact with men from different social groups (from urban notables to peasants). With the enforcement of the Ottoman reforms (tanzimât) in the second half of the nineteenth century, they contributed to the depersonalization of the administrative service.

Prior to joining the faculty at Princeton, M. Ouâlidi was assistant professor of North African history at the French Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO-Paris, 2010–13). He previously held a postdoctoral fellowship at European University Institute-Florence (2008–2009). He received his training in Arabic at INALCO and pursued an education in history at the University of Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne, from which he obtained his Ph.D. in 2008. His current research topic focuses on the economic and social transformations in Tunisia from Ottoman rule to French colonial empire at the end of the nineteenth century through a case study that involved conflicts arising from the inheritance of General Husayn, a manumitted Circassian slave and former minister in Tunisia who died in Florence in 1887.

Hannah Essien
Hannah Essien is a lecturer with the Program in African Studies at PIIRS and the Arabic language program. She was instructor of Twi language and Akan culture in the Department of African Studies at Indiana University. Ms. Essien has also taught English at the Ghana Institute of Languages and Arabic at the University of Ghana, the Summer Cooperative African Languages Institute at Michigan State University, and the University of Illinois. Her research interest includes Arabic word structure, Arabic derivational morphology, and Arabic translation.

Jeannette Rizk
Jeannette Rizk, a lecturer in Arabic for the Fall Semester, was born in Germany but was raised in Cairo, where she attended the Deutsche Evangelische Oberschule. She did her undergraduate degree in Anthropology at Wheaton College (Illinois) in the United States and completed an M.A. in Anthropology at the American University in Cairo. Most of her professional career has been spent in the area of women’s economic development in Egypt, where she has worked for both the European Union and also for the German government’s Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). In Egypt, she worked mostly in Cairo, but also lived for two years in St Catherine’s in the Sinai Peninsula, where she worked closely with the Jabaleya Bedouin tribe. She has also been involved in a project in the Fayyoum and helped to coordinate media campaigns in Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco. In addition to working in women’s development, especially in the area of women’s handicrafts, she has directed and produced several documentaries. One, Conversations in Cairo, focused on the personal lives of women in one family in one of Cairo’s many informal areas. She also helped in the filming and production of the Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Sudan segments of the multi-part documentary Love Life, which dealt with HIV/AIDS in the Arab world. She moved to the United States in 2011 after getting married, but still returns to Egypt regularly for her work in the Sinai and Fayyoum with GIZ, and has been living in Princeton since 2012.

Tzach Yokèd
A lecturer in Hebrew for the Fall semester, Tzach Yokèd has served since 2007 as the U.S. correspondent for Ma’arah newspaper, one of Israel’s highest circulated daily newspapers. During this time he wrote hundreds of political, human interest, and business stories featured in the weekend magazine. Mr. Yokèd covered two presidential elections, the earthquake in Haiti, and the hurricane Gustav and interviewed, among many others: President Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, and Four Star General John Abizaid.

Prior to moving to the U.S., Mr. Yokèd served as an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces, where he trained and taught Arabic to hundreds of new officers who served in the District Coordination Office with the Palestinian Authority. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and the History of the Middle East from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Mr. Yokèd is an expert in Israeli politics and media and has given public lectures on both topics.

Judy Schedneck
Judy Schedneck joined the administrative team as Assistant to the Chair and Office Coordinator on September 9, 2013. Previously, she was Office Coordinator in the Office of Sustainability, here at the university. Judy is excited to be part of the NES team.

Faculty News

Cook Awarded 2014 Holberg Prize
Michael A. Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, has been awarded the 2014 Holberg Prize. Established in 2003 by the Norwegian government, the Holberg Prize has been called the “Nobel Prize” for the arts, humanities, social sciences, law, and theology and recognizes outstanding scholarship in these areas. The Prize is worth 4.5 million Norwegian kroner. The award ceremony will take place in Bergen, Norway, in June.

In announcing the Prize, the Holberg Committee stated, “Michael Cook is one of today’s leading experts on the history and religious thought of Islam. He has reshaped fields that span Ottoman studies, the genesis of early Islamic polity, the history of the Wahhabiyya movement, and Islamic
law, ethics, and theology. His contribution to the entire field, from Islam's genesis to the present, displays a mastery of textual, economic, and social approaches. Along with sensitivity to the historical context, his work emphasizes the role of religious values in the formation of Islamic civilization from the mediaeval period to the present.” To read more about this significant honor, please check out the Holberg Prize website and the Princeton University News story.

Prior to this honor, Cook was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Leiden in February 2013, was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 2011, has been a member of the American Philosophical Society since 2001 and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2004, and won the Farabi International Award in the Humanities and Islamic Sciences (Tehran) in 2008. In 2002 he was awarded a Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award, and in 2006 he was awarded Princeton’s Behrman Award for distinguished achievement in the humanities. His book, *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought*, won both the 2001 Middle East Studies Association Albert Hourani Book Prize, which recognizes the very best in Middle East studies scholarship, and the 2002 Kuwait British Friendship Society Book Prize. The *New Cambridge History of Islam*, of which Cook was the General Editor, won the 2011 American Historical Association Waldo G. Leland Prize for the “most outstanding reference tool in the field of history” published between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2011.

**Crone Wins Levi Della Vida Award**

Patricia Crone, Visiting Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Near Eastern Studies and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, received the 2013 Levi Della Vida Award for Excellence in Islamic Studies from the G. E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies (CNES) at UCLA. The announcement of the Award, “given to outstanding scholars whose work has significantly and lastingly advanced the study of Islamic civilization,” noted Crone’s “major influence in the field of early Islamic history. Her research on the political, religious, and cultural environment in which Islam began and how it transformed, and was itself transformed by, the regions that the Arabs conquered has been groundbreaking. This includes her foundational work as a political, social, and military historian, and the later foray into the history of ideas, the Qur’an and the cultural and religious traditions of Iraq, Iran, and the formerly Iranian part of Central Asia. In addition, she has innovatively introduced the field the systematic and rigorous scrutiny of the sources upon which early Islamic historiography was traditionally based, as well as the significance of extrinsic sources.” The award was presented at a conference whose theme, “Islam and its Past: Jahiliyya and Late Antiquity in the Qur’an and Tradition,” was chosen by Crone, who gave the keynote lecture, “The Pagan Arabs as Godfearers.” Other participants with Princeton connections were Michael Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, who spoke on “Early Medieval Muslim and Christian Attitudes to Pagan Law: A Comparison”; Joseph Witttum (Ph.D. 2011), Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who spoke on “Thou Shalt Not See Me’: Moses’ Encounters with God in the Quran”; and Behnam Sadeghi (Ph.D. 2006), Religious Studies Dept., Stanford University, who chaired a session.

**Zaman Wins 2013 British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize**


The judge’s report described *Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age* as “an extremely interesting and well-written book, offering valuable insights on vital areas of modern Islamic thought. Its strength comes from its highlighting the often neglected, but very dynamic, inter

action between the two main centres of Islamic learning (the Indian Subcontinent and the Middle East), and also from the way debates which flared up at the beginning of the twentieth century still remain relevant today. It focuses on ‘internal criticisms’ within the traditional body of Islamic scholarship in the centres of learning in the two regions, with a particular focus on the Deoband School and al-Azhar. ... This book represents a tour de force in modern Islamic intellectual history: meticulously researched, well-written, packed with insights. I have seen few books of its calibre in recent times, and have no hesitation in recommending it for the prize.”

Two other members of the NES faculty have won this Prize. Michael A. Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, won in 2002 for *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and Patricia Crone, Visiting Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Near Eastern Studies, won in 2005 for *Medieval Islamic Political Thought* (Edinburgh University Press, 2004). Two books by NES alumni have also done well in the competition. *Charity in Islamic Societies* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) by Amy Singer (Ph.D. 1989) was awarded Honourable Mention in 2009, and *Marriage, Money and Divorce in Medieval Islamic Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) by Yossef Rapoport (Ph.D. 2002) was shortlisted for the award in 2006.

“The [British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book] Prize was founded thanks to an endowment of the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation. ... The prize is awarded for the best scholarly work on the Middle East each year.”

**Barry Wins World Book Award of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Director of The Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia Bernard Haykel and Genevieve Abdo, Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institute, spoke on “Understanding the Complexities of Sunni-Shi’a Relations” at the Woodrow Wilson School.

Lecturer in Arabic Nizar Hermes led a discussion September 26, 2013, on “Castilian Blessings on a Moorish Historian and a Moorish Translator: Don Quixote, The Arabian Nights and the Maqâmâ” in Columbia University’s Seminar in Arabic Studies. The presentation explored Cervantes’ complex representation of Islam and his attitude towards the Arabo-Islamic cultural heritage in his magnum opus.

Faculty Book


“We why does Islam play a larger role in contemporary politics than other religions? Is there something about the Islamic heritage that makes Muslims more likely than adherents of other faiths to invoke it in their political life? If so, what is it? Ancient Religions, Modern Politics seeks to answer these questions by examining the roles of Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity in modern political life, placing special emphasis on the relevance—or irrelevance—of their heritages to today’s social and political concerns.

Michael Cook takes an in-depth, comparative look at political identity, social values, attitudes to warfare, views about the role of religion in various cultural domains, and conceptions of the polity. In all these fields he finds that the Islamic heritage offers richer resources for those engaged in current politics than either the Hindu or the Christian heritages. He uses this finding to explain the fact that, despite the existence of Hindu and Christian counterparts to some aspects of Islamism, the phenomenon as a whole is unique in the world today. The book also shows that fundamentalism—in the sense of a determined to return to the original sources of the religion—is politically more adaptive for Muslims than it is for Hindus or Christians.

A sweeping comparative analysis by one of the world’s leading scholars of premodern Islam, Ancient Religions, Modern Politics sheds important light on the relationship between the foundational texts of these three great religious traditions and the politics of their followers today.”

The book has been described as “a work of enormous erudition and considerable subtlety... a most impressive achievement”; “truly a tour de force... destined to be a landmark in the comparison of religions”; and “at once painstaking and panoramic... audacious in its willingness to pose—and answer—bold questions.”

Undergraduate News

Ruwa Alhayek ’14, an NES concentrator working on certificates in creative writing, gender and sexual studies, and Near Eastern Studies, spent the summer conducting research in Amman, Jordan, and her experiences are among those featured in an article, “Zoom In: 28 Stories of a Global Summer,” appearing on the Princeton University homepage. To access the article click here, launch the interactive map, and click on the pin in Jordan.

Richard (Eddie) Grove ’14 was awarded undergraduate summer funding by the Program in Judaic Studies, which he used to work “for three months in Amman, Jordan with an NGO called Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), an organization that brings Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian environmentalists together to discuss environmental topics of shared interest, such as shared water resources.” One of FoEEME’s projects is preserving the Jordan River, which has seen its water flow diminish from 1.3 billion cubic meters to 20 million cubic meters, and Grove investigated water losses and non-revenue water use for the project. To read more about Grove’s experience click here.

Khedouri A. Zilka Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East Emeritus Mark Cohen and Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies Michael Barry were interviewed in Paris on the occasion of the launch of the French version (Albin Michel Publisher) of A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations from the Origins to the Present Day, published simultaneously in the U.S. by Princeton University Press. Cohen contributed three articles, “Prologue: The ‘Golden Age’ of Jewish-Muslim Relations: Myth and Reality,” “Islamic Policy towards Jews from the Prophet Muhammad to the Pact of ‘Umar,” and “Muslim Anti-Semitism: Old or New?” to the volume, and Barry contributed one, “Jews, Islamic Mysticism, and the Devil.” Phillip Ackermann-Lieberman (Ph.D. 2007) also contributed an article, “Comparison between the Halakha and Shari’a.” The book has been named one of the Outstanding Reference Sources for 2014 by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association. To hear the interview, which is conducted in French, click here.
Robin Palmer ‘15 (Slavic Language and Literatures) was awarded The James W. Redhouse Student Prizes for Best Progress in the Turkish Language. The Redhouse Prize recognizes the student who has made the best progress in Turkish in the academic year in each of four regions of the United States and Canada as determined by area coordinators and a committee composed of members of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages. The prize is $100 and is currently funded by the M. Münir Ertegün Foundation for Turkish Studies of Princeton University. Palmer was also named a winner of the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, which recognizes achievement in the freshman and sophomore years.

Final Public Oral Examination

Rozaliya Garipova defended her doctoral dissertation, “Transformation of the Ulama and the Shari’a in the Volga-Ural Muslim Community under Russian Imperial Rule,” on August 16, 2013. Her advisor M. Qasim Zaman, Mirjam Künkler, and Dr. Allen Frank formed the examination committee.


Mirjam Künkler (advisor), Amaney Jamal (Politics), and Michael Reynolds were the examination committee.


Nadav Samin following his FPO with examiners Michael Cook and Isabelle R. Clark-Deces (Anthropology), Michael Laffan (History), and Bernard Haykel (advisor)

Daniel A. Stolz defended his doctoral dissertation, “The Lighthouse and the Observatory: Islam, Authority, and Cultures of Astronomy in Late Ottoman Egypt,” on August 5, 2013. M. Qasim Zaman (advisor), Michael A. Cook, and Michael D. Gordin (History) were the examiners.

Daniel Stolz following his FPO with examiners M. Qasim Zaman (advisor), Michael Cook, and Michael D. Gordin (History)

Graduate Student News

Simon W. Fuchs received a Mrs. Giles Whitening Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for the 2013–14 academic year. “The Whiting Fellowships in Humanities were established in 1973 to support outstanding, advanced dissertation writers in humanities Ph.D. programs.” Fuchs was also named a Graduate Fellow in Religion and Culture by the Center for the Study of Religion for his project “Elusive Centers: Debating Shi’ite Orthodoxy in Pakistan.” His article, “Do Excellent Surgeons Make Miserable Exegetes? Negotiating the Sunni Tradition in the ġihādī Camps,” appeared in Die Welt des Islams 53, no. 2. Fuchs currently serves as the Treasurer of Princeton’s Graduate Student Government.

Gregory Johnsen’s article “Did an 8-Year-Old Spy for America?” appeared in the August 14, 2013, issue of The Atlantic. Johnsen was interviewed by Amy Goodman and Juan González on Democracy Now! about the article on August 16, 2013. The text of this interview is available on the Democracy Now! web site. Johnsen was also interviewed on the PBS Newshour about al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on August 6, 2013. The video and transcript of this interview may be found here.

Jacob Olidort received one of 29 student travel grants awarded by the Middle East Studies Association to attend the MESA annual meeting in New Orleans. Teije Hidde Donker, a 2012–13 Visiting Student Research Collaborator in NES, also received one of the grants.

Alumni

NES Alumni Evacuate Egypt Following Military Takeover

Three alumni with NES ties, Gavi Barnhard ’13, Chloe Bordewich ’12, and Sammy Schatz ’13 (WWS, Certificate in NES), were studying or working in Egypt when the Egyptian military removed President Morsi from office in July 2013. Both Barnhard and Schatz were taking Arabic at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), and Bordewich, who had completed a CASA fellowship in May, was working as a freelance translator. To read more about their experiences, please check out the Daily Princetonian story by Patience Haggin, “Students, Alumni Evacuate Revolution-Rocked Egypt.”

Yaron Ayalon (Ph.D. 2009) has joined the History Department at Ball State University as an assistant professor.

George Hatke (Ph.D. 2011) completed his two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU and is now a Visiting Professor of

Robin Palmer ‘15 following his FPO with Cyrus Schayegh via Skype

The book “assembles and analyzes the textual and archaeological evidence of interaction between Nubia and the Ethiopian kingdom of Aksum, focusing primarily on the fourth century CE. Although ancient Nubia and Ethiopia have been the subject of a growing number of studies in recent years, little attention has been given to contact between these two regions. Hatke argues that ancient Northeast Africa cannot be treated as a unified area politically, economically, or culturally. Rather, Nubia and Ethiopia developed within very different regional spheres of interaction, as a result of which the Nubian kingdom of Kush came to focus its energies on the Nile Valley, relying on this as its main route of contact with the outside world, while Aksum was oriented towards the Red Sea and Arabia. In this way Aksum and Kush coexisted in peace for most of their history, and such contact as they maintained with each other was limited to small-scale commerce. Only in the fourth century CE did Aksum take up arms against Kush, and even then the conflict seems to have been related mainly to security issues on Aksum’s western frontier.

Although Aksum never managed to hold onto Kush for long, much less dealt the final death-blow to the Nubian kingdom, as is often believed, claims to Kush continued to play a role in Aksumite royal ideology as late as the sixth century. Aksum and Nubia critically examines the extent to which relations between two ancient African states were influenced by warfare, commerce, and political fictions.”


“This book examines the political and economic relations between Turkey and Iran since the Iranian Revolution in 1979. It shows that contrary to the expectation that the revolution would usher in an era of ideological hostility between the two neighbors, relations were primarily framed in an imbalanced manner irrespective of ideology. On the one hand, Iran largely continued the Shah’s foreign policy of benign neglect vis-à-vis Turkey, focusing on overcoming isolation and expanding Iranian influence in the Gulf and the wider Middle East. On the other hand, Turkey was acutely attentive to Iran’s potential—intentionally as well as inadvertently—to generate security threats or economic opportunities. As such, there was an asymmetry of interest between the Turkish and Iranian elites in the affairs of their neighbor. This asymmetry ended in the first decade of the 21st century due to changes in domestic Turkish politics, the US invasion of Iraq, complementary economic developments and Iran’s nuclear dispute. Yet, this underlying dynamic continues to explain why these two regional powers continue to engage in contradictory relations, vacillating between rivalry and partnership.

Joshua Landis (Ph.D. 1997) returned to Princeton on November 19, 2013, to give a talk, “Syria, What’s Next?” sponsored by the Transregional Institute. Landis is Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma, where he has won the best teacher prize at his university. Landis, a Past President of the Syrian Studies Association, writes “SyriaComment.com,” a daily newsletter on Syrian politics that attracts some 200,000 page-reads a month and is widely read in Syria, Europe, and Washington. He is a frequent analyst on TV and radio, appearing recently on the PBS News Hour, the Charlie Rose Show, and Front Line. He is a regular on NPR and the BBC and frequently publishes in *Foreign Policy, Middle East Policy,* and *Time*. Some recent publications are: ”Stay Out of Syria” in *Foreign Policy* (June 5, 2012) and “Why Asad Is Likely to Survive to 2013,” *Middle East Policy* (Spring 2012).

Eric Lob received a post-doctoral fellowship to be a junior research fellow at Brandeis University’s Crown Center for Middle East Studies for the 2013–14 academic year. He will join Florida International University’s Department of Politics and International Relations as an assistant professor in Middle East comparative politics beginning in Fall 2014.

Nadav Samin is a Fellow at the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia and concurrently a Social Science Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow for Transregional Research (Inter-Asian Contexts and Connections).

Daniel Stolz received a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Science in Human Culture Program at Northwestern University, where he is affiliated with and teaching in the History Department. During Winter 2014, he taught “Islam, Science, and Modernity,” which explored the long history of science in Islamic societies, from the ‘Abbasid translation movement to the late twentieth century, with special attention to the role that science has come to play in Muslim debates about modernity, and in Spring 2014, he plans to offer a course on Energy and Environment in the Middle East.

Frederic Wehrey (M.A. 2002) returned to Princeton on October 1, 2013, to give a talk, “In the Shadow of the Syrian War: Sectarianism in the Arab Gulf States,” sponsored by the Transregional Institute. Wehrey is a Senior Associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His most recent Carnegie publications include: The Struggle for Security in Eastern Libya (2012); Building Libya’s Security Sector (2013); The Precarious Ally: Bahrain’s Impasse and U.S. Policy (2013); and The Forgotten Uprising in Eastern Saudi...
Arabia (2013). His articles and commentary have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, the Journal of Democracy, Foreign Policy, and Foreign Affairs.

Şuhnaz Yılmaz Özbek (M.A. 1995, Ph.D. 2000) spoke October 9, 2013, on “Quest for Energy Security: Turkey’s Role in Eurasian Energy Politics” in a talk sponsored by the Near Eastern Studies Department, the Program in Near Eastern Studies, and the M. Münir Ertegün Foundation for Turkish Studies. Yılmaz Özbek is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Koç University, where in 2012 she received the Outstanding Teaching Award, and serves as the Associate Director of the Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities. She is also the director of the foreign policy group of the Center for Globalization and Democratic Governance. In 2007, Yılmaz Özbek received the Sakip Sabancı International Research Award, granted by Sabancı University and the Brookings Institution, and in 2008 she was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Young Scientist Award of the Turkish Academy of Sciences.

Events

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

The Near East and the World Seminar Series

The theme of this new seminar series organized by Associate Professor Michael Reynolds was “Reckoning with Iraq: Ten Years Later.” During the Fall semester four talks were given: Andrew Bacevich, Boston University, “Cheap Grace and the American Way of War”; Kanan Makiya, Brandeis University, “The 2003 Iraq War: A Retrospective View Through the Prism of the Arab ‘Spring’”; Colin Kahl, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East and Georgetown University, “Ending the War in Iraq”; and Barham Salih, Former Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan and Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Iraq, “The U.S., Iraq, and the Future of the Kurds.”

Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium

Founded in 2009, the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium (PISC) is a monthly forum for discussion and peer review of graduate students’ research projects. The colloquium meets roughly once a month over lunch to discuss a pre-circulated paper, and all attendees are expected to have read and reflected on the paper beforehand. A discussant initiates the conversation with a summary of the paper’s main argument, taking care to identify what the piece contributes to current scholarship as well as its potential for further development. Following the author’s response, a moderator leads roughly an hour of discussion. During Fall 2013, the following graduate students presented papers: Lindsey Stephenson (NES), “Geography and Belonging: Social Navigation and the Kuwaiti Houla” (Respondent: Assistant Professor Cyrus Schayegh [NES]); Thomas Carlson (HIS), “Contours of Conversion: The Geography of Islamization in Syria, 600–1500” (Respondent: Christian Sahner [HIS]); Elizabeth Nugent (POL), “Islamism and the Problem of Western Hegemony: Experimental Evidence from Egypt” (co-authored with Associate Professor Amaney Jamal [POL] and Tarek Masoud; Discussant: Cole Bunzel [NES]); Samuel Helfont (NES), “Challenging Saddam’s Omnipotence: A Reexamination of Ba’thist Discourse on Shi’ism” (Discussant: Assistant Professor Max Weiss [HIS/ NES]);

The PISC Coordinators for 2013–14 are Maria Fuchs (Religion), Saarah Jappie (History), Christian Sahner (History), Wasim Shiliwala (NES), and Lindsey Stephenson (NES).

President of Tunisia Public Lecture
His Excellency Moncef Marzouki, President of the Republic of Tunisia, gave a public lecture on September 26, 2013, in Richardson Auditorium. Co-sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson School, The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, and the Workshop on Arab Political Development, the address focused on “the challenges that face an Arab nation as it struggles with a nascent democracy.” For more about this talk click here.

Former President of Georgia Seminar
The Honorable Mikheil Saakashvili, former President of Georgia, spoke December 10, 2013, on “EU Enlargement to Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.” The talk was sponsored by the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Near Eastern Studies, and the European Union Program.
Conference: “The Mashriq in the Age of Late Imperialism”
Assistant Professor Cyrus Chayegh and former NES Postdoctoral Research Fellow Andrew Arsan (University of Cambridge) organized a conference, “The Mashriq in the Age of Late Imperialism: The Mandates in Global Perspective,” held September 20-22, 2013. Funded by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies; the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project; The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia; the Department of Near Eastern Studies; the Davis Center, History Department; the University Center for Human Values; and the Program in European Cultural Studies, the conference brought together thirty-eight scholars from ten countries for a wide-ranging examination of the League of Nation mandates in the Mashriq. Participants with Princeton connections were the organizers (“Welcome,” Commentator, and “Concluding Remarks”); Mustafa Aksakal (Ph.D. 2003), Georgetown University (“Meat, Locust, and Politics: The Ottoman First World War”); Christine Philliou (M.A. 1998, Ph.D. History 2004), Columbia University (“Ottoman Authority Displaced, 1918–1923”), Associate Professor Michael A. Reynolds (Commentator); Orit Bashkin (Ph.D. 2005), University of Chicago (“When Jerusalem and London Mattered to Khanqin: A Few Comments on Jews in Northern Iraq 1921–1932”); Assistant Professor of Politics David Carter (Commentator); Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs and Chair of Near Eastern Studies M. Şükrü Hanoğlu (Commentator); Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Director of the Transregional Institute Bernard Haykel (Commentator); Former Assistant Professor Liora Halperin, University of Colorado Boulder (“Hebrew under English Rule: The Language Politics of Mandate Palestine”); and Dayton-Stockton Professor of History Gyan Prakash (Commentator).

Conference: “Constitutions and Islam”
The 42nd Annual Conference of the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) was held at Princeton September 28, 2013. Co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Near Eastern Studies, the conference theme was “Constitutions and Islam.” Princeton-affiliated participants were: Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs and Chair of NES M. Şükrü Hanoğlu (welcoming and introductory remarks); William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Anthropology Lawrence Rosen (Discussant); NES graduate student Edgar Melgar (“Academics, Imams, Believers and the State: Religious Authority in Modern Islam and the American Judicial System”); Sumaiya Hamdani (M.A. 1989, Ph.D. 1995), George Mason University (Panel Chair); Assistant Professor of NES Mirjam Künkler (Discus- sant); Professor of NES and Director of the Transregional Institute Bernard Haykel (Discussant); and NES graduate student Usama al-Azami (“Maqāṣid al-Shari‘a, Siyasa Shar‘iyya, and al-Azhar: Understanding the New Islamist Debate”). To see the complete program click here and scroll to the event announcement.

Conference: “Economic and Political Institutions of Islam: Past and Present”
The Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AA- LIMS) Fall Workshop and Conference was held at Princeton October 18-19, 2013. Organized by the AALIMS, the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, the Workshop on Arab Political Development, and the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance and co-sponsored by the Program in Near Eastern Studies, the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia and the Department of Near Eastern Studies, the Workshop featured presentations by faculty and advanced graduate students that explored the workings and transformations of diverse institutions that have been identified with Islam either through doctrinal institutional or the practices of Muslims with a focus on institutions that have affected political and economic performance. To learn more about this workshop click here and scroll to the announcement.

Conference: “The Interface between Economics and Religion: Explorations of the Islamic Case”
Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael A. Cook and Associate Professor Michael A. Reynolds

Symposium: “Muslims among Others: Islam’s Pluralism in South Asia”
Four of the six participants in this symposium held on November 22, 2013, and sponsored by the Program in South Asian Studies were affiliated with Near Eastern Studies. Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael Cook gave “A View from the Middle East”; graduate student Simon Wolfgang Fuchs presented “It’s Not the Economy: Reading Arguments of the Sunni-Shia Conflict in Pakistan”; Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and Near Eastern Studies and Link-Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows Daniel Sheffield spoke about “Historical Reflections on Parsi-Muslim Relations in Gujarat and Mumbai”; and Mirjam Künkler served as a panel chair.

Conference: “Syria’s Heritage in Crisis”
Organized by the Center for Arts & Cultural Property Studies, Princeton University, and the Penn Cultural Heritage Center, University of Pennsylvania, and co-sponsored by The Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa, and The Index of Christian Art, “Syria’s Heritage in Crisis” assembled on December 6, 2013, a group of scholars with an expertise in Syrian heritage and history, cultural property law, and preservation to discuss the destruction of Syria’s cultural heritage during the tragic conflict occurring in that country and what can be done to improve the situation. To see the conference program click here and scroll to the conference announcement.

Conference: “The Interface between Economics and Religion: Explorations of the Islamic Case”
Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael A. Cook and Associate Professor Michael A. Reynolds

In addition to co-sponsoring a number of events mentioned throughout this newsletter, The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a full slate of talks during the 2013 Fall semester. These included: “Syria, the United States, and the Future of the Middle East” by Jon Alterman ’87 (B.A., WWS), Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Director, Middle East Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; “In the Shadow of the Syrian War: Sectarianism in the Arab Gulf States” by Frederic Wehrey (M.A. 2002), Senior associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; “Oil for Food: The Global Food Crisis and the Middle East” by Eckart Woertz, Senior researcher at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs and former Visiting Fellow in TRI’s Oil, Energy, and the Middle East Project; “Saudi Arabia: the Reality and Outlook” by Ali Al-Azm, Director of the Institute for Gulf Affairs, Washington, D.C.; “Syria: From Uprising to Regional Conflict? The Explosive Interplay of Local Dynamics and Regional Politics” by Emile Habiby, Senior Fellow for Regional Security at the International Institute for Strategic Studies; “Cronism in Egypt” by Ishac Diwan, Lecturer on Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; “Arab Uprisings: the Persistence of the Old Order” by Hisham Melhem, Washington Bureau Chief, Al Arabiya News Channel; “Syria, What’s Next?” by Joshua Landis (Ph.D. 1997), Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma; “The Ottoman Dynasty’s Legal Claims and the Rise of the Imperial State Madhab” by Guy Burbank, The Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Librarian, Bobst Library, New York University; and “Syria in Revolt” by Sadik J. Al-Azm, Visiting Scholar, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, and former Visiting Professor in NES at Princeton.

Among the events organized by the Workshop on Arab Political Development were four lectures. These were: “A New U.S.-Middle East Approach Toward the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” by Maen Rashid Areikat, Palestine Liberation Organization Ambassador to the United States; “What is Happening in Egypt” by Dalia Ziada, Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies; “Interim Assessment: Is There Progress Toward Democracy in the Post-Spring Arab World?” by Leslie Campbell, National Democratic Institute; and “Does the US Still Have Leverage Over Egypt’s Transition?” by Nancy Okail, Freedom House, Egypt. These four events were co-sponsored by The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and the Program in Near Eastern Studies.

Nilüfer Hatemi has been the Ertegün Visiting Assistant Professor since Spring 2013. Hatemi received her Ph.D. (“Unfolding a Life: Marshal Fevzi Çakmak’s Diaries”) in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2000 and is an assistant professor of History at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey. During the 2013–14 Fall Semester, she taught two Turkish language courses, TUR 305, “Advanced Turkish: Selected Readings in Historical and Literary Texts,” and TUR 405, “Introduction to Ottoman Turkish.”

Daniel Sheffield is in his second year as Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and Near Eastern Studies and Link-Cot sen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows. In addition to revising his dissertation for publication, he is preparing a critical edition and translation of an unpublished Zoroastrian Middle Persian text, The Book of Religious Judgments (Wizirgerd i Dēnīg), for publication. During the 2013–14 Fall Semester, he taught NES 351, “In Tamerlane’s Wake: Timurids, Safavids, and Mughals in Early Modern Asia.” The course explored “the worlds of early modern Asia and trace the lingering influences of Timurid courtly culture in the Safavid (1501–1722) and Mughal (1526–1857) empires.”

**Department Hosts Alumni Reception**

In conjunction with the University’s Part of Princeton University’s “Many Minds, Many Stripes” conference for graduate alumni, Near Eastern Studies hosted on October 18 a reception for NES graduate alumni who returned to campus for the conference.

**TRI Events**

**Workshop on Arab Political Development Events**

Among the events organized by the Workshop on Arab Political Development were four lectures. These were: “A New U.S.-Middle East Approach Toward the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” by Maen Rashid Areikat, Palestine Liberation Organization Ambassador to the United States; “What is Happening in Egypt” by Dalia Ziada, Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies; “Interim Assessment: Is There Progress Toward Democracy in the Post-Spring Arab World?” by Leslie Campbell, National Democratic Institute; and “Does the US Still Have Leverage Over Egypt’s Transition?” by Nancy Okail, Freedom House, Egypt. These four events were co-sponsored by The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and the Program in Near Eastern Studies.

**Visiting Faculty and Fellows**

Nilüfer Hatemi has been the Ertegün Visiting Assistant Professor since Spring 2013. Hatemi received her Ph.D. (“Unfolding a Life: Marshal Fevzi Çakmak’s Diaries”) in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2000 and is an assistant professor of History at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey. During the 2013–14 Fall Semester, she taught two Turkish language courses, TUR 305, “Advanced Turkish: Selected Readings in Historical and Literary Texts,” and TUR 405, “Introduction to Ottoman Turkish.”

**Postdoctoral Research Fellows**

NES Postdoctoral Research Associate Kevan Harris won the 2013 American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Outstanding Article Award for his 2012 Mobilization article, “The Brokered Exuberation of the Middle Class: An Ethnographic Analysis of Iran’s 2009 Green Movement.” His
Matthew Melvin-Koushki holds degrees in Islamic Studies from Yale University (Ph.D., M.Phil., M.A.) and a BA in Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures from the University of Virginia. He recently completed a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Oxford, and following his post as Postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton will join the faculty of the University of South Carolina as Assistant Professor of History. Melvin-Koushki’s 2012 dissertation, “The Quest for a Universal Science: The Occult Philosophy of Sā’in al-Dīn Turka Isfahānī (1369-1432) and Intellectual Millenarianism in Early Timurid Iran,” won the Middle East Studies Association’s Malcolm H. Kerr award for best dissertation in the humanities and received honorable mention for the award of best dissertation in Iranian Studies from the Foundation for Iranian Studies. This study demonstrates the integrality of occult modes of knowledge to late medieval and early modern millenarian-universalist projects, whether in the Islamicate heartlands or Renaissance Europe. As a case in point, it focuses on the mainstreaming of letrism or kabbalistic thought as a preferred vehicle for neopythagorean-neoplatonic philosophy in intellectual circles in 15th-century Iran. Melvin-Koushki’s current research expands on this theme to explore the theory and practice of the so-called “occult sciences” in the context of both history of science and history of philosophy in the Islamicate world, and particularly their frequent interpenetration with “legitimate” sciences such as astronomy or medicine through the early modern period.

At Princeton, Melvin-Koushki will be converting his dissertation into two books: a monograph on the thought and career of Ibn Turka, the foremost occult philosopher of early Timurid Iran, and the intellectual and sociopolitical role of occultism in the early modern Islamicate world more broadly; and a critical edition and translation of nine Persian and Arabic treatises by the same author on the subject of letrism, conceived of as a supplementary volume to the first. He will also complete an article on the political applications of the occult sciences in the 15th-century Persianate world, taking as a case study a treatise on letter magic written by the Shirazi philosopher Jalāl al-Dīn Davānī for a ruler in central India.

Visiting Fellows

Marina Rustow, Charlotte Bloomberg Associate Professor in the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University, was a Council of the Humanities Virginia and Richard Stewart Fellow in Near Eastern Studies in December 2013. Rustow studies Jewish communities in the medieval Mediterranean world, and, more broadly, medieval Middle Eastern history. Working on a set of documentary texts written in Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic—the Cairo Geniza—she asks what they can tell us about the Jewish community that preserved them and the governments that produced them. During her time on campus, Rustow presented two public lectures, “An Unknown Fatimid Petition from the Cairo Geniza” and “In the Theater of Sovereignty: The Petition and Response Procedure under the Fatimids.”

Jacob Abadi is a professor of Middle Eastern studies at the United States Air Force Academy. While at Princeton, he will be researching and writing a comprehensive study of the history of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He has published four books: Britain’s Withdrawal from the Middle East, 1947–1971: The Economic and Strategic Imperatives (Princeton, NJ: Kingston Press, 1982, 1983); Israel’s Leadership: From Utopia to Crisis (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993); Israel’s Quest for Recognition and Acceptance in Asia: Garrison State Diplomacy (London; Portland, OR: Frank Cass, 2004); and Tunisia since the Arab Conquest: The Saga of a Westernized Muslim State (Reading, UK: Ithaca Press, 2012).


Gündüz is currently working as an Associate Professor on the Faculty of Education, Yıldız Technical University (İstanbul/Turkey). His main research interests are related to the history of education and sociology. He focuses on the history of Turkish education, especially before the founding of Republic of Turkey. He has published three books: II. Meşrutiyetin Klasik Paradigmaları, Ictihat, Sebili’r-Reşad ve Türk Yurdu’nda Toplumsal Tezler (Ankara: Lotus Press, 2007); Osmanlı Mirası Cumhuriyet’in İnşası; Modernleşme, Eğitim Kültürü ve Aydınlar (Ankara: Lotus Press, 2010); and Eğitimci Yönlü Ahmed Cevdet Paşa (Ankara: Doğu Batı Press, 2012), and his research has appeared in many leading academic journals. He is currently researching modernization and education during the 19th century in the Middle East, and he will compare the modernization process in the Ottoman Empire, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Iran. He will be pursuing his research until January 2015.
Necmettin Kızılkaya was a visiting scholar in Near Eastern Studies July 1–September 30, 2013. He earned his Ph.D. from the Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Islamic Law, Selçuk University (Konya), and is currently working as an assistant professor for Yalova University, Faculty of Law. His dissertation, “Hanefi Mezhebinde Kavâid İlimi ve Gelişimi,” studied the development of legal maxims in the Hanafi School of Law. His book based upon the dissertation, Hanefi Mezhebi Bağlamında İslam Hukukunda Külli Kâideler (İstanbul: İz Yayıncılık), appeared in 2013. He is the author of numerous book chapters, articles, encyclopedia entries, and reviews and is on the editorial board of İnsan ve Toplum Dergisi and the Journal of Islamic Law Studies. While he was at Princeton he researched the legal and mystical debate on kasb literature, focusing particularly on al-Shaybani’s Kitab al-Kasb and early discussions of the Sufis (such as Ahmad b. al-Harb and Ibn al-Kar- ram) and the fuqaha on the kasb (not in the theological sense). He also gave a Turkish Language Lunch Talk on “Geçmişten Günümüze İslam Dünyasında Mezhep Olgusu.”

TRI Fellows
The relationship between language and politics in the Middle East is fraught and little studied. The Republic of Turkey adopted a language policy that irrevocably changed Turkish and then deployed this as an instrument for molding a new national identity. Similarly, Arab nationalism used Arabic for ideological purposes, adopting specific rhetorical registers, vocabularies and tropes that are now being abandoned with the rise of new regimes with an Islamist orientation. As with the nationalists, Islamists have deliberately used language to advance their ideas about society and their political agendas. In so doing, they shun certain usages and terms while privileging others. The Islamic Republic of Iran, for example, has developed a repertoire of slogans and terms for promoting its distinctive ideological worldview. The government of Saudi Arabia has also used particular registers of Islamic theology and law to specific ends. These, however, are nonetheless contested by Islamists and liberal-minded activists who seek greater accountability and transparency in governance. And the fraught process of constitutional drafting in Egypt provides another good illustration of the importance of language. The relationship between language and politics, at the state as well as the street level, is the theme that the Institute for Transregional Studies wishes to explore during the academic year 2013-2014.

Nadav Samin is a TRI Fellow and concurrently a Social Science Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow for Transregional Research (Inter-Asian Contexts and Connections). He received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2013. The focus of his work is the history of the Arabian Peninsula, and specifically the influence of oral culture on the genealogical politics of modern Saudi Arabia. His dissertation traced the process of genealogical documentation in central Arabia from the Wahhabi period to the present day. As a TRI Fellow, Nadav will begin work on his second project, a comparative history of Arabia’s coastal communities, with an emphasis on the history of Asian migration to the Hijaz, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. Nadav has authored several articles on Arabic history and culture, and has taught at Hunter College and New York University. He holds degrees from New York University and Johns Hopkins University.

Emmanuel Szurek is a TRI post-doctoral fellow and is working on revising his doctoral dissertation (EHESS, Paris 2013) into a published book. Titled “Governing with Words: a Linguistic History of Nationalist Turkey,” Szurek shows how the Turkish language is a political artifact that owes much of its alphabetical, lexical and grammatical shape to the comprehensive undertaking conducted during the Kemalist period under the label of “language revolution.” The particular issues Szurek is interested in are the intellectual elaboration of this standardized and nationalized language by Turkish linguists and its imposition, through political means, on the citizens of the Republic of Turkey.

Departures
Assistant Professor Liora Halperin left Near Eastern Studies to accept a position as an assistant professor of History at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and as a core faculty member in the CU Program in Jewish Studies.

Sarah Boyce, who had been a member of the NES administrative staff since 2008, resigned effective August 2013 in order to return to school.

Language Events

Calligraphy Class
On November 15, 2013, Faraz Khan taught three, fifty-minute classes in Arabic and Persian calligraphy to language students and interested outsiders.

Language Talks
During the 2013 Fall Semester Near Eastern Studies hosted four language lunch talks, one each in Arabic and in Persian and two in Turkish. On October 3, Samer el-Karanshawy discussed “Egypt after the Overthrow of the Ikhwan”; November 20, Negin Moshtagh presented “An Introduction to Daf & Ka-mancheh” in Persian; on September 25, Necmettin Kızılkaya spoke on “Geçmişten Günümüze İslam Dünyasında Mezhep Olgusu” in Turkish; and on December 6 Sibel Erol discussed “Orhan Pamuk ve İstanbul,” also in Turkish.

The NES Film Series, Fall 2013
Six films, three Persian and three Turkish, were screened during the Fall Semester.
The Patience Stone is a dramatic film directed by Atiq Rahimi, based on his novel of the same title. “Somewhere, in Afghanistan or elsewhere, in a country torn apart by a war... A young woman in her thirties watches over her older husband in a decrepit room. He is reduced to the state of a vegetable because of a bullet in the neck. Not only is he abandoned by his companions of the Jihad, but also by his brothers. One day, the woman decides to tell the truth to him about her feelings about their relationship to her silent husband. She talks about her childhood, her suffering, her frustrations, her loneliness, her dreams, her desires...”

The Iran Job “is a documentary directed by Till Schauder about Kevin Sheppard, a professional American basketball player, as he plays in Shiraz, Iran, for the A.S. Shiraz team in the Iranian Super League. The documentary was filmed in Iran in the winter of 2008–2009. When Kevin joined the team he expected the worst. But what he found was a country brimming with generosity, acceptance, and emotion.”

The Day I Became a Woman “is an award-winning Iranian drama film directed by Marzieh Meshkini [and] comprised of three interconnected vignettes that depict women at three stages of life in Iran.”

Feth 1453 is an “action film based on the events surrounding Constantinople’s conquest by the Ottoman Turks during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II.”

Veda, “written and directed by Zülfü Livaneli and based on the memoirs of Salih Bozok, ... traces the life of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It is one of the highest-grossing films.”

Devrim Arabaları “is based on the development of the Devrim, the first ever automobile designed and produced in Turkey in 1961.”

Library News

Exhibition of Egyptian Movie Posters

Salamah [Sallama] {Egypt, 1945}. Poster unsigned and printed in Cairo by al-Cinema al-'Arabiyah, H. Gassour Printing. Arabic Movie Posters and Lobby Cards Collection, Graphic Arts Collection. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

Al-Arajuz [The Puppeteer] {Egypt, 1989}. Poster designed by Nagi Shakir and printed in Cairo by Misr al ‘Arabiyah Printing. Arabic Movie Posters and Lobby Cards Collection, Graphic Arts Collection. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

Library Acquires Mamluk Coin Collection

The Friends of Princeton University Library purchased the Richard Undeland Collection of Mamluk coins for the library’s Numismatic Collection, the oldest numismatic collection in the United States. Assembled by Richard E. Undeland, a U.S. Foreign Service officer who spent the majority of his 35-year career in the Middle

Richard Undeland Collection of Mamluk Coins. Numismatic Collection. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

East, the collection was sold to the library following Undeland’s death in 2012 by his wife, Joan. Alan Stahl, the library's Curator of Numismatics, noted that “Undeland was very careful to get coins not only from every sultan, but also from very mint.” For more information please check out the Rare Books and Special Collections announcement and the Times of Trenton article from November 12, 2013.

In Memoriam

Robert Garrett ’59, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Near Eastern Studies Department, passed away on March 12, 2014. Garrett, the son of the late Grace and Harrison Garrett, was born February 27, 1937. He graduated from Princeton University with a B.A. in History in 1959, served in the U.S. Army for three years in Germany as a First Lieutenant, and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1965. Following graduation, he moved to New York, beginning a career in investment banking and publishing that spanned nearly five decades. At the time of his death, he was a founding partner of Media Advisory Partners, LLC and President of Robert Garrett & Sons, his family's 150-year-old merchant banking firm, which he had reactivated. Previously, he had been Chairman of Penn Virginia Corporation and President and founder of AdMedia Partners. He was also serving on numerous boards, including as Chairman of the Robert Garrett Fund for the Surgical Treatment of Children at Johns Hopkins Medicine (since 1990); Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee of the A. S. Abell Foundation (since 1972); Board Member of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation (since 1986); Member of the Board of Managers and Chair of the Budget Committee of the New York Botanical Garden (since 1989); and Board Member and Treasurer of The Adirondack Council (since 2009). Garrett is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jacqueline Marlas Garrett; sons Robert Garrett, Jr. and Johnson Garrett; four grandchildren; brothers Thomas Harrison Garrett, M.D., and James Rea Garrett, and a sister, Julia Garrett Fox.
NES Reception
“Many Minds, Many Stripes”
Graduate Alumni Conference

New Faculty Book Reception
Michael Barry’s Le Cantique des Oiseaux d’Attâr
New Faculty Book Reception
Michael Cook’s Ancient Religions, Modern Politics
Scenes from the Fall Reception