The 2009-2010 academic year has ended on a bright note: Our megasyllabic Center, along with our partners at Duke, has won Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education for 2010-2014. This award will support new faculty positions, additional graduate fellowships, extensive outreach activities, and even more lectures, workshops, and conferences than the 200+ events that we listed for 2009-2010.

Over the course of the past year, our Center has been privileged to work with Professors Banu Gokariksel and Sarah Shields on their impressive Sawyer Seminar on Diversity on Conformity in Muslim Societies, including three interdisciplinary conferences that cleverly juxtaposed research projects from around the world (http://cgi.unc.edu/research/mellon-sawyer/09-10/).

The Center also co-sponsored the 7th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Student Islamic Studies Conference (http://www.jhfc.duke.edu/disc/graduate/conference2010/) and the revival of the "Islam Reading 2.0" graduate student working group, both of which are indications of the intellectual energy and leadership skills of our graduate students.

The Center also benefits from two new graduate programs that were approved this year: a master's concentration in Franco-Arab studies (http://roml.unc.edu/graduate-programs/french/francoarabstudies/ma-requirements) and a joint Duke-UNC graduate certificate in Middle East studies (http://www.unc.edu/mideast/gradcertificate.shtml).
Our Center has a new Associate Director, Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst <ilyse@email.unc.edu>. Ilyse is a graduate student in religious studies, specializing in Islamic studies of Mughal South Asia (http://ilyse.web.unc.edu). She is serving on an interim basis this summer while we search for a permanent Associate Director.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our now-retired Associate Director, the wonderful Cangüzel Zülfikar, who moves as of today to the Department of Asian Studies to take up Carolina’s new lectureship in Turkish. Cangüzel helped our Center establish its offices in the new Global Education Center, nurtured a large number of student organizations, managed an extensive series of visiting lectures and conferences, gathered a massive amount of data for our Title VI application, and remained throughout it all a warm and enthusiastic colleague and a pleasure to work with and be with. Thank you, Cangüzel!

We are also saying goodbye this summer to two esteemed colleagues in the History Department, Yasmin Saikia and Ahmed El Shamsy, who are moving farther away than the New West Building. Yasmin, who was instrumental in the discussions that led to the founding of our Center in 2002-2003, is taking an endowed chair at the University of Arizona. Ahmed, who impressed us all in his short stay at Carolina, was made an offer he couldn't refuse by the University of Chicago. We are sorry to see you both go!

At the same time, we are fortunate to be joined by five new colleagues. Shahla Adel, our first full-time lecturer in Persian, is joining the Department of Asian Studies from the University of Texas, where she is completing her Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education. Erica Johnson, a political scientist specializing in Central Asian studies, has been hired as a lecturer in Global Studies. In the Department of Religious Studies, David Lambert is the new assistant professor of Hebrew Bible, and Jacob Stromberg will serve as lecturer in Biblical Hebrew. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them as they get settled. The Library has hired its first-ever librarian for Middle East and African Studies, Mohamed Abou El Seoud, who will arrive on October 1.

It is a pleasure to serve as the Center’s co-director this year, while Carl Ernst takes a well-deserved research leave. I look forward to seeing you all as the school year starts up again next month.

- Charlie Kurzman
II. Teaching on the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Student enrollment in Middle East-related courses, as recorded by the Registrar, indicate broad engagements with the field across multiple departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2010</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2010</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>2724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Faculty Publications on the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Sahar Amer


Glaire Anderson

Martine Antle

Lorraine Aragon

Yaakov Ariel


Navin Bapat

Lidewijde De Jong
Bart Ehrman
*Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don’t Know About Them)*

Carl Ernst

Pika Ghosh

Banu Gökarıksel
Co-editor with Ellen McLarney, special issue on “Muslim Women, Consumer Capitalism, and the Islamic Culture Industry,” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, 6:3 (Fall 2010).

Nasser Isleem
*Colloquial Palestinian Arabic: An Introduction to the Spoken Dialect*, with DVD (Norwell, MA: Alucen Learning, 2010).

Charles Kurzman
James Peacock

John Pickles

Zlatko Plese

Andrew Reynolds

Omid Safi

Bereket Selassie

Sarah Shields

Sara H. Smith

**Niklaus Steiner**


**Afroz Taj**


“Amrika vala,” *Hindi Chetna* (Toronto), 12: 45 (January 2010), 27-29


Foreword to *Dhoop Se Roothi Chandni*, by Sudha Om Dhingra (Sehore, India: Shivana Prakashan, 2010).

**Nadia Yaqub**


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**IV. Faculty Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

**Sahar Amer**


“Homosexuality/Lesbianism and the Politics of Naming,” Middle East Studies Association, Boston, MA, November 2009.

“How to Name Homosexuality in the Arab World?” Invited speaker at UNC-Wilmington, April 2010.

**Glaire Anderson**


“Recovering Aristocratic Villa Culture in Early Islamic Spain,” at “Narrating the Visual; Visualizing Narrative” symposium, Department of History, North Carolina State University, March 5-6, 2010.

**Lorraine Aragon**


**Carl Ernst**

“Changing Approaches to Islamic Studies in American Universities,” Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 10, 2009; Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul, Turkey, December 18, 2009.


**Pika Ghosh**


**Nasser Isleem**

Co-presenter, “Pedagogical Uses of Proverbs in Arabic Language Classrooms,” Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar, Nashville, March 2010.

**Charles Kurzman**


**James Peacock**


**Afroz Taj**

Interactive exhibit of *Darvazah*, Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 23-24, 2009.

**Nadia Yaqub**


**Cangüzel Zülfikar**


“Different Teaching Approaches of the Middle East and Islamic Studies in U.S. Universities,” presentation to delegation of Turkish university chancellors, UNC-CH, April 20, 2010.

V. Outreach

Carl Ernst


Charles Kurzman
“Iran,” North Carolina Governor’s School East, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, July 7, 2009.


Yaron Shemer
Guest speaker, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, January 2010.


Roundtable discussion with Arab journalists on the media’s role in a democracy, International Affairs Council International Fellowship Program, UNC-CH, 2010.

Sarah Shields
“Introduction to the Israel/Palestine Conflict,” Ecumenical Campus Ministries, Manhattan, Kansas, November 2009; First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, November 2009.

Afroz Taj


Host of Geet Bazaar Radio Program, weekly radio program, 88.1 FM WKNC, Raleigh, NC.

Organizer of Urdu Majlis Literary Society, monthly meetings; made presentations, recited original poetry.
Nadia Yaqub

VI. Grants and Awards

Sahar Amer
Best Article of the Month Award, Feminae Medieval Women and Gender Index, September 2009.

Glaire Anderson
American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, 2009-2010.

Martine Antle
Grant for research in Turkey, Center for European Studies, UNC-CH, 2009.
Curriculum Development Award, Center for European Studies, UNC-CH, 2010.

Lorraine Aragon

Navin Bapat

Lidewijde De Jong
Institute for the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellow, Fall 2010.
King’s College London and UNC-CH, Joint Projects Grant, 2010.

Carl Ernst
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2009.
Guggenheim Foundation Research Fellowship, 2009-2010.

Pika Ghosh
Fellowship, Carolina Women’s Center, 2010.

Banu Gökarsel

Timothy Marr
Chapman Family Fellow, Institute of Arts and Humanities, 2009.

John Pickles

**Omid Safi**
J. Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award, Professor of the Year, UNC-CH, 2010.
Chair, Islamic Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion, 2009-2012.

**Yaron Shemer**
Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC-CH, 2009.
University Research Council Grant, UNC-CH, 2009.
Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, Course Development Grant, 2009.

**Sarah Shields**
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Sawyer Seminar, “Diversity and Conformity in Muslim Societies,”
with Banu Gökarıksel, UNC-CH, 2009-2010.
Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2010.

**Nadia Yaqub**
Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies/National Endowment for Humanities/Social Science Research Council, 2009-2010.

**Cangüzel Zülfikar**
Grant for research in Turkey, Center for European Studies, UNC-CH, 2009.
Curriculum Development Award, Center for European Studies, UNC-CH, 2010.