

Program in Middle Eastern Studies



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

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

As another academic year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to congratulate our graduating seniors and to convey our greetings to our continuing students and to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. We hope that the year has been enjoyable and productive.

I am delighted to announce that beginning this summer, Professor Rachid Aadnani will be assuming the Directorship of the Program in Middle Eastern Studies. Having designed and directed the Arabic Language Program for many years, Rachid, as most readers of this newsletter will know, is a specialist in the languages and literatures of North Africa and the Middle East, and in translation studies; he is also a published poet and translator. We owe our thriving Program in Arabic Studies to his exceptionally inspired leadership and unfailing dedication. It is our great good fortune now to be able to anticipate his Directorship of the Middle Eastern Studies Program as well.

It is a pleasure to thank this year's Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Ms. Sana Benjannet, for her extremely valuable and greatly appreciated service to the Arabic Language Program throughout the year. I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our former Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, Ms. Eman Abu Salah, on her acceptance to several programs in Arabic Language Pedagogy in the United States. We wish Sana and Eman every success in the future.

Thanks to the continuing and deeply appreciated generosity of Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet, the Program in Middle Eastern Studies was able again this year to offer students of Arabic the opportunity to apply for a small number of Summer Language Study Stipends. The purpose of the stipends is to assist students wishing to advance their proficiency in Arabic by enrolling in approved intensive summer programs; the stipends are especially appropriate for students planning to study abroad in Arabic speaking

countries in the following year. We are deeply grateful for the generous gift that has allowed us to continue this initiative, begun for the first time last year.

Similarly owing to the exceptionally generous gifts of Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet, Middle Eastern Studies has been able to organize numerous events throughout the year. Most significantly, the Schochets' generosity has enabled us to host the internationally acclaimed calligraphic artist Khaled Al-Saa'i; details of this program, which took place in the spring semester, appear below. In addition, our Middle Eastern Studies Alumnae Series has been especially active this year. We were delighted to welcome several former students to our campus throughout the year. Afshan Bokhari '88 of New England School of Art and Design, Suffolk University, delivered a lecture on 'Masculine and Feminine Modes of Subjectivity: The Case of Princess Jahanara Begam (1614-1681)'; Anisa Mehdi '78, producer and documentary film-maker, presented her documentary film 'Sacred Journeys: The Hajj', which premiered in December 2014 on PBS nationwide; Laura Yan '14, PhD Program in History (International and Global History); Columbia University, and Lillian Stuart '14, Project Manager, Implementation Services, Epic Systems, Madison, Wisconsin, discussed their professional choices since graduation; Alma Heckman '09, Assistant Professor of History at University of California at Santa Cruz, discussed her current research, with particular reference to her doctoral dissertation, 'Radical Nationalists: Moroccan Jewish Communists, 1920-1960' (UCLA 2015), and visited several classes.

Middle Eastern Studies was also pleased to co-sponsor with Art History the lecture 'Troubling Monochronic Time: Henri Pirenne, Ernst Herzfeld, and the Myth of Origin', delivered by Avinoam Shalem, Riggio Professor of the History of the Arts of Islam, Columbia University, and to collaborate with the Department of French in inviting Elaine Sciolino, former bureau chief of the *New York Times* and author of *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran* (2000, 2nd Edition 2005), who delivered a presentation entitled 'Iran Today: A Journalist Reflects'.

Once again, we offer our congratulations to our graduating seniors and their families, and our very best regards to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. We wish you all a pleasant summer.

With best wishes,

Louise Marlow

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

CURRICULAR NEWS

COURSE OFFERINGS IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES 2016-17

FALL 2016 COURSES

ARAB 101 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

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

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Fall. M,T,W,Th 8:30-9:40; M,T,W, Th 9:50-11:00

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

ARAB 201 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

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

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 102 or permission of the instructor.

Term(s): Fall. M,W,Th 8:30-9:40am;

M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

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



ARAB 301 - Advanced Arabic (1.0)

Continuation of ARAB 201-ARAB 202. Involving further development of students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, this course exposes students to a variety of authentic Arabic materials, including print and online sources, incorporating MSA and diglossia. Focus on enhanced communication skills in Arabic and attention to the use of language in its sociocultural context.

Appropriate for students who have completed ARAB 201-ARAB 202 at Wellesley or the equivalent in summer courses or international study programs.

Instructor: Zitnick

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

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

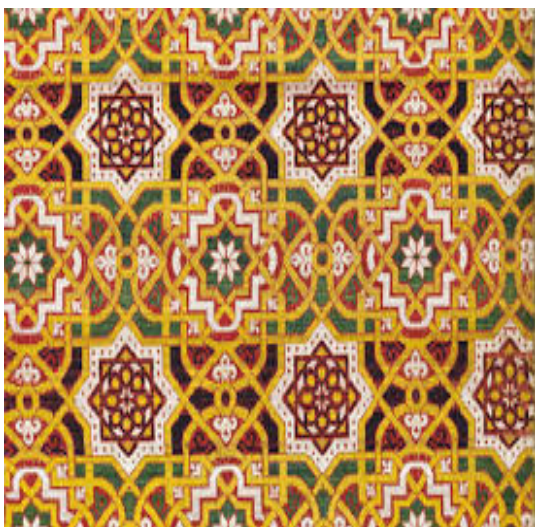
REL 104 - Study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (1.0)

Critical introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, studying its role in the History and culture of ancient Israel and its relationship to ancient Near Eastern cultures. Special focus on the fundamental techniques of literary, historical, and source criticism in modern scholarship, with emphasis on the Bible's literary structure and compositional evolution.

Instructor: Silver

Prerequisite: None

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



REL 263 - Islam in the Modern World (1.0)

A study of the modern history of the Islamic religion and its interaction with other historical forces in shaping particular developments in Muslim societies from the late eighteenth century to the present. The course explores the emergence and development of religious ideas and movements in the context of the colonial and postcolonial periods, and the histories of modern nation-states. Readings encompass a variety of perspective and address a range of topics, including religious practice and interpretation, matters of governance and the state, economics, gender and gender relations, dress (for men and women), and the participation of women in various arenas of public life. The course explores Islam as a

diverse and dynamic religious tradition that is responsive to change, and enquires into the divergent understandings and connotations of "Islam" to different speakers, groups, and perspectives in a variety of modern and contemporary contexts.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Fall. TF 8:30-9:50

POL2 217 - Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

How do Arab-Islamic history and culture shape politics in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa? Why is the Arab world – despite its tremendous oil-wealth – still characterized by economic underdevelopment and huge gaps between rich and poor? How have the events of September 11 and the U.S.-led "war on terror" affected the prospects for greater freedom and prosperity in the Middle East in the future? What do the 2011 revolts mean for the existing regimes and prospects for democracy? These are some of the questions we will examine in this course. In readings, lecture, and class discussions, the analysis of general themes and trends will be integrated with case studies of individual Arab states.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisite: One unit in political science

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

WINTERSESSION 2017

MOROCCO

MES 270 | AADNANI

Middle Eastern Studies is delighted to announce a new Wintersession in Morocco Program, to take place for the first time in January 2017. Led by Professor Rachid Aadnani, the Program will concentrate on the languages, literatures and arts of Morocco. Our host institution will be the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning in Rabat; students will also have the opportunity to travel in several regions of Morocco. Many of our alumnae will remember the History Department's highly successful Wintersession in Morocco Program, for which the CCCL also provided superb partnership and support. It is a pleasure for Middle Eastern Studies to be able to continue to offer our students this important opportunity to study in Morocco, and to explore the country's vibrant literary and artistic cultures. As we look forward to launching this new initiative, Middle Eastern Studies would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Wilfrid Rollman, long-time leader of the History Department's Program, for his many years of cordial collaboration with Middle Eastern Studies, and for his generous sharing of his invaluable expertise and experience.



SPRING 2017 COURSES

ARAB 102 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

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

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 101

Term(s): Spring. M,T,W, Th 8:30-9:40;

M,T,W,Th 9:50-11:00

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

ARAB 202 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

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

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 201 or permission of instructor.

Term(s): Spring. M,W, Th 8:50-9:40am;

M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

Each semester of ARAB 201 and 202 earns 1.0

unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 210 - Introduction to Arabic Literature in Translation (1.0)

Exploration of some highly influential works of literature translated from Arabic. Students will have a chance to delve into literary works composed by authors from a large geographical area, extending from Morocco to the Middle East, from the turn of the nineteenth century to the present day. Our study of modern and contemporary Arabic literature will focus on a number of recurring themes, such as cultural and national identity, colonialism, religion, gender relations, and class conflict. Authors to be discussed include Naguib Mafouz, Abdelrahman Munif, Ahlam Mosteghanemi, Leila Abouzeid, Tahir Wattar, Mohammed Zafzaf, and Yusuf Idris

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Spring W 2:15-4:30



ARAB 307 - Readings in Classical Arabic Literature (1.0)

Close readings and study of selected prose and verse from the rich repertoire of Classical Arabic literature. Readings will be selected in part in response to the interest of students enrolled in the course, but are likely to include some of the following: readings from sacred texts and the traditional scholarly traditions, mystical and philosophical writings, historiographical and

geographical writings, collections of stories, travelers' accounts, letters and diaries, and various kinds of poetry. All readings will be in Arabic, with discussion and written assignments mostly in English

Instructor: Marlow

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

Term(s): Spring, W 1:30-4:00



REL 105 – Study of the New Testament (1.0)

The writings of the New Testament as diverse expressions of early Christianity. Close reading of the texts, with particular emphasis upon the Gospels and the letters of Paul. Treatment of the literary, theological, and historical dimensions of the Christian scriptures, as well as of methods of interpretation. The beginnings of the break between the Jesus movement and Judaism will be specifically considered.

Instructor: Geller

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Spring, TF 2:50-4:00

REL 244 – Jerusalem: The Holy City

An exploration of the history, archaeology, and architecture of Jerusalem from the Bronze Age to the present. Special attention both to the ways in which Jerusalem's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities transformed Jerusalem in response to their religious and political values and also to

the role of the city in the ongoing Middle East and Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Instructor: Geller

Prerequisites: None

Term(s): Spring, TF 11:10-12:20

REL/MES 267 – Muslim Ethics (1.0)

How have Muslims, over the course of a millennium and a half and in strikingly different environments and circumstances, conceived of human nature, moral conduct and responsibility, and the good life; and how have they formulated, debated, and applied ethical principles? This course explores these questions with reference to the rich materials that have informed the religious cultures of Muslim communities, including the sacred sources of the Qur'an and the Prophet's example, the reception, interpretation and development of late antique moral philosophies and wisdom literatures, the evolving corpora of legal and theological scholarship, and the elaboration of rationally based ethical systems. Issues are likely to include charity, the environment, gender, dispute resolution, violence, and non-violence.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Spring, T, F 9:50-11:00



REL 268 - Religion and Culture in Egypt (1.0)

An exploration of Egyptian History, with an emphasis on religious and cultural dimensions, from late antiquity and the rise of Islam to the present. Topics include the processes of Arabicisation and Islamicisation; the emergence of distinctive religious-cultural forms in Egypt's coastal, urban and rural areas; evolving understandings of and responses to the pharonic past; and the gradual transformation of Cairo, from a garrison town in the early Islamic period to a pre-eminent commercial, intellectual, cultural and artistic capital and a megalopolis in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Attention to Egypt's interactions with its neighbors in the early eastern Mediterranean, especially Syria; Egypt's experience of the Crusades and colonialism, and especially its relations with Britain and France; and the challenges of the twenty-first century, including conservation of natural and built environments.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Spring

POL2-358 - Political Conflict in the Middle East (1.0)

Topic for 2016-17: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

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

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available on the political science department website homepage.

Term(s): Spring




EVENTS

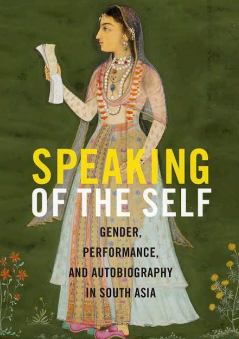
Wellesley College Middle Eastern Studies Program presents

A Public Calligraphy Workshop with Syrian Artist and Visiting Lecturer Khaled Al-Saa'i

April 8th, 5:30-7:30pm • Library Lecture Room



More info: wellesley.edu/MES Background photo is a piece by Al-Saa'i
 For Disability Accommodations contact Jim Wice, Director of Disability Services jwice@wellesley.edu (781) 283-2434 exp 4/8



SPEAKING OF THE SELF

GENDER, PERFORMANCE, AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN SOUTH ASIA

ANSHU MALHOTRA and SIOHCHAN LAMBERT-HURLEY, editors


Information that Disabilities page Expires 11/6/15

Wellesley College Middle Eastern Studies presents a lecture by Afshan Bokhari Suffolk University, New England School of Art and Design

MASCULINE AND FEMININE MODES OF SUBJECTIVITY: The Case of Princess Jahanara Begam (1614-1681)

Thursday, November 5, 2015
4:30 PM
Margaret Clapp Library Lecture Room

Co-sponsors: Art History, Religion Department, South Asia Studies & Women's and Gender Studies Department




Information that Disabilities page Expires 11/6/15

WELLESLEY MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES PROGRAM in collaboration with the

LETTERS from the SEASONS of a WANDERING MIND

Khaled Al-Saa'i



JEWETT HALLWAY GALLERY
106 CENTRAL ST. WELLESLEY, MA, 02481
ON VIEW: FEBRUARY 29TH - APRIL 1ST
OPENING RECEPTION: MARCH 1, 4PM - 6PM

Middle Eastern Studies presents Alumnae Series


Anisa Mehdi '78

Sacred Journeys (PBS)

Screening + Q&A with Director

Collins Cinema
February 23 @ 4:30

Co-sponsored by The Religion Department



More info | raadmani
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434

Middle Eastern Studies Alumnae Series


A Conversation with Alma Heckman '09

Middle Eastern Studies Majors and Minors are invited to attend

Alma Heckman '09, who majored in Middle Eastern Studies and French, is currently Assistant Professor of History at UC Santa Cruz. Please join Professor Heckman and MES for an informal discussion of academic choices and professional opportunities, as well as her current research into Jewish participation in Moroccan communist movements.

Lunch will be provided

Monday April 4th, 12:30-1:30
Pendleton East Atrium



ff: flush For Disability Accommodations contact Jim Wice Director of Disability Services (781)-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu exp 4/5




Wellesley College Middle Eastern Studies Program presents a public lecture:

Iran Today: A Journalist Reflects

Elaine Sciolino is a writer for The New York Times and former NYT Paris bureau chief, based in France since 2002.

As a journalist Sciolino has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East and Europe and interviewed many Iranian political and spiritual leaders.

Tuesday, March 29th
4:30pm
Pendleton East Room 239
Wellesley College

Questions: flush@wellesley.edu
For Disability Accommodations contact Jim Wice, Director of Disability Services (781)-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu
Exp. 3.30.16

Middle Eastern Studies presents

Arabic Calligraphy Meets Music
A Live Performance

Bringing together

Calligraphic Artist: **Khaled Al-Saa'i** & Musician **Hicham Chami**

Collins Cinema
April 28 at 4:45

Live Performance to start at 5:00 pm
Q&A with artists at 5:30
Followed by a reception to honor the artists and celebrate students' calligraphic works



More info | raadmani
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434

The Art Department and the Program in Middle Eastern Studies present a lecture


Troubling Monochronic Time: Henri Pirenne, Ernst Herzfeld, and the Myth of Origin

by **AVINOAM SHALEM**
Riggio Professor of the History of the Arts of Islam
Columbia University

October 8, 6:00pm • Pendleton East 239

Information: Lamia.Balafouti@wellesley.edu
Disability services: James.Wice@wellesley.edu (781) 283-2434

Supported by the Art Department and the Program in Middle Eastern Studies and the Wilbur Fund



Middle Eastern Studies Alumnae Panel

The Panel
Talk to alums Laura Yan and Lillian Stuart about post-Wellesley life as a Middle Eastern Studies major!

Laura Yan '14, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in History at Columbia University.
Lillian Stuart '14, is currently working as a Project Manager, Implementation Services at Epic (a Health IT company).

Thursday, Nov. 12 12:30-1:30 Pendleton Atrium

Lunch will be provided



ff: flush | Acc: jwice | Exp 11/13/15

Wellesley College Middle Eastern Studies Program Presents:

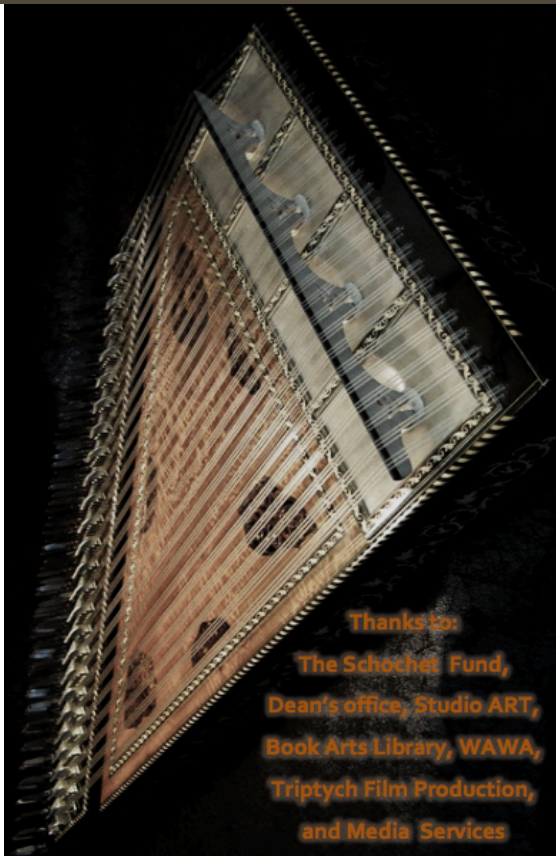
"Away From Home": A Talk by Syrian Artist Khaled Al-Saa'i

Tuesday, March 8 at 6 PM
Clapp Library Lecture Room

"I see letters as being alive, they have such a variety of shapes, they represent the human condition - they can breathe, be happy, sad, dance and express themselves. They have their own destiny."
--Khaled Al-Saa'i

Questions: flush@wellesley.edu
For Disability Accommodations contact Jim Wice, Director of Disability Services (781)-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu
Exp. 3.9.16



Thanks to:
 The Schochet Fund,
 Dean's office, Studio ART,
 Book Arts Library, WAWA,
 Triptych Film Production,
 and Media Services

The Artists

Khaled Al-Saa'i is a Syrian-born artist. He grew up in a household surrounded by painting, music and calligraphy. By the age of eighteen he had already established a reputation as a calligrapher. He graduated from the University of Damascus in 1998 with his MA in Fine Art, and went on to become an internationally recognized master of Arabic calligraphy. He has participated in many international art competitions and held solo exhibitions throughout Europe, the Americas and several Middle Eastern countries. In 2001, he obtained the Diwani Jali style prize at the Fifth International competition of Arabic calligraphy, Istanbul, Turkey. Khaled's work has been acquired by numerous prestigious institutions and museums such as the British Museum, l'Institut du Monde Arabe, and the Qatar Foundation, as well as many other prestigious. Al Saai works in an astonishing range of styles, from ornate classical modes, which he often uses for quotations from poetry, to radically inventive compositions, in which lettering is fragmented into fantastical pictorial compositions.

Hicham Chami is a Moroccan-born qanun performer. He is currently a University of Florida research fellow in Ethnomusicology, concurrently enrolled in the Islamic Studies PhD program at Columbia University. After earning his business degree, and graduating the National Conservatory of Music and Dance in Morocco, he relocated to Chicago where he completed his MBA at DePaul University's Kellstadt School of Business. Chami founded and led the Arabesque Music Ensemble which toured the U.S. and Canada and produced two critically-acclaimed CDs: *Al-Fursan Al-Talatha* and *The Songs of Sheikh Sayyed Darweesh: Soul of a People*.



Middle Eastern Studies

presents

Artists **Khaled Al-Saa'i**

& **Hicham Chami**

In a performance where

Calligraphy Meets Music

The Program

1. Maghribi script, *Maqam Saba*, Al-Andalus and Syria

Al-Hallaj: "I am who loves and the one loved, we are two souls in one body / If you behold me, you behold him, if you behold him, you behold us" (10th c.)

2. Ta'liq script, *Maqam Hijaz*, Egypt and Iraq
Mohammed Sarim: "Night is longer than your wine, be frugal with your sadness. / No chest and no arm for your head to rest on if it tires"

3. Diwani Jaly Script, *Maqam Nahawand*, Al-Andalus and Lebanon

Al-Bastami: "I drank love, cup upon cup. / The drink never dried up and my thirst is never quenched" (9th c.)

4. Thuluth Script, *Maqam Rasd*, Egypt and Syria
Al-Mutanabi: If you are an adventurer, aim for a lofty goal / Never settle for less than the stars (10th c.)

5. Leafy Kufic from Qairawan, *Maqam 'Ajam*, Egypt and Lebanon

Ibn Al-Fared: "You do not enfeeble me unless you are consumed by me / You are not consumed by me unless my image shows in you" (13th c.)

6. Diwani Script, *Maqam Bayati*, Syria and Palestine
Mahmoud Darwish: "The violins are weeping over times lost" (20th c.)

7. Sunbuli Script, *Maqam Kurd/Sikah*, Lebanon
Jibran Khalil Jibran: "Humans are lines, written, but with water" (20th c.)

FACULTY NEWS

Nadya Hajj (Political Science) will be teaching Comparative Politics of the Middle East (POL2 217) in Fall 2016 and The Arab Israeli Conflict (POL2 358S) in Spring 2017. Her book, *Protection Amid Chaos: The Creation of Property Rights in Palestinian Refugee Camps*, will be available in Fall 2016 with Columbia University Press.

Lamia Balafrej (Art) will be on leave in 2016-17. She will be the "Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices" fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin, a program administered by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. While away, she will be working on her book project, in which she examines classical Persian manuscript painting, and the ways in which it engages with notions of authorship, medium and representation. This Spring, she has two forthcoming articles on the topic of iconoclasm, among which "Islamic Iconoclasm, Visual Communication and the Persistence of the Image," to appear in *Interiors* vol. 6.

Lidwien Kapteijns (History) will return from sabbatical leave to teach African and Middle Eastern history in fall. During her leave, she has been working on primary sources for Somali history (including Arabic correspondence) and made a research trip to the U.K. and Italy, where she also spoke about her work at the

universities of Roma Tre and L'Orientale in Naples. She has co-authored a long article about "Women's Legal Agency and Property in the Court Records of Late 19th-Century Brava, 1893-1900," and is, together with two other scholars, continuing to work on a translation and publication of the didactic religious poetry of the ulama of Brava (on the Indian Ocean coast south of Mogadishu) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Khaled Al-Saa'i (Middle Eastern Studies and Art) With support from the Office of the Provost and Deans and in collaboration with the Department of Studio Art, Middle Eastern Studies has been able to offer ARAB/ARTS 116, 'Arabic Calligraphy Workshop', taught by Khaled Al-Saa'i, the internationally acclaimed calligraphic artist. Many of our former students will remember Khaled for the wonderful calligraphy workshops he has conducted on the campus during his earlier visits, and for the exhibitions of his work held at Wellesley in previous years. During his current residency with us, an exhibition of Khaled's recent work, 'Letters from the Seasons of a Wandering Mind', has been on display in the Jewett Arts Center.

Born in Syria, Khaled currently

lives and works in Dubai, UAE. He holds a Certificate in Calligraphy from IRCICA, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, as well as an MA in Fine Arts from the University of Damascus. He has held solo exhibitions in numerous countries and locations, including the Alfredo Guati Rojo National Watercolor Museum in Mexico City, Dar Al Funoon Gallery in Kuwait, the Majlis Gallery and the Green Art Gallery, both in Dubai, and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. Khaled's work has also been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, including 'The Art of Writing' in Wiesbaden, Germany (2011); 'Freedom and Innovation: Arab Contemporary Calligraphy' at the Casa Árabe in Madrid (2011); 'Signs: Contemporary Arab Art' at the Sundaram Tagore Gallery in New York (2010); 'Beyond Words' at the Galerie Kashya Hildebrand in Zurich (2008); the San Pedro Museum of Art in Mexico (2007); and the Albareh Art Gallery in Bahrain (2007). Khaled has received numerous first prizes in various categories in international calligraphy competitions, including, in recent years, the First Prize in Modern Calligraphy in the International Calligraphy Competition in Algeria, the

FACULTY NEWS

First Prize in the Modernity of Arabic Calligraphy at Sharjah Museum of Art, the First Prize in Diwani Jaly and the First Prize in Classical Calligraphy at the International Competition of Calligraphy, IRCICA, Istanbul.

In Neuhausen, Germany, Khaled has recently participated in an exhibition called 'Away From Home' with a 3x10 meter mural titled 'It Is Happening Over There'. Khaled's mural was the centerpiece of the exhibition and received a great deal of

acclaim. This exhibition is currently on display at Kunstverein Graftschaft Bentheim. Given the success of this event, there are already plans for a follow up solo event in Berlin next year. Khaled is also in the early stages of planning a large-scale art project with the Portland Museum of Fine Arts in Oregon with a tentative opening date in 2017-18.

At Wellesley Khaled gave a talk on this piece, which treats the Syrian conflict and refugee crisis, as well as other examples

of his recent work. During his residency with us he has also conducted highly successful workshops, arranged in conjunction with Arab Awareness Week and with the collaboration of the Wellesley Arab Women Association (WAWA). To complete his residency with us, Khaled will collaborate with Hicham Chami, a professional *qanun* player, in an exciting improvisatory performance.



Khaled Al-Saa'i's mural 'It Is Happening Over There'

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE

Julia Craig Romano '12 is the Program Assistant for the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC. Her research at the Wilson Center currently focuses on nuclear issues, Egypt, the GCC states, and women in politics and economics. Julia co-authors a quarterly report on women in the region and recently contributed to "Five Years after the Arab Spring: What's Next for Women in the MENA Region?" She would be happy to speak with current students and alums about the MES job market in DC and can be reached at julia.romano@wilsoncenter.org.

Parnian Nazary '10 moved to Germany last year. In addition to studying German full-time at a local vocational institute, Nazary is working as a Manager at the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), a disaster and emergency management organization. With the influx of refugees to Germany, Nazary's language skills in Arabic, Farsi/Dari, Urdu, Hindi, Pashtu, German and English have been in extreme demand. Nazary is able to communicate with the majority of the refugees in their native tongues and also with the German authorities dealing with the "refugee crisis." Nazary has learned that immigrants to the United States generally have a very different profile to the

immigrants to Germany and Europe at large. Nazary feels privileged to be able to stand by the side of the new immigrants to Germany as they work hard to build a new life in the country.

Alma Rachel Heckman '09 received her Ph.D. in History from UCLA in June, 2015. She is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and History at UC Santa Cruz. She is currently at work on a book manuscript based on her dissertation, which is entitled: "Radical Nationalists: Moroccan Jewish Communists 1925-1975."

Seema M Rathod '05 decided last month to take a break from the workforce (Rathod is a former data analyst for the assessment unit at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) to raise Rathod's two young children, who will be aged four and one by the end of the semester. Rathod writes that every day is filled with joy, speaking Arabic, homemade science experiments, and lots of colorful messes.

Anisa Mehdi '78 is lecturing nationwide on the phenomenon of Islam-fear and how media may fan those flames, and also screening her PBS (2014) and National Geographic (2003) films on the hajj pilgrimage. In February Anisa joined the editorial

board of Stratfor.com and is writing monthly columns on issues relating to culture and politics in Southwest Asia (aka "Middle East") and North Africa.

Kacie Lyn Kocher '09 has been continuing her career in technology for public good. After working for government technology companies in strategic operations roles for the past two years, she's been recruited to join the founding leadership of Civic Hall Labs. As the Deputy Program Director she supports subject matter experts to utilize and develop technology for infrastructure, women's rights organizations, housing justice, and a culture of health. This work builds on Kacie's MSc on Internet infrastructure at the London School of Economics and a two year stint at Turkey's incumbent Internet company providing Internet for over 40 million Turkish residents. She also founded Canimiz Sokakta, an Istanbul-based NGO using Hollaback's crowdsourcing platform to address gender-based violence. Kacie keeps it interesting by baking pies, painting botanical prints, and testing letter exchanges as a means of participatory art for community creation.

OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

Andrea Aguilar '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Political Science)

Hannah Benson '16 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Sarah Berry '16 (Double Major in Cinema and Media Studies & Middle Eastern Studies)

Micah Budway '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Peace and Justice Studies)

Julia Foster '16 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Greta Gangestad '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Economics)

Talin Ghazarian '16 (Double Major in Art History & Middle Eastern Studies)

Anissa Malik '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science)

Dahlia Rawji '16 (Double Major in Economics and Middle Eastern Studies)

Naomi Day '17 (Double Major in Computer Science and Middle Eastern Studies)

Tessa Kellner '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Tala Nashawati '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Hailey Webster '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)



Celebrated Lebanese and Boston resident poet Kahlil Gibran (Jibran Khalil Jibran) is honored in this collective art piece. Students in artist Khaled Al-Saa'i's class on Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy offered through Middle Eastern Studies and Studio Art used two verses from Gibran's celebrated book "The Prophet" for their final project.

"Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music." (The Prophet, 'On Marriage', p.15)

غنّوا و ارقصوا و امرحوا معاً و لكن ليخل كل إلى شأنه، فإن أوتار القيثارة مشدودة على إفتراق وإن خفقت بلحن واحد (جبران خليل جبران من كتاب "النبي")

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