This has been a major year for the Middle East center, with both ups and downs. Our Title VI National Resource Center application, compiled by Co-Director Charles Kurzman in March 2010, was announced in June as a first-time success. It funds faculty and administrative positions at UNC and Duke through the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies (in which UNC is the lead institution) as well as an extensive array of programs. This enormous success has unexpectedly and unfortunately been diminished by the drastic cuts enacted in the US Department of Education budget in March 2011, which have slashed our budget for 2011-12 by 47%, along with all the other Title VI programs nationally. Although this reduction, if not reversed, will significantly curtail our plans over the next three years of the grant, we nevertheless expect to achieve a great deal in terms of the growth of Middle East studies at UNC.

On the administrative side, our first Associate Director (since 2006), Cangüzel Zülfikar, moved on to take up a position teaching Turkish in the Asian Studies Department, with the support of a grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies. Her able replacement in the half-time position was Religious Studies graduate student Ilyse Morgenstein-Fuerst, who managed the center from August through November as the Title VI grant began to be implemented. Title VI support then made possible the hiring in December of the new full-time Associate Director, Shai Tamari, who has a background in peace studies and has served as a foreign policy adviser to a US Congressman. In addition, in January we hired our first Outreach Director (a position shared with Duke), Dr. Regina Higgins, who draws on her extensive educational background to take the lead on relations with K-14 teachers and the public. The retirement of administrative manager Peter Landstrom in the fall was eventually compensated by the hiring of Tracey Cave, who now serves the Africa and Asia centers as well as the Middle East. The presence of these energetic staff members has truly revolutionized the Center. Our staff members have formed good relationships with their Duke counterparts and have actively worked with them on current and future projects. Simultaneously, the UNC Libraries in October appointed Mohamed Abou El Seoud as the new Africa/Middle East librarian, and he has already made heroic efforts to strengthen library holdings in Middle East studies.
Funding from the Title VI grant has supported the new lecturer in Persian language and literature, Shahla Adel, who has had a good first year at UNC with solid enrollments. A search for a Title VI supported tenure track position in Arabic concluded successfully with the appointment of Zaina Halabi, a modern Arabic literature specialist who will begin teaching at UNC in January 2012. She joins the six current Arabic instructors who together handle over 300 students a year, showing a remarkable growth over the past decade. Next year will also see some welcome faculty appointments relating to the Middle East and Muslim civilizations: one in Religious Studies (Juliane Hammer as the Kenan Rifai Distinguished Fellow in Islamic studies) and three in History (Cemil Aydin in global and Islamic history, Iqbal Singh Sevea in modern South Asian Islam, and Emma Flatt in premodern South Asian Islam).

Our talented student webmaster, Char Lloyd, has continued to provide us with a first-rate internet presence. This website (mideast.unc.edu) includes an active calendar, lists of center members, news of faculty books, courses and curricula, outreach information, library resources, and a widely used job listing for positions in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies (over 40 such positions this year).

On the curricular level, the undergraduate minor in Islamic Studies and the Middle East is thriving, with 28 students declared this year. The new graduate certificate in Middle East studies, jointly sponsored with Duke, is off to a good start this year. Charles Kurzman offered a one-credit professional development seminar for 14 Middle East studies graduate students, and in the fall Carl Ernst and miriam cooke of Duke will offer the core seminar for the graduate certificate.

Major programs supported by the Center this year included a conference on Islam and human rights as well as the annual Duke-UNC graduate student conference on Islamic studies (http://www.unc.edu/mideast/conf2011/Home.html). Dozens of other events were sponsored or cosponsored by the Center. The Center also supported summer development in language pedagogy for language instructors.

A visiting scholar from Turkey, Prof. Muhammet Mustafà Çakmakloğlu of the University of Erciyes, Kayseri, Turkey, arrived in February, 2011, and is scheduled to remain until February 2012. His research on Islamic mysticism is supported by the Turkish Women’s Cultural Association.

External fundraising has begun with a focus on particular areas, starting with Persian studies. A local Persian Studies Advisory Committee has been formed, and this year saw some significant giving to the unrestricted Persian studies fund, which is located in the Asian Studies Department. Efforts are underway to support library acquisitions in Persian studies, and to seek foundation support.

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>Term</th>
<th>No. of Courses</th>
<th>No. of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2011</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>4968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Faculty Publications

Amer, Sahar


“Literature and Architecture on the the Silk Road”: Wall label and longer article in booklet accompanying special exhibit “The Silk Road” at the Ackland Museum, December 2009-2011.

Antle, Martine


Aragon, Lorraine

2011, “Living without Please or Thanks in Indonesia: Cultural Translations of Reciprocity and Respect,” In Everyday Life in Southeast Asia, Kathleen Adams and Kate Gillogly, ed., Indiana University Press.


Ariel, Yaakov


Encyclopedia of Religion in America (2010), edited by Peter Williams. The article: "Zionism."

De Jong, Lidewijde


Ehrman, Bart

Forged: Writing in the Name of God. Why the Bible’s Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are. San Francisco: HarperOne (February, 2011).

Ernst, Carl W.

Co-Editor (with Richard C. Martin), Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Post-Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism (Columbia SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2010); co-author of “Introduction: Toward a Post-Orientalist Islamic Approach to Islamic Religious Studies” (pp. 1-22) and author of "The Perils of Civilizational Islam in Malaysia” (pp. 266-80).

"Fayzi's Illuminationist Interpretation of Vedanta: The Shariq al-Ma’rija.” Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East 30/3 (2010), pp. 156-64.


Ghosh, Pika

Isleem, Nasser.

Kurzman, Charles

Safi, Omid

Selassie, Bereket

Shemer, Yaron

Shields, Sarah

Taj, Afroz
"Pyar Ki Saughat" (Essay on Madan Mohan Malviya) in Hindi Chetna, Year 12, Issue 48, October 2010, pp. 45-47.
Poem: "Ghazal" in Hindi Chetna, Year 13, Issue 50, April 2011.

IV. Faculty Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

Adel, Shahla
2011. “Teaching Culture in Strategic Language Classrooms - Is all Culture learning created equal? Students' Perceptions of Persian Language and Culture”, paper presentation at the 50th annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies/Southeast Conference, UNC Chapel Hill, NC.

Anderson, Glaire
"Past and current research: themes and methods," for first working session of European Research Council research team on Reassessing Women's Roles as "Makers" of Medieval Art and Architecture, Madrid, Spain, January 9-16, 2011
“Cordoban Umayyad concubines and early Islamic women's patronage.” Reassessing Women's Roles as "Makers" of Medieval Art and Architecture symposium, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), Madrid, Spain, May 26-28

Antle, Martine
“Mediterranean Travelers and Intercultural Gazes on the Other in Nerval's Era.” Mediterranean Studies Conference. Salamanca, Spain (May 2010).

Ariel, Yaakov

Bapat, Navin
Teaching presentation at Texas A&M University (July 2010), Research Presentations at Yale University (September 2010), State University of New York at Albany (January 2011), and University of Rochester (February 2011). Participant in Bridging Areas of Expertise: Funding Research on Terrorism (October 2010). Sub-contractor for Combating Terrorism Center (April 2011).
De Jong, Lidewijde
2010. ‘Funerary practices in Hellenistic Lebanon and Syria: of ancient tombs and modern paradigms’, Colloquium Department of Classics, King’s College London

Ehrman, Bart
49 lectures at universities, colleges, divinity schools, public venues (Commonwealth Club in SF, e.g.), Smithsonian Institute, UNC Program in the Humanities, and so on.

Ernst, Carl W.
February 11, 2011. “Introduction to Sufism.” Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, US Naval Academy
October 6-21, 2010. Ten lectures at Malaysian universities
October 29 2010. Presider, Pre-conference Workshop on Rethinking Islamic Studies, American Academy of Religion Conference. Atlanta
November 19, 2010. Chair, Albert Hourani Book Prize, Middle East Studies Association Conference. San Diego
April 7, 2011. “Setting the Stage” (Keynote Presentation). Conference on Beyond Islamic Studies: De-essentializing the Study of Muslim Societies. Michigan State University
April 28, 2011. “Sufis of South Asia: An Overview,” Johns Hopkins University

Ghosh, Pika
“Rags to Riches Stories: Kantha in Bengali Homes,” College of Charleston, Charleston SC, November 2010

Kurzman, Charles
"Do Muslims Vote Islamic?" Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal, October 1, 2010.
"The Missing Martyrs," Middle East and North Africa Student Association, N.C. State University, Raleigh, NC, January 27, 2011; Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 9, 2011; Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2011; University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, April 7, 2011.
Peacock, James

Seck, Mamarame

Shemer, Yaron
July, 2010: “At the End of the World: The Periphery in Israeli Cinema,” in the panel “Chronotopes in Israeli and Palestinian Art.” World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Barcelona, Spain. (Also, panel organizer.)

Shields, Sarah
“Ottoman/British Mandate in the Provinces (Case Study: Mosul),” World Congress for Middle East Studies, Barcelona, Spain, July 2010.

V. Outreach

Mark Crescenzi, Carl Ernst, Doria El Kardani, and Nadia Yaqub.

Anderson, Glaire
"Islamic Art and the Silk Road: Art of the Mongol Dynasties," Traveling the Silk Road: Art and Cultural Exchange, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Duke University, September 30, 2010

Ernst, Carl W.
May 22, 2010 “The Importance of Persian Studies at UNC.” Celebration of Persian Culture, UNC
October 25, 2010. “Basic Issues in Islamic Studies.” Emory University
March 8, 2011. “Western Religions class.” Lane Community College, Eugene OR
March 8, 2011. “Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary Era.” Lane Community College, Eugene OR
March 9, 2011. “Practicum session on Teaching Islam.” University of Oregon, Eugene OR
March 10, 2011. “Islamic Mysticism class.” University of Oregon, Eugene OR
January 18, 2011. “Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World.” Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill
UNC
April 1, 2011. “Thinking about the Arab Revolutions.” Kenan-Flagler Institute, UNC

Kurzman, Charles
"Perceptions of the Muslim 'Other,'" part of the "Challenges to Democracy" seminar, NC Civic
Education Consortium, School of Government, and Program in Humanities and Human
"Religion and Politics in Islam," guest lecture in Professor Ritchie Kendall's Junior Honors
Colloquium (HNRS 325), UNC-CH, October 13, 2010.
"The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran," guest lecture in Professor Andrew Perrin's Current Issues in
Social Theory graduate seminar (SOCI 800), UNC-CH, December 7, 2010.
"Muslims in the Post-Soviet Era," World View conference for K12 teachers, Chapel Hill, NC,
March 24, 2011.
"Teaching About Terrorism Ten Years After 9/11," annual conference on Teaching the Middle
East, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2011.

Peacock, James
Met with Pentagon delegation
Presented to workshop of 45 teachers
Presented, chaired, organized symposia at Montreal conference of Rotary International (25,000
participants) and locally (200 participants)

Safi, Omid
Numerous book readings from Memories of Muhammad and talks to civic groups

Selassie, Bereket
I worked hard to help African refugees stranded in Libya and the Sinai Desert of Egypt and Israel.
To that end, I wrote letters to ambassadors and government ministers and the UN High
Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the UN High Commission for Human Rights. One
Open Letter to Muammar Gadhafi in 2010 resulted in the release of 500 hundred African
refugees from detention.

Shemer, Yaron
Talk on the Holocaust in Israeli cinema. East Carolina University, November 2010.
Talk on home in Israeli and Palestinian cinema, in conjunction with the International Film Festival
at Bucknell, PA, April 2011.

Shields, Sarah
“The Israel-Palestine Conflict and Human Rights,” Raleigh Charter High School, Raleigh, NC,
October 2010.

“Human Rights and Middle East Conflicts,” Humanities in Action series, Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 2011.


“Rediscovering Turkey,” Carol Woods Retirement Community, Chapel Hill, October 2010.


“Western Anchors of the Silk Road,” Traveling the Silk Road: Art and Cultural Exchange series, Osher Institute for Life Long Learning, Durham, September 2010.


**Taj, Afroz**

Co-hosted weekly radio program "Geet Bazaar" every Sunday morning.

Organized or co-sponsored South Asia Concert Series (13 concerts)

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**VI. Grants and Awards**

**Amer, Sahar**

Received support from the Center for Global Initiatives for the development of my project on "Arabs in America" and was funded for 4 years through their title Title VI, 2010-2014.

Received support from the Center for European Studies to support a working group on "Comparative Veiling: Turkey & France in the EU" and was funded for 4 years through their title VI grant (2010-2014).

**Antle, Martine**

Course Development Grant from the Center for African Studies

Title VI support for project: "Comparative Veiling: Turkey & France and the EU" (Sahar Amer and Martine Antle)

Title VI support for project: “Politics of the Body at the Edge of Europe" (Frederico Luisetti, Richard Cante and Martine Antle)

**Aragon, Lorraine**


Project: "Arts and Owners: Intellectual Property, Cultural Heritage, and Indonesian Arts." Carolina Asia Center, $3000; University Research Board $3800

**Bapat, Navin**

African Studies Center Course Development Grant

Center for Global Initiatives Course Development Grant

**De Jong, Lidewijde**

2010-11 Visiting Research Scholar, The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University

2010 Conference Presentation Award, Center for Global Initiatives (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), for participation in the 7th ICAANE (London)
2010 King’s College London and UNC Chapel Hill Joint Projects Grant, King’s College Fund, for travel to King’s College in London

**Ernst, Carl W.**
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation research fellowship.

**Ghosh, Pika**
Medieval and Early Modern Studies Research Fellowship, UNC 2010 -11
Course Enhancement Grant, UNC 2010
College Art Association, Alfred H Barr Prize, Special Mention

**Kurzman, Charles**
University Research Council, research award

**Peacock, James**
Grant from CGI (Center for Global Initiatives) for Global South workshop

**Safi, Omid**
Freshman Teaching Award, Professor of the Year

**Selassie, Bereket**
The Abiola Annual ASA Lecture for 2010
The Nyerere Distinguished Lecturer for 2011 at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Shields, Sarah**
Humanities and Fine Arts Grant, UNC Provost’s Office, 2010
Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professorship, 2010
American Council of Learned Societies/SSRC/NEH Fellowship, 2010-2011

**Taj, Afroz**
First Year Seminar Enrichment Fund
Chair’s Freedom Fund, Dept. of Asian Studies
Travel grant from the NC Consortium for South Asia Studies