MENAS Mission

Our aim is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with a well-rounded interdisciplinary education in Middle Eastern and North African Studies, emphasizing linguistic proficiency and exploring the complexities of culture, history and politics in the region in preparation for careers in government service, international business, journalism, NGOs, military and advanced academic study.

EFES, TURKEY  Photo Courtesy Wikipedia

menas.arizona.edu
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with pleasure and gratitude that I write to you in this our second annual MENAS newsletter. Now at almost the end of my third semester here at the University of Arizona, I have a stronger sense of the work and care that goes into making our department successful. I also have a greater appreciation for all that Dr. Scott Lucas, my predecessor as Director, did both to run the department so capably and to help me try to take over from him. I thank him and all the colleagues in the department and the UA administration that have welcomed me so warmly.

Since I wrote last year our School welcomed a new member of our faculty. Dr. Gökçe Günel was the unanimous selection of the search committee for the newly created position in Environment of the Middle East and it has been a privilege to welcome her to our faculty. Dr. Günel, originally from Turkey, came to us from Columbia University where she had been teaching in the Anthropology Department, having previously received her PhD from Cornell University and held a postdoctoral fellowship at Rice University. An expert in the fields of renewable energy, green technology infrastructure, and urban design, she recently completed a book manuscript entitled *Spaceship in the Desert: Energy, Climate Change and Green Business in Abu Dhabi* which will appear with Duke University Press in 2017.

We also celebrated the return of Dr. Mahmoud Azaz after a year’s absence. A highly popular teacher and a prolific scholar, Dr. Azaz was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Linguistics. Dr. Azaz used his time away from Tucson productively and a string of articles is now appearing as a result. It has been a real pleasure to welcome Dr. Azaz back to the MENAS fold.

An exciting recent development was the UA Faculty Senate approval of an undergraduate major in Arabic. The new BA in Arabic, one of the first such majors in the Western United States, will launch in Spring 2017.

MENAS was also fortunate to have obtained renewed funding for the Arabic Flagship grant and to have been awarded a Project Global Officer Advanced grant. Apart from the enhanced funding that such grants bring to support our Arabic instruction, they also reflect the high standing of our program in the United States and are a testament to the commitment and hard work of the Arabic instruction team, ably led by Dr. Sonia Shiri.

MENAS is a great department; our teaching offers a remarkably diverse array of courses; our research is thriving and our engagement with the wider world is expanding. Still, we are working to improve in each of these core areas. Colleagues have been working to put on new courses that reflect our academic strengths and the interests of our students and we have recently completed the long process of establishing a new undergraduate major in Arabic, which would be among the first such pathways in the Western United States. We have also been redefining their research efforts, whether embarking on new research projects or publishing the results of longer-term explorations. We have also launched new areas of engagement, for example, establishing new internships that will send our students out into the community to help refugees from the Middle East and North Africa in Southern Arizona and to support the teaching of Middle Eastern studies in local schools. There is much we can do to in the years ahead. Your support and encouragement will help us to expand these efforts. Please consider giving to one of the three funds we have established in MENAS: The Adel Gamal Scholarship fund, which recently passed the dollar threshold necessary to attain “endowment status” with the UA Foundation; the Bonine Travel Award Fund; and our unrestricted MENAS fund. We are very grateful for any support you can offer.

Thank you,

Benjamin Fortna

Middle Eastern studies at the University of Arizona have been fortunate to receive an endowment from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute to establish the Roshan Institute Graduate Interdisciplinary Program (GIDP) in Persian and Iranian Studies. Dr. Kamran Talattof, our Professor of Persian Language and Literature, has been named the director of the program and is currently chairing the search committee tasked with recruiting a new colleague in the field of Persian and Iranian studies. This is an exciting development for the School and we look forward to a new faculty member and expanded course offerings and cultural activities in Iranian and Persian studies.
Dr. Adel Sulaiman Gamal Endowment for Advanced Arabic

This is a new endowment honor of Dr. Adel Gamal in appreciation of his dedicated career in academic research and teaching. The endowment supports graduate and undergraduate students who have reached an advanced level of Arabic at the University of Arizona. The foundation will generate revenue for awards for which students of Arabic language and literature can apply.

Please make checks payable to the UA Foundation/Middle Eastern and North African Studies and in the memo section of the check please indicate the gift purpose, or include an attach a memo of explanation. Donate online at uafoundation.org.

All gifts are tax deductible.

Donate here: https://goo.gl/Ci2T5Q

Michael E. Bonine Memorial Travel & Research Award

The Michael Bonine Memorial Travel & Research Endowment Award was established in honor of our former Director Michael Bonine. This award supports summer travel by undergraduate students and academic activities by graduate students enrolled in, or affiliated with, the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Donations are welcomed via check or through an online payment.

Checks should contain the gift purpose in the memo section or have an attached memo. All gifts should be sent to the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies 845 N Park Ave. Tucson, AZ 85721.

Donate here: https://goo.gl/dIJpHJ
School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies

Donations to the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies are “Unrestricted Giving.” Your donation allows MENAS to expand the scope of our activities to meet the growing demands of our students, faculty and friends. Please give generously!

Donate here: https://goo.gl/v4nN98

IZMIR, TURKEY  Photo Curtesy of Ahmet Okal

menas.arizona.edu
School of Middle Eastern North African Studies Faculty

Mahmoud Azaz, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Arabic Language and Linguistics

Anne Betteridge, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Iranian Women and Culture

Samira Farwaneh, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Arabic Linguistics, and Director of Graduate Studies

Benjamin Fortna, Ph.D. School Director and Professor, History of Modern Middle East and Ottoman Empire

Gökçe Günel, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Anthropology of Energy and Climate Change

Leila Hudson, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Modern Middle Eastern Culture and Political Economy

Scott Lucas, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Islamic Studies

Maha Nassar, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Modern Middle Eastern History and Islamic Studies

Amy Newhall, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Middle Eastern Art and Architecture

Yaseen Noorani, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Arabic / Persian Language and Literature, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Sonia Shiri, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Middle East Language Programs Coordinator, Arabic Flagship Director

Kamran Talattof, Ph.D. Professor, Persian Language and Literature, Chair of Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies
MAHMOUD AZAZ

Mahmoud Azaz has received a Confluence Grant from the Confluence Center for Creative Inquiry at the University of Arizona for a research proposal entitled “Arabic Language Planning in Egypt: An Interdisciplinary Approach.” He also published his article “Integrating the genre-based approach into teaching writing in Arabic As a foreign language” came out in volume 19 of the “Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages and presented a paper entitled “The role of perceptual salience in the L2 acquisition sequence of the Arabic construct state” at the Arabic Second Language Acquisition Conference, sponsored by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Azaz was also invited to serve as a panelist for the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship 2017. He also was nominated to Executive Board of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic.

ANNE BETTERIDGE

Anne H. Betteridge continues as elected co-chair of the Council of National Resource Center Directors (CNRC). The CNRC includes 100 Title VI National Resource Centers in all world areas, funded by the US Department of Education. In addition, Dr. Betteridge was recently elected to the position of Vice-President of the American Institute of Iranian Studies, a non-profit consortium of US universities and museums founded in 1967 to promote the interdisciplinary study of Iranian civilization and US-Iran cultural dialogue.

GÖKÇE GÜNEL

Gökçe Günel joined MENAS this year as an Assistant Professor. She completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology at Cornell University in 2012. Her current book manuscript, entitled *Spaceship in the Desert: Energy, Climate Change and Urban Design in Abu Dhabi* focuses on the construction of renewable energy and clean technology infrastructures in the United Arab Emirates, more specifically concentrating on the Masdar City project. The book will be published by Duke University Press in 2018. Following her doctoral work, she was a Cultures of Energy Mellon-Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow at Rice University and an ACLS New Faculty Fellow and Lecturer at Columbia University. Her articles have been published in *Ephemera, Anthropology News, Public Culture, Anthropological Quarterly, The Yearbook of Comparative Literature, The ARPA Journal, Avery Review, and PoLAR*.

LEILA HUDSON

Dr. Leila Hudson is finishing up an ethnographic book manuscript on the Syrian refugee crisis. She has contributed chapters on the Syrian migration to two edited volumes as well. Dr Hudson has lectured extensively about the Syrian war and refugee situation in both academic and community forums in Arizona, Germany, California and South Carolina. She piloted a new course called “Genealogies of ISIS” this semester, and is contemplating a new course/project in critical food studies in conjunction with the new University of Arizona Food Studies Center. She continues to supervise a diverse and exciting array of masters’ and doctoral projects ranging geographically from Russia to Morocco including in Gaza, Oman, Turkey (western and eastern), Tunisia and Germany; disciplinarily from history to geography to comparative politics and women’s studies; and topically from ethnoastronomy to foodways to ISIS indoctrination.
SAMIRA FARWANEH

Dr. Farwaneh's article "Sequential Constraints in Palestinian Arabic" will appear as a chapter in the book "Sonority Across Languages" edited by Martin Ball and published by Equinox. Farwaneh was also invited to serve as a panelist for the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2016.

SCOTT LUCAS

Dr. Lucas presented a paper entitled "Ibn Hanbal's construction of 'Abd Allah b. 'Amr's sahifa: A Preliminary Assessment" at the Islam @ 250 conference, sponsored by the Leiden University Center for Islamic Studies, in the Netherlands.

MAHA NASSAR

Dr. Nassar's monograph, Brothers Apart: Palestinian Citizens of Israel and the Arab World, is now under contract with Stanford University Press. Drawing on a wide array of Arabic sources never before studied in English, Brothers Apart is the first book to reveal how Palestinian intellectuals in Israel forged transnational connections through written texts that challenged both Israeli policies and their own cultural isolation. Dr. Nassar's book is expected to appear in 2017.

AMY NEWHALL

Dr. Newhall taught 22 Dorrance Scholars from Arizona's public universities and the University of Hawaii at Hilo on a summer study abroad program exploring Mediterranean material cultures. She participated in a panel "Learned Societies and Publicly Engaged Work" at a meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) on October 31, 2015 in Montreal, Canada. Newhall is in her thirteenth year serving as Executive Director of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). The association has about 2900 members worldwide. MESA just enjoyed its 49th annual meeting in Denver and next year will celebrate “50 Years of Scholarship in Boston, MA in 2016.”
YASEEN NOORANI

Dr. Noorani was invited to present at the Georgetown Arabic Literature Colloquium in 2016, which was held in honor of the famed Arabic poet from Bahrain, Qasim Haddad, who gave the keynote address. He was invited to present at the Migrating Texts workshop at the University of Edinburgh, January 2016, sponsored by the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, University of Edinburgh. Dr. Noorani also published an article in the Journal of Arabic Literature entitled, “Estrangement and Selfhood in the Classical Concept of Watan,” which explores the concept of the homeland in classical Arabic literature. He presented papers at the MESA conference and at the American Comparative Literature Association conference.

SONIA SHIRI

Dr. Sonia Shiri published an article on "Intercultural Communicative Competence Development During and After Study Abroad," wrote one article that will appear in 2017 on “Banal Nationalism and Multimodal Linguistic Landscapes of the Tunisian Revolution” and co-authored one with Charles Joukhadar on effective ways to develop diglossic language proficiency by simultaneously teaching dialect and MSA in beginning Arabic classes. Dr. Shiri was selected to participate in the University of Arizona’s Academic Leadership Institute for 2016-2017 (http://ali.arizona.edu) and was elected in May 2016 to act as Chair of the Language Flagship Council (consortium of 27 programs at 22 universities nationwide). In November 2016, she was elected Chair of the Arabic Flagship Council (5 universities). During summer 2016, Dr. Shiri offered professional development for the overseas Flagship faculty at AALIM in Meknes, Morocco as well as for Language Flagship and Project GO faculty at a one-week workshop organized by L2TReC Center at the University of Utah. Dr. Shiri was invited to contribute in two symposia focused on technology-based innovative approaches to language learning, one in San Francisco in March 2016 and one in Washington, D.C. in October 2016. Both symposia brought together academics, the private sector, and government in order to explore cutting edge solutions to support adaptive and blended language learning in different contexts. She also visited AALIM in Morocco in late July where she held professional development activities for Egyptian and Moroccan instructors then contributed to a one-week Workshop for Flagship and Project GO faculty at the University of Utah.

KAMRAN TALATOFF

Kamran Talattof has published an edited volume entitled, Persian Language, Literature and Culture: New Leaves, Fresh Looks. He also published several articles and chapters including "Language: Persian," in The Encyclopedia Britannica; "Early Twentieth-Century Journals in Iran: Response to Modernity in Literary Reviews;" "Introduction: Leading literary: on Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak’s Scholarship;" "Social Causes and Cultural Consequences of Replacing Persian with Farsi: What’s in a Name?;" "Language: Persian," in The Encyclopedia Britannica; and a number of other articles in Persian for Iranian journals. He gave several talks locally and nationally on issues related to gender, ideology, and literature. Kamran Talattof also worked on the curriculum plans for the establishment of a newly founded Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies which will admit students for the next academic year.
Grants, Awards and Accomplishments

Dylan Baun - Dr. Baun completed his Master’s of Arts and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern and North African Studies with a History, Culture, and Society concentration here at the University of Arizona. He has since accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in the History Department.

Mahmoud Azaz - Dr. Azaz received a 2016-2017 Confluencenter Faculty Collaboration Award for “Arabic Language Planning in Egypt: An Interdisciplinary Approach” along with three other researchers. He is leading this research with co-director Olga Bever, and collaborator Mary Carol Combs. They will address the development of an effective Arabic language planning model in Egypt to help combat the effects of globalization on Arabic.

Zoe Kosoff - Zoe, a MENAS Ph.D. student, was awarded a CASA fellowship to study Arabic in Jordan. She turned down a 9 month Fulbright research fellowship in Oman for her proposal entitled “Curriculum design in teaching Arabic as a foreign language (TAFL) programs in Oman.”

Scott Lucas - Dr. Lucas received a CMES Research Fellowship to examine microfilms of rare Zaydi manuscripts at the Medieval Institute of Notre Dame University. The original manuscripts are held by the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan, Italy, and originally came from Yemen. He looks forward to publishing a series of articles and books on medieval Zaydi theology and law over the coming years.

Mija Sanders - Mija, a MENAS Ph.D. student, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays DDRA in Turkey for 2017.

Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Conference


Julia Clancy-Smith was part of a panel entitled “North Africa: A Forgotten Front During the First World War?”

Mojtaba Ebrahimian presented his paper “Transforming Time in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh and Sa’di: A Chronotopic Analysis.”

Benjamin Fortna chaired a panel entitled: “Minority Regimes and the Limits of Belonging in Early Republican Turkey.”

Gökçe Günel participated at the round table entitled “Electrifying Middle East and North African Studies” and was a discussant on the panel entitled “Technological Zones in the Middle East: Engineering Politics Out of Flows of Energy and Infrastructure”


Alyeh Mehin’s presentation was entitled: “The Influence of Turkish Soap Operas on Middle Class Working Women of Mashhad. “

Maha Nassar participated as a discussant in a panel called “Compassion, Morality and Intersubjectivity”

“Between Socialism and Communism: an intellectual history of Tunisian Jews from 1910 to 1956” was presented by Kamilia Rahmouni.

Kamilia Rahmouni gave a presentation which was entitled "Between Socialism and Communism: an intellectual history of Tunisian Jews from 1910 to 1956

Sonia Shiri organized a panel on “Developing and Measuring Intercultural Communicative Competence in Study Abroad and At-Home Programs: Insights from Arabic;” the panel included: Mohamed Ansary, Riyad Alhoms, Charles Joukhadar, and Sonia Shiri.

Charles Smith presented “Imperial mindsets: The Balfour Declaration, The Palestine Mandate and The Denial of Arab History.”
Mahmoud Azaz–Mahmoud has published five articles this year, three of which he was the sole author. “Metalinguistic Knowledge of Salient versus Unsalient Features: Evidence from the Arabic Construct States is forthcoming in the Foreign Language Annals (Published on behalf of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). He published an article on “Cross-linguistic effects in L2 acquisition: The case of Arabic determiner phrase,” came out in volume 49 of Al-ʿArabiyya: The Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic. His third article was titled “Integrating the genre-based approach into teaching writing in Arabic As a foreign language.” Came out in volume 19 of the Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages. Mahmoud was lead author on two other articles with Joshua Frank. The article “Bidirectional cross-linguistic influence in late bilingualism: Evidence from the container-content relation,” is forthcoming in Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism (LAB) (John Benjamins Publishing) They also published “The L2 acquisition sequence of the Arabic construct state,” which is forthcoming in the International Journal of Applied Linguistics (InJAL) (Wiley Publishing)

Benjamin Fortna - Ben has given a couple keynote lectures at conferences recently. He gave the opening address at the conference called “School Time!: Spatial and Temporal Dimensions of Educational Globalization” at McGill University in Montreal, Canada this past May. In October, Ben delivered a keynote address for the conference “Balkan Worlds III: Power Networks in the Imperial and Post-Imperial Balkans (18th-20th c.)” in Thessaloniki, Greece at the University of Macedonia. Ben has also published a book entitled “Childhood in the Late Ottoman Empire and After” which includes contributions from historians of childhood working on the Balkans, Turkey and the Arab Lands. He has a biographical study of a late Ottoman special operations officer entitled “The Circassian: A Life of Eşref Bey, Late Ottoman Insurgent and Special Agent.” It is set to appear this month, published by Hurst Publishers in the UK and Oxford University Press in December in the U.S.

Elsayed Issa - Elsayed is a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at MENAS this year, and his paper “English-Arabic Machine Translation: A Transfer-Based Approach to Translating English SVOs to Arabic VSOs” was presented at this year’s Arabic Linguistics Circle 10, hosted by the University of Arizona.

Kyle Jones - Kyle had his papers accepted for a national and an international conference. His paper on germination in Egyptian Arabic, presented at the MENA Forum, was accepted for presentation at the 22nd International congress on Acoustics. This conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina this past September. He presented his thesis proposal on Hebrew metathesis at the biannual conference on Laboratory Phonology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.


Dissertation Defenses / Comprehensive Exam Completions

Ahmet Okal, MENAS Turkish Instructor, successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT) in the Fall 2016 semester.

Gülsüm Gürbüz, MENAS Ph.D. Student, successfully defended her dissertation in the Fall 2016 semester.

Parvaneh Hosseini, MENAS Ph.D. student, completed her comprehensive examinations and successfully defended her dissertation prospectus.

Kamila Rahmouni, MENAS Ph.D. student, completed her comprehensive examinations and successfully defended her dissertation prospectus.
Graduate Studies

The School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies is a multi-disciplinary unit focusing on the region extending from Morocco to Afghanistan which includes the Arab world, Iran, Israel and Turkey, providing a full range of language courses in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew (through Judaic Studies) and undergraduate and graduate studies in culture, history, religion, politics and conflict.

Programs

Master of Arts (MA), Accelerated Masters (AMP), and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) are degrees offered through MENAS. Our courses focus on Anthropology, Art and Architecture, Geography, History, Linguistics, Islamic Studies, Literary Studies, Mass Culture and Media Studies, Minority Studies, and Political Science.

Dual Programs

MENAS offers dual MA programs with Journalism, Library Science, and Public Administration/Public Policy.

A dual Ph.D. in MENAS and Anthropology and minor programs in MENAS are offered for Ph.D. students in other departments.

Financial Aid

The School of Middle East and North African Studies (MENAS) awards financial aid on a competitive basis. Meritorious factors include demonstrated excellence in academics including GPA, progress in the program (for current students), test scores (for incoming students), publication, and professional experience such as a previous assistantship or other Middle East-related experience. Most funding is awarded in the fall for the academic year, therefore students entering the program in the spring have a minimal opportunity for departmental support. Many of our students also receive academic year and summer FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) scholarships through the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES). Other types of support include Teaching Assistantships (TAs), Tuition and Registration scholarships, and Graduate College Fellowships.
UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMICS

Areas of Study
1. Languages & Cultures
2. Culture and Society of the Middle East and North Africa

Students seek degrees in this department out of general interest in this part of the world, often with a view to government service, an academic career, a position in international business, or preparation for advanced study in this or other fields. The School of Middle East and North African Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the Middle East and North Africa. In addition to instruction in the principal languages of the area (Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew), relevant courses are available in religion, political science, history, literature, geography, sociology, archeology, linguistics and architecture -- often in cooperation.

Minors
1. Middle Eastern and North African Studies
2. Arabic Language
3. Persian Language
4. Turkish Language

Study Abroad
The department, in close cooperation with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, facilitates opportunities for study in the Middle East and North Africa. Students in MENAS have a unique opportunity to explore an area of the world that is constantly in the news, yet remains a mystery to many people. By learning about the history, culture, politics and languages of the Middle East and North Africa, students gain unique insight into a part of the world that nearly half a billion people call home.

Many majors and minors take advantage of our numerous Study Abroad opportunities. Such programs allow students to earn UA credit while studying in the region. Some UA financial aid packages can be applied to select Study Abroad programs. Nearly all of our students who have studied abroad had great experiences and hope to return.

Core Curriculum
1. Two years (or equivalent) of a Middle Eastern language in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish.
2. Minimum 32 units in Middle Eastern Studies, not counting the first year of a Middle Eastern language. Courses with prefixes of ARB, MENA, PRS, TURK, or other prefix, provided it is cross listed with MENA.
3. History of the Middle East: MENA 277A and MENA 277B
4. MENA 498 Senior Capstone

Chefchouen, Morocco Photo Courtesy Wikipedia

menas.arizona.edu
Housed within the Arabic program at the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS), the federally-funded Project Global Officer (GO) and Arabic Flagship programs support University of Arizona students in order to gain, respectively, intermediate and higher levels of proficiency in the Arabic language and culture through a combination of on campus and overseas study. A partner in the administration of Project GO, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) oversees the study abroad component of the program that sends students to Amman, Jordan through the Arizona in Jordan Program. During Spring 2016, the Arabic Flagship program grant was renewed through 2020.

The largest cohort of Arizona Arabic Flagship scholars to qualify for the overseas capstone year program (12 months) was competitively selected by the national level Arabic Flagship Council in Spring 2016. This cohort consisted of five students from various majors: Dana Helfenbein, Federico Guajardo, Anthony McGee, Catherine Witt, and Jaime Zettlemoyer. The goal of the overseas program is to bring students to professional level proficiency (ACTFL Superior/ILR level 3). All five students are currently at AALIM in Meknes, Morocco where they are completing dialect and content courses at AALIM along with concurrent enrollment courses at the University of Moulay Ismail in Meknes. Students are also participating in internships to support their professional development and career readiness along with numerous opportunities for linguistic and cultural immersion. On the Project GO-Advanced side, Beau Graham was the first ROTC (Navy) student to participate in the newly founded Spring 2016 semester abroad program hosted by AALIM in Meknes, Morocco that helps students reach advanced levels of Arabic. The University of Arizona was the only institution in the country to be awarded a Project GO-Advanced grant starting in Fall 2015. Jamee Wohle (Army) has just won the Spring Semester 2017 scholarship to complete this program in Morocco. Five students from various institutions including UA also earned scholarships to pursue the Advanced level at the Arizona in Jordan Program. Another 10 completed the regular Project GO program in Jordan.

The Arizona Arabic Flagship Program supported 27 high school students from the Tucson area to complete its intensive Arabic 101 course during the summer of 2016 through the Jumpstart Program. All students received a pre-collegiate scholarship from the Flagship program in addition to the large tuition reduction sponsored by the Jumpstart program.

Qatar Foundation International (QFI) invited the Flagship director, Dr. Sonia Shiri, and the Cholla high school Arabic teacher to share highlights of their collaborations regarding professional development, curriculum and material design, and student support with Arabic programs from around the country. QFI supports Arabic language and culture learning in the U.S., including middle and high schools in Tucson. Of interest to the audience in particular was the partnership between MENAS, UA, and the Language Flagship to focus on high school student readiness for college and building the “pipeline.”

The Jumpstart program which offers credit-bearing college level summer Arabic courses to high school students at minimal or no cost, followed by the opportunity to enroll in the Arizona Arabic Flagship Program or other Arabic programs in higher education, was one of the initiatives that received the most attention during the panel.
Established by the Arizona Board of Regents: MA, Ph.D. 2016

The University of Arizona will now offer a Master’s Degree and a Ph.D. in Persian and Iranian Studies thanks to the Roshan GIDP. This independent graduate program is the first one of its kind in the country. The School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies will have the honor to host all faculty hired for the program, along with a number of current faculty members already within the School. The department hopes to see an increase in academic diversity and cultural activities come out of this program, and looks forward to admitting its first students.

The Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies offers MA and Ph.D. degrees focusing on a) modern or classical Persian literature and culture or b) Iranian (or other Persian speaking societies') history, religion, social organization, and politics. The program benefits from the long tradition of Persian and Iranian studies at the University of Arizona's School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies (formerly the Department of Oriental Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Studies) which also offers undergraduate degrees focusing on Persian. The program intends to prepare graduates to work in academic, public, and private positions where extensive and expert knowledge of Iran or other Persian speaking societies such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan is required. In addition to the completion of core courses, superior language competency in Persian is expected. Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies also creates a broad forum for scholarly activities around Persian and Iranian studies on campus and in the wider community.

Faculty Membership

Kamran Talattof, Chair (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)

Anne Betteridge (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies)

Julia Clancy-Smith (Department of History)

Linda Darling (Department of History)

Richard Eaton (Department of History)

Melissa Fitch (College of Humanities)

Kevin Fitzsimmons (Department of Soil, Water & Environmental Science)

Ben Fortna (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)

Leila Hudson (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)

Simin Karimi (Department of Linguistics)

Scott Lucas (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)

Masud Mansuripur (College of Optical Sciences)

Amy Newhall (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)

Parviz Nikravesh (Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering)

Yaseen Noorani (School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies)
The School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies is a multi-disciplinary unit focusing on the region extending from Morocco to Afghanistan which includes the Arab world, Iran, Israel and Turkey. We provide a full range of language courses in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew (through Judaic Studies) and undergraduate and graduate studies in culture, history, religion, politics and conflict. As well as opportunities to study abroad. Donate to benefit the school of Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

Donate here: https://goo.gl/v4nN98