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DIRECTOR’S NOTE

As we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, there is much to celebrate. The vigorous discussions leading to the foundation of our center recognized that the cultures and conditions of the Middle East and related Muslim societies are an integral part of the world we live in. Any university that aspires to global relevance needs to provide access to language instruction and a coherent curriculum offering access to these subjects.

We are accordingly very proud of the award of a Title VI National Resource Center grant for the third time, because of the central support it provides for our activities, and the recognition it provides of the excellence of our programs. Our planning process, which includes five strategic plans to date, has reflected the evolving concept of a hybrid model of area studies and transregional thematic connections, instead of a rigidly bounded notion of the Middle East. To communicate this complex approach more effectively, we have simplified the name of the center to its current form. And we remain committed to strengthening the core areas of language and area studies, connecting to the humanistic and social science disciplines, and engaging with the arts.

Thanks to our outstanding core staff, our center supports a wide range of programs for undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty members, K-12 and community college teachers, and members of the public. It is our responsibility to bring critical reflection to the understanding of problems and issues in the Middle East, even (or especially) when they require “difficult conversations” on topics that some may consider controversial. With two new faculty appointments this year (one in Arabic, and one in Islamic/Persian studies), and some exciting conferences, events, and outreach activities planned, you can be assured that there will be lots of great activity at CMEIS coming up. Please join us!

-Carl W. Ernst, Co-Director

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PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Center Awarded Title VI Federal Funding and Designated as National Resource Center

In August 2018, the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies was once again designated as a National Resource Center with a four year Title VI grant award from the U.S. Department of Education. This competitive funding allows the center to promote understanding of the Middle East through teaching, research, and community outreach. This is the center's third successful application for a Title VI award.

Administered by the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office in the U.S. Department of Education, the Title VI grant program strengthens international studies centers across the country. The program supports instruction in international studies, modern languages, and resources for research and training in world affairs. The Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies was one of five area studies centers at UNC-Chapel Hill to be awarded Title VI funding in this grant cycle.



The FedEx Global Education Center houses the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. Photo: Center for European Studies

With this federal funding, the center will be able to support the following projects over the next four years: faculty support for language instruction, research, teaching, and curriculum development; Languages Across the Curriculum, which integrates Arabic into courses offered outside of standard language courses; K-12 outreach programs; collaborations to support Middle East Studies at Durham Technical Community College; library acquisitions; and public engagement with Middle East Studies through events and conferences.

15th Anniversary Celebration and Renaming of the Center

The center celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2018 and was also renamed from the “Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations” to the “Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies.” The name change was guided by input from core affiliated faculty and staff to better reflect its focus as a hybrid between traditional area studies approaches and cross-regional Islamic studies. In addition to the new name, the center also has a new trademark image; an Islamic art-inspired geometric pattern in light blue.

The center was initially founded in 2003, growing out of a specialized Planning Group of faculty, students, and administrators established to review UNC-Chapel Hill's resources in Middle East studies. Over the past 15 years, the center has increased the number of University faculty in Middle East and Islamic studies, expanded curricular and research opportunities in Middle East studies on campus, and developed partnerships with universities both in the United States and abroad.

The center will continue to serve as a comprehensive hub for Middle East and Islamic studies on campus and in the community. “Even with the new, streamlined title, our center's mission has not changed. We still bring a global perspective to Middle East studies, as well as bringing Middle East expertise to the study of global issues,” said Charles Kurzman, co-director of the center. Affiliated faculty, graduate students, and staff of the center gathered together in October 2018 to celebrate successes of the center's fifteen years as well as future directions.

“Reminders of Home” Art Exhibition Highlighted Persian Culture

Artwork celebrating the extensive legacy of Persian art and culture was on display in the FedEx Global Education Center from August 22 through December 8, 2018. Organized by UNC Global, the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, and UNC Persian Studies, the exhibition, *Reminders of Home: Persian Art Connecting Homeland and Diaspora*, featured Persian artwork and artifacts to provide a glimpse into a culture that has cultivated an extensive legacy of art over the past 5,000 years. The exhibition explored Persian art through objects of everyday use borrowed from Iranian community members in North Carolina, as well as select reproductions from the Ackland Art Museum’s collection dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.



Folk Music of Iran concert performers. Photo: Caitlin Penna

Reminders of Home examined the historical and cultural significance of Persian art for the lives of Iranian families both in North Carolina and Iran. Many items in the exhibition were created in Iran and brought to North Carolina by members of the Iranian community. Interviews with the Iranian community in North Carolina were also featured in the exhibit to demonstrate how art can gain nuanced meanings in new settings while also providing reminders of home.

A well-attended public reception celebrating the exhibition took place on September 21, 2018 featuring a performance, *Folk Music of Iran*. The performance consisted of different compositions from Iran and beyond, showcasing songs from regions with elements of Persian culture. It was directed by Bahram Osqueezadeh, musician and scholar from the University of California at Santa Barbara. The ensemble was composed of Osqueezadeh on the santur, Mitra Khorsandi as the vocalist, Bahram Dehghani on the ney, Siamak Borzogi on the tar bass, and Nadia Sabet on percussion.

Throughout the fall semester, the exhibition provided multiple opportunities for different audiences to explore Persian art, history, and culture. On October 5, 2018 the center hosted a public Persian calligraphy workshop with Majid Roohafza at the FedEx Global Education Center. During the event, Roohafza discussed different styles of calligraphy and their importance in Persian culture. Attendees were also able to practice Persian calligraphy.



Majid Roohafza demonstrates Persian calligraphy. Photo: Emma Harver

To engage K-12 teachers in Persian studies, the center hosted a workshop for educators on December 1, 2018 entitled *Exploring Iran: Politics, Society, and Culture*. During this interdisciplinary one-day program, teachers traveled from across North Carolina to deepen their historical and contemporary understanding of Iran. In addition to discussions of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, post-revolutionary life, and Persian poetry, teachers made connections to the local Iranian community in a panel discussion with members of the Iranian Cultural Society of North Carolina, and explored the *Reminders of Home* exhibition.

Nowruz Event Honored Jarrahi Family Support for New Professorship in Persian Studies

With the generous support of the Jarrahi family, a new tenure-track assistant professor position in Islamic studies with a specialization in Persian/Iranian studies has been established in the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Religious Studies, funded by the recently established Dr. Ali Jarrahi Term Professorship. This gift from the Jarrahi family will support a three-year term professorship, elevating UNC's Persian Studies program in the Department of Asian Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences. Additional support for the position will come from the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies through its Title VI funding.

An event in spring served to both celebrate Nowruz, the Persian New Year, as well as the Dr. Ali Jarrahi Term Professorship. On March 23, 2019, the center and the Iranian Society of North Carolina co-hosted a "Festival of Spring" in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. The event featured live Persian music and dance with the Delbaan Ensemble. Performers were invited from California, Nevada, New York and Ontario, Canada as well as North Carolina to perform Persian poetry, music and dance at the event. During the interlude, refreshments were served and Professor Carl Ernst, co-director of the center, presented an award to Dr. Jarrahi in appreciation of his donation to Persian studies.

The event demonstrated the strong support of the local Iranian community for Persian studies, as well as the valuable partnership between the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies and the Iranian Cultural Society of North Carolina. This partnership will allow the Persian Studies program to continue to expand and offer more opportunities for the study and appreciation of Persian language and culture.

Conference Highlighted Current Realities in the Gaza Strip

The center hosted a conference entitled "Conflict Over Gaza: People, Politics, and Possibilities" on March 22-24, 2019 in the FedEx Global Education Center. The conference gathered scholars and specialists from think tanks, non-governmental organizations and journalists to discuss the realities of everyday life in the Gaza Strip. Panelists discussed the Gazan economy, freedom of movement, geopolitics and humanitarian issues in Gaza.

In addition to panel discussions, the conference highlighted Gazan culture, including music, films, food and art, to showcase the beauty that goes along with the challenges of life in the Gaza Strip. The conference also featured a film festival, "Gaza On Screen," screening films that feature the diversity of cinematic work from the Gaza Strip over the past 70 years. The conference report is available online.



Left to right: Kevin Guskiewicz, interim Chancellor; Parvis Jarrahi; Carl Ernst, William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies and co-director of the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies; Ali Jarrahi; Rudi Colloredo-Mansfield, senior associate dean for social sciences and global programs in the UNC College of Arts & Sciences; Terry Rhodes, interim dean of the College.



Panelists discuss "Gaza and the World: Egypt, Israel, and the United States." Photo: Mark Terry

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Grants Awarded to UNC and Duke Faculty for Research in Middle East Studies

With support from the Title VI program of the U.S. Department of Education, the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies is pleased to offer small grants to faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Schools of Education. Congratulations to the following faculty for receiving grants to work on these projects:

Course Development:

- Yaron Shemer (UNC, Department of Asian Studies), to develop a course on “Faith and Religious Practices in Israeli Cinema, TV, and Literature.”
- Khalid Shahu (UNC, Department of Asian Studies), to support the creation of three new courses in the Department of Asian Studies, each to be offered for the first time during spring and summer 2019; ASIA 490: “Introduction to Quranic Arabic”; ARAB 253: “Contemporary Moroccan Literature & Cinema”; and ARAB 250: “Introduction to Languages of Morocco.”
- Elizabeth Crawford (UNC-Wilmington, Watson School of Education), to integrate Middle East and Islamic Studies into the LIC 501 Research-Based Instructional Design and Assessment and EDN 334 Social Studies Methods (K-6) courses.

Language Pedagogy Training:

- Khalid Shahu (UNC, Department of Asian Studies), to attend the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) convention in New Orleans, November 16-18, 2018.

Research Travel Grant:

- Jennifer Gates-Foster (UNC, Department of Classics), to travel to Israel to conduct laboratory analysis of archaeological remains recovered between 2012-2017 at the site of Horvat Omrit, a Roman settlement located on the outskirts of Caesarea Philippi (Baneas, Israel).
- Benjamin Arbuckle (UNC, Department of Anthropology), to travel to conduct archaeological research at İnönü Cave, located in the Zonguldak region of northwest Turkey, exploring Early Bronze Age deposits (c. 3200-2500 BC) previously identified within the cave.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Carolina Global Photography Competition Winner

The annual Carolina Global Photography Competition showcases Carolina’s global activity, educational opportunities, research and service work. Each year, several photos are submitted by UNC-Chapel Hill students, faculty, alumni and staff who have traveled to the Middle East and North Africa for research, study and personal travel, and highlight the many connections UNC has to the region.

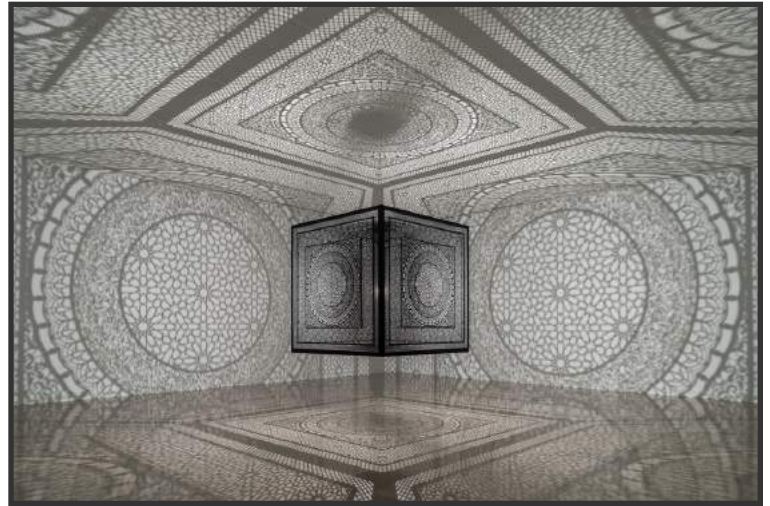
“Henna Party” taken by Chloe Arrojado, ’20, in Fez, Morocco, was selected for the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies’ Regional Spotlight award. This photograph was taken at the henna party of a Moroccan bride in Fez, while Chloe was in Morocco to study Arabic on a Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarship. Congratulations to Chloe for her beautiful photography.



“Henna Party” by Chloe Arrojado, ’20

16th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Student Conference in Middle East and Islamic Studies Explored "Muslims, Motherlands and Minoritization"

On March 2, 2019 the Islamicate Graduate Student Association (IGSA) hosted the 16th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Middle East and Islamic Studies Conference at UNC-Chapel Hill. The event is the longest running graduate student conference focusing on Middle East and Islamic Studies in the country. The theme for this year's conference was "Muslims, Motherlands and Minoritization." This event was organized by Rachel Cochran, a second year PhD student in History at UNC; Hina Muneeruddin, a second year PhD student in Religious Studies at UNC; Yasmine Flodin-Ali, a first year PhD student in Religious Studies at UNC; Arianne Ekinci, a second year PhD student in History at UNC; and Arpan Bhandari, a second year MA student in Religious Studies at Duke.



Artwork: Pakistani American artist Anila Quayyum Agha's work "Intersections"

Eight papers submitted by graduate students from around the country were selected for two panels at the conference. "The conference has a tradition of being a space where the graduate students are able to direct the conversation and able to go deep into topics that they don't necessarily see being explored elsewhere" said Yasmine Flodin-Ali, one of the conference organizers. The first panel included papers focusing on Muslims as minorities, either in non-Muslim majority states or within the context of colonial empire. Cemil Aydin, Professor of History at UNC, served as the faculty respondent for the first panel. The second panel included papers examining minorities within Muslim communities, including ethnic minorities and sectarian minorities. Anna Bigelow, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at North Carolina State University served as the faculty respondent for the second panel. Professor Juliane Hammer, Associate Professor Kenan Rifai Scholar of Islamic Studies at UNC, delivered the concluding remarks for the event, focusing on hegemonies and the intersectional study of religion.

Over the past few years the event has shifted to a hybrid conference-workshop format. Papers were pre-circulated in advance among attendees, and respondents were encouraged to give feedback. Attendees at the conference were a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and community members. "I was glad that we seemed to have some people that were coming to the conversation without a lot of background knowledge. It was a good mix of people who were able to learn from each other and engage with our research," said Flodin-Ali.

Student Spotlights

Graduate Student Spotlight: Mohammed Eid

M.A., Global Studies '20, Rotary Peace Fellow

What are your research interests?

My research interest is humanitarian assistance in crisis zones and war affected areas. I study challenges that face humanitarian actors in their daily missions and possible ways to improve access, effectiveness and sustainability. I'm also interested in studying the larger impact humanitarian and relief aid have on receiving societies and how aid succeeds in certain crisis cases and fails in others.



How have you engaged with Middle East studies on campus?

The Middle East Studies Center has added a whole new dimension to my experience at UNC graduate school, which has really enriched me academically and professionally. The most significant engagement I had with the Center was the discussions I had with the faculty as part of my long journey to decide on my final research topic for my capstone project. The faculty are very friendly, helpful, supportive and very well-informed and updated about the Middle East region geopolitical, ideological, cultural and historical issues.

What has been your most valuable experience at UNC Chapel Hill?

Being in a safe friendly and supportive environment, and being able to study and interact with students from this country as well as from all over the world, with the least concern about ideological and political background. The social interactions and positive relationships I have enjoyed at this global community at UNC has really taught me a lot and changed how I perceive global topics and concerns.

What are your plans for the future?

As a person who grew up in a conflict zone and has survived due to the help and support I received from humanitarian philanthropists, I have always wanted to travel around the world working in different crisis zones, providing help and support for underprivileged communities. Currently, I'm exploring different roles with some of the UN agencies concerned with relief work and peace building. I have the ambition to join a humanitarian mission in Yemen to work on stabilizing the local communities and develop a temporary education system for the children who has been deprived of education since the beginning of the war.

Graduate Student Spotlight: Sajjad Hussain

M.A., Global Studies '20, Rotary Peace Fellow

What are your research interests?

Inspired by my personal observations and experiences, I want to research religious and ethnic conflicts. As a student of history and a peace activist, I conduct research with the aim of exploring a more objective or the 'alternative understanding of history'. So far, my research topics have focused on religious conflicts in South Asia, particularly Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India and I can see how colonial understanding of history drives contemporary conflicts and identities.



How have you engaged with Middle East studies on campus?

I am a student of Global Studies which is an interdisciplinary field to study global actors, relationships, and phenomena. What I celebrate about the Curriculum in Global Studies is that it allows students to complement their observations by extensive research into the various area and thematic studies. My interactions with professors from the history and religious studies departments at UNC and Duke helped me immensely. I particularly enjoyed a hybrid course on 'Critical Genealogies of the Middle East' taught by Jewish and Muslim professors from Duke and UNC. I am seeking to contribute positively to the religious conflicts around the world and particularly in South Asia and the Middle East with a perspective rich in its understanding of history.

What has been your most valuable experience at UNC Chapel Hill?

That's a tough one. I have been really well pampered here in North Carolina. I have found my professors remarkably knowledgeable and yet so humble and patient. Library services and atmosphere here at UNC and Duke is nothing like I have experienced before. The classroom environment is intellectually stimulating and complemented by regular conferences, exhibitions, performances, and talks on campus. From the professors to non-teaching staff, from students to artists, from classmates to the community, every bit of my experience has been valuable.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to contribute to public scholarship about ethnic and religious conflicts around the world. I am particularly passionate about contributing positively towards active violent conflicts in the Middle East and South and Central Asia. I am searching for advocacy and research positions with organizations working for human rights, development, and policy analysis in the Middle East, South and Central Asia.

FLAS Student Spotlight: Erinn Crider

Transatlantic Masters Program '20, Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship (FLAS) award recipient from the Center for European Studies to study Turkish during academic year 2018-2019, supported by Title VI funding from the Department of Education:



How did you use your FLAS scholarship?

I used my FLAS to fund the first year of my Transatlantic Master's. My Master's is ostensibly called European governance, but what European means is wonderfully complex and ever evolving. Having a FLAS in Turkish enabled me to explore European history, identity and current politics, especially for the Turkish diaspora in Germany, through a new perspective.

Why did you choose to study Turkish? What are your research interests?

As an undergraduate at UNC I spent a lot of time looking at identity politics in Eastern Europe and I became very interested in identity and migration. I realized, especially with all of the attention on the refugee crisis, that Europe has a rich history of exchange and European politics and identity are deeply connected with the Middle East. Also, German was my minor as an undergraduate and due to the large Turkish diaspora in Germany, Turkish seemed like a natural continuation.

What has been the most valuable aspect of your FLAS fellowship?

Even though there are many great secondary sources and Google Translate is getting better by the day, FLAS is so valuable because there is simply no substitution for learning a language if you are interested in a culture and its people. It's much harder to make personal connections through Google Translate.

What would you like to do in the future?

In the short term, I am going to an internship at the Department of State in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrations then heading to the University of Bremen to work on my thesis about how migration affects welfare states. In the long term, I am interested in working in grant management in international development.

Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Chloe Arrojado

UNC '20, 2018-2019 intern with the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies

I am a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill studying Arabic and journalism. For the past academic year, I have been interning for the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. I began interning after my summer in Morocco through the FLAS scholarship. The scholarship allowed me to spend nine weeks in Rabat, Morocco learning Arabic at the Qalam wa Lawh center. I was able to build upon my two years of Arabic lessons at UNC and even pick up some Moroccan Arabic along the way. The more I've studied Arabic, the more I've come to appreciate the language as one of deep history and cultural richness. I hope to eventually appreciate the work of Mahmoud Darwish or Mohamed Choukri in their original language.



Through my position as an intern, I facilitated lectures that ranged in topic from the intersectionality of race and religion to Ottoman architecture. My time with the Mideast center taught me that sometimes the best learning experiences take place outside of the classroom. In fact, this notion gave me the confidence to present my research on Tunisian cinema at the *Society of Cinema and Media Studies* undergraduate conference. My presentation, titled "A Summer in La Goulette: An Allegorical Tale of Tunisia", focused on the film *A Summer in La Goulette* and the way the film parallels Tunisia's coming-of-age as a state.

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Teachers Studied Legacies of World War I in the Middle East

On April 11, 2019, K-12 teachers from across North Carolina joined the center, Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies, and the National WWI Museum and Memorial at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh to explore lasting impacts of World War I in the Middle East. Featuring presentations by historians, the workshop provided context to today's struggles over belonging, identities, and the map of the Middle East.

The consortium had the unique opportunity to partner with the National WWI Museum and Memorial, based in Kansas City, Missouri, on this one-day workshop. In honor of the centennial of the end of the First World War, the Museum and Memorial has begun *WWI 360: Teach Like an Ace*, a national education initiative made possible with the generous support of the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission. *WWI 360* equips educators with the tools to more effectively teach World War I in the classroom. "One hundred years later, it's more important than ever to not only remember the shortcomings of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, but to recognize the war's enduring impact on the world more broadly," said Cherie Kelly, School Programs Manager at the National WWI Museum and Memorial.

The workshop began with a discussion led by Kelly on "Why is Teaching World War I Important?". Attending teachers remarked on the little amount of time they have to teach about the war in the curriculum, as well as the importance of the topic. In presentations by Sarah Shields, Professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill, teachers learned about the role of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, and the dissolution of the ethnically, religiously, and linguistically diverse empire into small states. New borders dislocated long-established trading networks, and separated family and tribal collectives. The mandate system limited self-determination of new states by instating a foreign presence in the region. "These economic, social, and political changes continue to influence the Middle East to the present day," Shields explained.



Cherie Kelly of the National WWI Museum and Memorial presents on the importance of teaching about global impacts of World War I. Photo: B.J. Davis

In addition to learning about global impacts of the war, teachers made the history relevant to home by visiting the exhibition, "North Carolina & World War I," at the North Carolina Museum of History. The exhibit highlights artifacts, period photography, a trench diorama, historical film footage, educational interactive components, and video re-enactments to tell the stories of men and women from North Carolina who served in the war. Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History at the NC Museum of History, highlighted individuals and regiments from North Carolina involved in the war. "Trying to relate history to students and to make it relevant can be difficult, but showing images and primary sources to students that depict citizens from their region is a great way to begin the unit," shared Christin Bryant, teacher at Highlander Academy in Red Springs, North Carolina.

Teachers left the program with classroom resources and teaching strategies for extending their study of the War to End All Wars to include information on the Middle East. "I feel much better prepared to tackle World War I and the impact on the Middle East" shared Joshua Gallagher, teacher at Ravenscroft High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. "Post-workshop, participants reported that they felt enlightened and more confident in their ability to teach their students about the complexities of the Great War. Teachers left the workshop feeling prepared to make WWI meaningful for their students," Kelly affirmed.

Event at Durham Technical Community College Celebrated Middle Eastern Cultures

The Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies and Durham Technical Community College have an ongoing partnership to increase access to Middle East studies for community college students, especially Arabic language learning. Over the past three years, the center has supported Durham Tech's Arabic language program, the creation of a new course on Middle Eastern Cultures, the library collection in Middle East studies, and events on campus in Middle East Studies. As part of this collaboration, the center supported Durham Tech on its "Festival of Middle Eastern Cultures" on April 1, 2019. "We were excited to partner with the Student Government Association here at Durham Tech this spring to put together the Middle Eastern cultural festival. With the generous support of the center, we were able to work with the students to realize their vision for a campus-wide event highlighting various cultures of the Middle East," said Shannon Hahn, Discipline Chair for the Foreign Languages program at Durham Tech.

About 175 students and faculty from the college attended the event to learn about the diverse cultures of the Middle East. The festival featured community members with ties to the region, including booths on Arabic language, culture, and calligraphy; Persian calligraphy and art; Turkish culture; henna artists; Middle Eastern food; and events and programs of the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies. The festival allowed students in various degree programs to engage with the Middle East. "This event provided a space to recognize and celebrate our many students with ties to the region and truly raised awareness, creating opportunities for dialogue across campus" said Hahn.

K-12 Teachers Completed Year-long Fellowship on the Middle East and Africa

In December 2018, a group of thirteen K-12 teachers completed an intensive, year-long fellowship organized by the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies, African Studies Center and Carolina K-12. The Middle East and African Cultures Teacher Fellows Program was established to enhance teachers' expertise in Middle East and African studies through trips to sites across North Carolina with connections to the regions, paired with culturally relevant resources and pedagogy.

Over the course of a year, teacher participants visited six locations across North Carolina to explore Middle Eastern and African heritage. The site visits included a visit to a refugee resettlement agency in Greensboro, a tour of Middle Eastern and African food establishments in Charlotte, and a performance of Sudanese music in Durham by Alsarah and The Nubatones, among others. The fellows created lesson plans with content on the Middle East and Africa to share with teachers around the state. Curriculum will be available online at ncmideast.org this summer. Congratulations to the Middle East and African Cultures Teacher fellows.



The fellows dance dabke at the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. Photo: Emma Harver

Support the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies

Thank you for your engagement with all that we do at the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. We are grateful for the financial support of our alumni and friends. Private gifts help sustain our programs. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help further understanding of the Middle East throughout the university and community. Your gift to the center will directly support the many events we host and sponsor, our K-14 outreach initiatives, and help support student fellowships. For more information about giving opportunities, please visit mideast.unc.edu/about/support or contact Shai Tamari, Associate Director of the center, tamari@unc.edu or (919) 962-2034. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

