

-CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND MUSLIM CIVILIZATIONS

STRATEGIC PLAN Spring 2009

Mission Statement

1. To promote understanding of the Middle East through teaching, research, and community outreach.
2. To explore and promote cross-regional approaches to Middle Eastern studies.

Strategic Priorities for the Next Five Years

1. Curriculum
 - a. Introduce Islamic and Middle Eastern studies minor (approved for fall 2009)
 - b. Duke-UNC Graduate Certificate in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (under discussion)
 - c. Duke-UNC Ph.D. Program in Middle East Cultural Studies (under discussion)
2. Study Abroad
 - a. Strengthen summer programs in Jordan and Turkey
 - b. Take part in ACC Inter-institutional Academic Collaboration at the Center for Eurasian Studies in Istanbul.
3. Administration
 - a. Increase Associate Director position to full time
 - b. Additional staff support for programs and outreach
4. Immediate priorities for faculty positions:
 - a. Middle East historian with a specialization in the study of North Africa and a familiarity with cross-regional perspectives (Search fall 2008, successful).
 - b. Ken'an Rifa'i Distinguished Chair in Islamic Studies. Launch of fund-raising campaign by Turkish Women's Cultural Association in February 2009.
 - c. Lecturer in Persian language and literature. Search proposed fall 2010. Application to Alavi Foundation spring 2009.
 - d. Turkish language and literature: application to Institute for Turkish Studies (Mar. 2009). LAC course offered spring 2009.
 - e. Two Arabic lecturers (search fall 2008).
 - f. Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature.
 - g. Middle Eastern collections development librarian in collaboration with Duke University, with ongoing funding for the further development of the Ellen-Fairbanks Collection of Middle Eastern and Islamic World Films.
5. Longer term priorities for faculty positions
 - a. Middle East expert with a specialization in Islamist movements and a familiarity with cross-regional perspectives.
 - b. Early Islamic texts
 - c. Central Asian history.
 - d. Middle Eastern media studies.

- e. Anthropology of the Middle East.
- f. Middle Eastern economic development.
- 6. Research and Programs
 - a. Pursue research collaborations and linkages
 - 1. King's College, University of London
 - 2. National University of Singapore
 - 3. Istanbul University
 - 4. University of Jordan
 - 5. University of Malaya
 - b. Support faculty projects such as Sawyer Seminar and UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health environment and water project in U.A.E.
 - c. Title VI National Resource Center application as the Collaboration for Middle East studies at Duke and UNC, fall 2009