

CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

AND MUSLIM CIVILIZATIONS

STRATEGIC PLAN

Spring 2011

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.

Short-term Priorities from previous Plan

1. Curriculum
 - a. Introduce Islamic and Middle Eastern studies minor (approved fall 2009)
 - b. Duke-UNC Graduate Certificate in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (approved fall 2010)
 - c. Graduate degree programs in Middle East Studies in the Asian Studies Department (under discussion)
 - d. Duke-UNC Ph.D. Program in Middle East Cultural Studies (under discussion)
2. Study Abroad
 - a. Strengthen summer programs in Jordan and Turkey (new Turkey summer course planned for 2012; Jordan summer program scheduled for 2012)
3. Administration
 - a. Increase Associate Director position to full time (funded by Title VI December 2010)
 - b. Appoint Outreach Director (funded by Title VI January 2011)
4. Immediate priorities for faculty positions:
 - a. Middle East historian (appointed 2012).
 - b. Ken'an Rifa'i Distinguished Fellow in Islamic Studies. Launch of fund-raising campaign by Turkish Women's Cultural Association in February 2009 (appointed 2011)
 - c. Lecturer in Persian language and literature (appointed August 2010).
 - d. Turkish language and literature: funded by Institute for Turkish Studies (appointed August 2010).
 - e. Two Arabic lecturers (appointed 2009).
 - f. Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature (appointed 2012)
 - g. Middle Eastern collections development librarian (appointed October 2010)
5. Research and Programs
 - a. Title VI National Resource Center application as the Collaboration for Middle East studies at Duke and UNC, March 2010 (successful)

- b. 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
 - 6. Aligarh Muslim University
- c. Increase collaboration with UNC health affairs
- d. Educational outreach programs

Longer term priorities

- 1. Faculty positions
 - a. Middle East politics
 - b. Anthropology of the Middle East
 - c. Middle Eastern new media studies
 - d. Central Asian history
 - e. Early Islamic texts
 - f. Middle Eastern economic development
 - g. An additional Arabic lecturer
 - h. Persian language and literature
 - i. Turkish language and literature
- 2. Fundraising
 - a. Add donation page to Center website
 - b. Formation of Advisory Committees to support particular areas:
 - 1. Persian Studies Advisory Committee (established February 2010, see <http://persian.unc.edu>)
 - 2. Arabic Studies.
 - 3. Turkish Studies.