Across the United States, new media channels and university centers of Middle (or Near) Eastern Studies are buzzing with news of epoch-changing events. Everything from mapping the Tunisian revolution to remapping the Egyptian elections and tweeting the ravages of war and civil unrest in Syria, Afghanistan, and Turkey, we have witnessed a rapidly changing Middle East. The UCSB Center for Middle East Studies has done admirably this quarter to enhance the public’s understanding of the these regional developments through activities that have focused on the histories, sexualities, politics, regions, music, and intellectual and social trends of the area stretching from North Africa to Central and South Asia.

Beginning with the 3rd annual UCSB Islamic Studies graduate student conference (March 8-10, 2013), “Reconstituting Female Authority: Women’s Participation in the Transmission and Production of Islamic Knowledge,” CMES sponsored a program that brought together a number of scholars from around the globe for a weekend of meaningful conversation. Conference organizers Samaneh Oladi, Corinne Kalota, and Kendra Sarna, all graduate students of Islamic studies and Middle East studies, performed herculean tasks in fund-raising and in inviting three world-renowned keynote speakers, the same number of plenary speakers, and several advanced graduate student paper presenters. The audience drew people from far and wide; Rachelle Fawcett, an attendee from Hartford Seminar, wrote a laudatory review of the conference for al-Jazeera, which can be viewed here. Titled “The reality and future of Islamic feminism,” the review said that the future of Islamic feminism was well represented, demonstrating the complexity of women’s movements, both new and old, in the Muslim world and its diasporic communities. Thanks also to our own graduate student, Nesrin Unlu, who wrote a brief of the conference for the publication Turkish Review. The event received positive coverage and feedback from around the world. Well done, Samaneh, Corinne, and Kendra!

Two other CMES events complemented the theme of reconstituting female authority, focusing on issues of gender and sexuality.
Professor Afifi Bids Farewell, Will Join Faculty at University of Iowa

It has been my pleasure, honor, and privilege to serve as the program chair for the Middle East Studies (MES) major the past two years. However, I have accepted a position as Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa (U of I), starting Fall 2013. The U of I is my alma matter, home to a Communication Studies department rich with history, and is where my parents worked as faculty and near which they still reside. Dr. Nancy Gallagher shepherded the program to excellence for years before me and I have no doubt that Prof. Ahmad Ahmad will bring new energy and ideas to this position next year as he takes over as program chair. My memories of this brief role as MES program chair will be dominated by thoughts of the many inspiring interactions I have had with students in the program and with the joys I have experienced from working with faculty and staff associated with MES and the Center for Middle East Studies. I will miss the MES community tremendously. At the same time, I am thrilled to leave the program in such good hands. The opportunities for expanding the program, improving course options, working even more closely with our majors, and increasing the program’s visibility on campus, across California, and across the nation are many, and Prof. Ahmad is uniquely positioned to take advantage of this promise. I wish our majors the best of luck with your endeavors. I will always have an open door.

-Walid Afifi, Professor of Communication

O’Donoghue to Head Program for Language Study in the Middle East and North Africa

You are receiving this email because you have supported me as an instructor, mentor, recommender, friend, or combination of the former, throughout my time at UCSB and afterward, so I felt it appropriate to inform you that I finally landed my first "real" job! I started in late January as the Middle East North Africa Programs Manager for CET Academic Programs, a DC-based company that believes in the lasting effects of immersive study abroad and how it contributes to creating more open and understanding societies. I manage Intensive Arabic Language and Culture Studies programs in Irbid, Jordan, and Tunis, Tunisia, where I have the pleasure to work with an outstanding team on the ground who taught and administered the Flagship Program that I completed in 2010, (which wouldn't have been possible without your support), so things have come full circle in a way I never could have expected.

As with my position at EAP as a Peer Advisor after my first year in Egypt, the best part about working at CET is the opportunity I have to encourage students to take on the rewarding challenge of studying abroad and advocate for an academic experience that led me to where I am today. Another perk is the possibility of running into colleagues, friends, and mentors like you at conferences like MESA, NAFSA, and ACTFL, and becoming a member of the greater community that creates opportunities like the ones I was privileged to have.

Thank you for all of your support over the years! I look forward to crossing paths with you again, and hope I can become a resource for you and your students.

-Allega O’Donoghue, UCSB Graduate, Middle East & North Africa Manager for CET Academic Programs
Professor Juan Campo: Reporting from EAP, Updates on Teaching and Research

Juan E. Campo is now serving his third year as Faculty Director of the UCSB campus office of the Education Abroad Program. His office recruits and advises more than 850 UCSB students a year going to more than 230 programs in 39 countries around the world, including Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Turkey, Senegal, and India. Under his guidance, UCSB remains a leader in EAP participation among the nine UC campuses. This year has been an unprecedented one for fundraising and scholarships awarded: More than $400,000 was raised from alumni, non-UC donors, and UCEAP for UCSB students studying abroad for a semester, full-year, or summer in 2013-14. Scholarships were awarded to students based on need, merit, and major, including Engineering. In addition, Professor Campo received a first-time grant from the Freeman Foundation to establish paid internships for up to 20 UCSB EAP students in China, Thailand, and South Korea. In June he will travel with a UCEAP delegation to visit four host universities in Japan and be featured as a keynote speaker for a 50th anniversary celebration of the EAP program at International Christian University in Tokyo.

Professor Campo continues to be active in teaching and research. In addition to his courses on Modern Islamic Movements, Islamic Mysticism, Islam in India, Religion and Politics in the Persian Gulf Region, together with graduate seminars on Islamic Modernities and Islamic Studies, he continues to teach a course with Magda Campo on the culinary cultures of the Middle East. This year he received a New Leaf Grant from Instructional Development to create modules in this course on food sustainability and food sovereignty in historical perspective. The project resulted in the production continued on p. 7

Notes from the Field: Professor Stuart Tyson Smith on Archaeological Expedition to Sudan

Along with former UCSB graduate student Michele R. Buizon now an Associate Professor at Purdue University, I led the sixth season of our archaeological expedition to northern Sudan during the first half of Winter Quarter. Combining archaeology and bioarchaeology, the project investigates the impacts and cultural entanglements of Egypt’s New Kingdom conquest and colonization of Nubia (c. 1500-1050 BCE). Excavation concentrated in two different areas, within the village of Tombos and in the adjacent ancient cemetery, which has formed the focus of the previous five seasons of excavation. Our work within the modern village revealed the remains of a substantial, perhaps official structure dating to the late 18th Dynasty (c. 1350 BCE), establishing the existence of a substantial colonial settlement there. In the cemetery we discovered six new tombs. Although only the foundation remained, the largest complex was probably a pyramid, since it was square and had substantial walls with indications of a chapel inside.

A much smaller tomb with a simple mud brick chapel lay behind the new pyramid complex was particularly interesting. The shaft was very narrow and comparatively shallow, about two meters in depth and reaching the granite bedrock at a little over a meter, into which two chambers were cut, one to the west and one continued on p. 7
During the Spring Quarter I visited the Department of Political Science at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Almaty, Kazakhstan as part of the official exchange with UCSB and KazNU’s program for visiting foreign professors. I met with doctoral students lecturing on methods and theories of comparative politics and assisted them in developing their doctoral dissertations, conducted research, and consulted with experts.

As part of the initiative of Kazakhstan’s President Nazerbaev on Mir and Nauk (Peace and Science), I presented a lecture on “Different Understandings of Democracy” to undergraduates in political science. This program is an initiative in which departments at universities throughout Kazakhstan sponsor undergraduate research and organize special seminars at which their students continue on p. 7

Model Arab League Brings Home Multiple Awards

This year the Model Arab League Southern California Competition met here at UCSB in the UCEN. Students from eight institutions, representing ten countries (from Morocco to Qatar) spent the weekend of April 5-7 debating and discussing social, political, and environmental policies and issues currently facing the Arab League. UCSB Undergraduate and MAL student president, Sean Garbutt, undertook all of the preparations for hosting the conference and did an outstanding job in ensuring the weekend went successfully. Proceedings got underway on Friday afternoon with an engaging keynote address by UCSB Department of Communication professor, Dr. Walid Affi. After that the delegates broke off into their individual committees for the remainder of the weekend.

Our UCSB delegation represented the country of Libya and spent the winter quarter under the guidance of graduate advisers Caleb McCarthy and Aaron Sokoll, researching the challenges facing the new government of the country in the post-Qaddafi era.

This year’s team performed extremely well, with our Environmental Affairs and Joint Defense delegations being recognized with Most Outstanding delegates awards, and the team as a whole receiving an Honorable Mention. The success of this team continues a long tradition at UCSB of performing impressively in the Model Arab League, and reflects the dedication and brightness of this fine cohort of undergraduate students: Alicia Abboud, Maggie Buchanan, Alicia Crismali, Lauren Dulcich, Ivette Mendoza, Boshra Miarkiani, Natasha Moss, Azra Mufic, Blake Rocha and Cliff Schwankl.

-Caleb McCarthy, Religious Studies Graduate Student, Model Arab League Graduate Adviser
I have been fortunate to spend the 2012 – 13 academic year at the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. My principle purpose in being here has been to work on my book project on the Ottoman Egyptian family, al-Sada al-Bakriya, over the period 1500 – 1800. I began by constructing a family tree including some 300 individuals whom I was able to identify from the Cairo court archives and other sources. Since then, I have been working on chapters dealing with marriage and children, succession within the family, and the political influence of the family within Ottoman Egypt. I have also been taking advantage of the wonderful opportunity to meet scholars in a variety of fields in the humanities and social sciences and to learn about new areas of inquiry, not a few of which are relevant to my own interests and to the field of pre-modern Middle Eastern history and Islamic studies.

Along the way, I have given a number of lectures at the Institute and at Princeton University. My book on ‘Abd al-Wahhab al-Sha’rani and his writings on the political role of Sufi shaykhs was published in Cairo in April by the Institut français d’archéologie orientale. My co-editor Mustafa Mughazy and I are close to submitting another work, a collection of hagiographical texts associated with the Bakris, to a publisher. Finally, I am submitting an article to be published in a volume on the history of the family in the Middle East. I am looking forward to arriving in Santa Barbara and getting back to teaching and interacting with my new colleagues.

Adam Sabra, Professor of History

Kathie Moore, Professor of Religious Studies and Acting Director of the Center for Middle East Studies, received funding for a two-year project called “sharia revoiced: documenting California Muslims’ experiences with Islamic law.” A collaboration with Prof. Mark Massoud (UCSC) and CNN producer Maria Ebrahimji, the project is funded by a grant from UCHRI and the Henry Luce Foundation.

Dwight Reynolds has been on sabbatical during Spring Quarter and busy with the final editing of The Cambridge Companion to Modern Arab Culture, as well as writing an article about female slave-singers in medieval Muslim Spain and a book titled The Musical Heritage of al-Andalus. In April he spent a week in Lebanon and gave two lectures and a workshop at the American University of Beirut. During the few hours when he is not at his computer he is working on two summer projects: (1) hiking on all five of the islands in Channel Islands National Park; and, (2) replanting his garden with drought-resistant native Californian plants (highly appropriate since he himself is a drought-resistant native Californian).

Racha El-Omari has been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Religious Studies. Congratulations, Racha!

Christine M. Thomas, Associate Professor in Religious Studies, was chosen as one of twelve Visiting Scholars of the Phi Beta Kappa Society for 2013-14.
Dave Crawford, Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Fairfield University, has published a new book (with co-editor Rachel Newcomb) entitled *Encountering Morocco: Fieldwork and Cultural Understanding* (Indiana University Press 2013).

Sally Farouk, former Arabic Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FTLA), married former UCSB student, Lenny. They’ve just welcomed a new addition to the family: Elena Leonard Elick. She was born March 3rd, 2013 at 8am, weighing 3.76 KG and measuring 49cm. Congratulations, Sally!

Menekse, former Turkish FTLA, has had a baby girl. Congratulations, Menekse!

Matthew Reela, a 2012 Ph.D. in Religious Studies who works on Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean in the Roman Empire, won the Lancaster Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts this year for his thesis on martyrdom and identity formation in late antique Christianity.

Heather N. Keaney, Associate Professor of History at Westmont College has published a new book entitled *Medieval Islamic Historiography: Remembering Rebellion* (Routledge 2013)

Sohaira Siddiqui (C Phil, Religious Studies) has received an Academic Visitor position for the coming year at Cambridge University where she will be under the supervision of James Montgomery (holder of Sir Thomas Adams’s Chair of Arabic, est. 1632).

James Austin (C Phil Education & former Grad Assistant at CMES) is now a proud father. He reports: “Amanda gave birth to Fiona Cairene Austin on May 6, 2013 at 11:47 am here in Tucson. She weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. So this is keeping me a little bit busy for the time being...I should be free again around 2031.”

Elliott Bazzano has accepted a tenure track position in Islamic Studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York.

Vincent Biondo, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Middle East Studies at California State University, Fresno, has published a new edited volume (with Andrew Fiala) entitled *Civility, Religious Pluralism, and Education*. This book represents the culminating effort of a national and state NEH grant. A chapter by the AAR’s Amir Hussain is the primary MES contribution. Santa Barbara’s Nicholas Piediscalzi contributed the Foreword. Professor Biondo is collaborating with the First Amendment Center, Tony Blair Faith Foundation, and Interfaith Youth Core.
of a bibliographical data base and student projects dealing with these topics in Middle Eastern contexts. The database and a sampling of student projects will be posted on the CMES website later this year.

Meanwhile, Juan and Magda completed revising a book chapter, “The Arabs As Seen Through Their Cuisine,” for Dwight Reynolds’ forthcoming edited volume, The Cambridge Companion to Arab Culture. In addition to defining the macro-foodscapes of the Arab Middle East, it includes discussion of Arab food diasporas based on recent site visits to Mexico, Colombia, Canada, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Conference and invited papers he has presented include “Crossing and Dwelling: Rethinking Pilgrimage to Mecca in Comparative Perspective” (Barcelona), “Islamic Pilgrimages: Spaces of Peace and Conflict” (Santiago de Compostela), “Mass Pilgrimage in the Modern State: Heterodoxy and Heteropraxy in the Shaping of Sacred Space” (Madrid), and “Islam in America or American Islam?” (Bogota and Cairo). This summer he will continue his research on modern pilgrimages by walking the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain.

-Sue Tiyo Smith, Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology

Kaplan

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present research. I was the featured speaker in political science followed by student presentations on their research. Topics were wide ranging including democracy, immigration, and language policy in Kazakhstan. The presentations were very professional, equivalent to those of UCSB honors students and these students ranged from first year through those preparing to graduate. I was asked to help select the best presentations to be nominated for university level awards. I must admit this was a bit challenging, since the presentations lasted for three hours and about 70 percent were in Kazakh with the remaining ones in Russian!

-Cynthia S. Kaplan, Professor of Political Science

Greetings

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Professor Eric Hauser, of Free University in Berlin, spoke on “Male Friendship in Muslim Java.” Professor Marianne Kamp, visiting from University of Wyoming, lead a seminar discussion with CMES grad students and gave a public lecture on “Debating Sharia: the 1917 Muslim Women’s Congress...
A very special event on the CMES calendar this Spring was the week-long visit by the R. Stephen Humphreys’ Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Angelika Neuwirth (Arabic Studies, Free University, Berlin). Her public lecture, “The ‘Discovery of Writing’ in the Qur’an: Tracing an Epistemic Revolution in Arab Late Antiquity,” was preceded by her participation in seminars with graduate students aspiring in fields of classics, history, Islamic theology and Arabic literature.

Other speakers sponsored by CMES this quarter include Professor Stephen Zunes (Politics, University of San Francisco) who spoke about the struggle for democracy in the Middle East: civil insurrections and U.S. policy; and filmmaker George Azar (UCBerkeley alumnus), presenting his film, “Beirut Photographer.”

Our good fortune extended to our end of the year celebrations, with many of our students and faculty receiving accolades. Accompanied by the illustrious musicians of the UCSB Middle East Ensemble, we feted those who will be leaving us this year, including Professor Walid Afifi who has accepted the position of chair of the Communication Studies department at the University of Iowa. We also bid farewell to our CMES assistant, Greg Prieto, who has accepted a tenure track position in Sociology at University of San Diego. History Professor Nancy Gallagher announced her retirement beginning July 1st, and will continue one more year as the UCEAP Study Center Director for the Middle East based at the American University in Cairo.

-Kathleen Moore, Acting Director Center for Middle East Studies