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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MARY VOIGHT, ISCAPC CHAIR  
**FROM:** JOHN EISELE, MECFAC CHAIR  
**SUBJECT:** MIDDLE EAST STUDIES CONCENTRATION REPORT  
**DATE:** 9/19/2005

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Below please find a summary of the faculty, courses, and needs for the Middle East Studies concentration.

The Middle East Concentration Faculty Advisory Committee has discussed in a preliminary fashion the present needs of the concentration and is unanimous in the opinion that a replacement for Prof. James Bill is of the highest priority for the concentration to maintain its integrity. We urge the Reves Center and the Charles Center to work with the Government Department in this regard and to advise them of our concerns in this area. Members of the MECFAC are willing to assist in any way to facilitate the search for Prof. Bill's replacement.

The second major concern of the faculty concerns the increasing demands by students for courses in Middle East Studies, especially history and government. Even for students who are trying to concentrate in this area it is often difficult to get into the required or elective courses in history and government, which are absolutely essential to the major. We urge you to look into ways of addressing these concerns, whether through new positions, permanent or temporary in the respective departments, or in other ways. One suggestion was that rather than requesting a position in any particular department to handle these demands, we look for funding for an endowed chair for a visiting professor in Middle East Studies. The expertise of invited professors may vary from year to year, but they will be requested to give courses and seminars on a topic in their discipline related to Middle Eastern Studies.

Another concern that was voiced by several faculty members was the inclusion of more Middle Eastern Languages into the curriculum, such as Persian and Turkish. An important reason to consider this is that US Dept. of Education funding for important grants is contingent upon an institution offering at least three languages in its area studies program. If we would like to work towards the goal of obtaining such funding, which will in turn attract private support, we should seriously consider an expansion of offerings in Middle Eastern languages besides Arabic.

A final area of interest was directed more towards the faculty themselves, but it may involve the support and encouragement of the Reves Center and Charles Center. That is a proposal to set up a symposium on the crisis (crises?) in the Middle East in which W&M faculty and invited speakers can participate. We would appreciate your advice and expertise in helping us to plan for such a symposium.

To reiterate, however, it is of the highest concern to the ME faculty that a replacement is hired for Prof. Bill. Without offerings in Government the ME concentration is considerably weakened if not gutted.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. Please contact me if you have any questions about the above issues.

## **William And Mary Faculty In Middle Eastern Studies:**

### Anthropology:

*Dr. Mary Voigt* is a recognized archaeologist whose research focuses on the archaeology of the preand proto-historic periods in the Middle East She is currently directing field work at Gordion, The City of King Midas and the capital of the Phrygian Empire, located approximately 100 kilometers west of Ankara.

### Art History:

*Dr. Sibel Zandi-Sayek*, assistant professor of art and art history, is a Turkish citizen and holds a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in the history of architecture and urbanism from 1750 to the present. She is professionally trained as an architect. She has studied on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and brings her interest in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research to her teaching

### Classics (Biblical Hebrew):

*Ms. Zahavi-Ely*, a specialist in Hebrew and Biblical Studies in the Classics Dept., holds master's degrees in history from Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Princeton and is currently completing her Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. She teaches introductory and intermediate Biblical Hebrew and courses that focus on the intersection of the Biblical and Classical worlds.

### Government:

*Dr. James A. Bill* is one of the world's leading authorities on the politics of the Middle East He is author of several nationally recognized books, including the acclaimed The Eagle and The Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations. and, more recently, George Ball: Behind the Scenes in U.S. Foreign Policy, and (with John Alden Williams) Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims: Prayer, Passion, and Politics.

### History:

*Dr. Ismail Abdalla* is Associate Professor of History whose specialties are Africa and the Middle East. He has published *Islam, Medicine and Practitioners in Northern Nigeria* (New York: The Edwin Mellen, 1997), edited or translated a number of other works dealing with Arab and African studies topics, and published numerous articles and book reviews in refereed journals. He is currently working on a book on *Political Islam and the State in the Sudan* to be published by the University of Florida Press.

*Dr. Abdul-Karim Rafeq* is the William and Annie Bickers Professor of Arab Middle Eastern Studies in the Department of History and the former chainnan ofthe Department of History at the University of Damascus, is well-known for his work on the economics and social history of the Middle East, particularly of Syria and the Ottoman Empire.

### Modern Languages (Arabic):

*Dr. Driss Cherkaoui*, Associate Professor (Arabic) in the Dept of Modern Languages and Literatures, is Director of the AIMS 2002 Arabic Language Summer Program in Tangier, Morocco. He is the author of *Le Roman De Antar; Une perspective litteraire et historique*, as

well as several articles about poetry and Arabic popular literature. He teaches Arabic language courses at all levels in addition to Arabic literature courses.

*Dr. John Eisele* holds a joint Ph.D. in Linguistics and Near East Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago. Author of the book Arabic Verbs in Time: Tense and Aspect in Cairene Arabic and of numerous published essays, his current work includes a monograph on the representation of Arabs and the Middle East in the Hollywood tradition as well as a monograph on Arabic as a cultural icon. He is currently the executive director of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic and a member of the Advisory Board for Dept. of Education-funded Montana State University Distance Arabic Program.

*Mr. Thomas Hefter (to be supplied)*

*Dr. Annie Higgins (visiting prof.—to be supplied)*

Religion:

*Dr. Marc Raphael* is the Sophia and Nathan S. Gumenick Professor of Judaic Studies in the Dept. of Religion. He has been the editor of the quarterly journal, *American Jewish History*, for 19 years. He is the author of many books on Jews and Judaism in America, and his most recent publication is *When Night Fell: An Anthology of Holocaust Short Stories* (Rutgers University Press, 1999). He is now writing *Judaism in America* for the Contemporary American Series of Columbia University

*Dr. Tamara Sonn* William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Humanities is an internationally recognized specialist in Islamic intellectual history and Islam in the contemporary world. In addition to serving on the editorial boards of many journals, she currently is president of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, a member of the academic advisory council for the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and a member of the board of directors of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy.

Music:

*Dr. Anne K. Rasmussen* is a noted ethnomusicologist and performer whose work focuses on Middle Eastern music as well as Islamic Musical Arts. Her scholarship is disseminated in the edited volume Medieval Women's Song: Cross-Cultural Approaches and the Audio CD Music of Multicultural America: A Study of 12 Musical Communities. She directs the William and Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble.

Sociology:

*Dr. Gul Ozyegin* is a sociologist who works in the areas of gender, sexuality, work, comparative sociology and international development. Temple University Press recently published her book Untidy Gender. Domestic Service in Turkey, a sociological study grounded in data collected through a representative survey of 160 domestic workers, in-depth interviews and participant observation.

**Middle Eastern Studies courses**

<b>LINES 1, 2, 3, AND 4. HISTORY, RELIGION, AND POLITICS (REQUIRED)</b>		
<b>Govt 339</b>	<b>Middle Eastern Political Systems</b>	<b>Bill (retiring 2005)</b>
Hist 171	The Modern Middle East I (1516-1798)	Rafeq
Hist 172	The Modern Middle East II (1798-present)	Rafeq
Rel 212	Introduction to Islam	Sonn
<b>LINES 5 AND 6 ARABIC LANGUAGE (CHOOSE TWO)</b>		
Arab 301:	Advanced Arabic I: Intro. To Arabic Literature & Society	Cherkaoui
Arab 302	Advanced Arabic II Introduction to Arabic Literature and Society	Cherkaoui
Arab 303	Media Arabic	Eisele
Arab 304	Introduction to Arabic Dialects	Eisele
Arab 305	Directed Readings in Arabic	Eisele/Cherkaoui
Arab 306	Directed Readings in Arabic	Eisele/Cherkaoui
Arab 411	Independent Study in Arabic	Eisele/Cherkaoui
<b>LINE 7, 8, 9: LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE (CHOOSE THREE)</b>		
<b>Anth 150:</b>	<b>Freshman Seminar Traditional Middle Eastern Societies</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Anth 350:</b>	<b>Topics in Anthropology (Middle Eastern topics only)</b>	<b>?</b>
Arab 150:	Freshman Seminar Introduction to Arab World Through Film	Eisele
Arab 309:	Survey of Arabic Literature in Translation	Hefter/Higgins
Arab 310:	Topics in Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	Hefter/Higgins
Arab 311	Special Topics in Arabic	Cherkaoui
Arab 411:	Independent Study in Arabic	Eisele/Cherkaoui
Mus 365:	Topics in Music Music Cultures of the Middle East	Rasmussen
Hist 490C:	Topics in History (Middle Eastern topics only)	Rafeq/Abdalla
Hist 491C:	Topics in History (Middle Eastern topics only)	Rafeq/Abdalla
<b>Intl 390:</b>	<b>Topics in International Studies (Middle Eastern topics only)</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Intl 480:</b>	<b>Independent Study in Intern. Studies (Middle Eastern topics only)</b>	<b>?</b>
Rel 317:	Women in Islam	Sonn
Rel 318:	Islam in the Modern World	Sonn
Rel 307:	Topics in Religion (Islamic topics only)	Sonn
Rel 308:	Topics in Religion (Islamic topics only)	Sonn
<b>LINES 10 AND 11. ELECTIVES (CHOOSE TWO)</b>		
Anth 150:	Freshman Seminar Traditional Middle Eastern Societies	?
Anth 319:	Archaeology of the Near East	Voigt
Anth 350:	Topics in Anthropology (Middle Eastern topics only)	?
Arab 150:	Freshman Seminar	Eisele
Arab 309:	Survey of Arabic Literature in Translation	Hefter/Higgins
Arab 310:	Topics in Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	Hefter/Higgins
Arab 311	Special Topics in Arabic	Cherkaoui
Arab 411:	Independent Study	Eisele/Cherkaoui
Arth 460:	Seminar Topics in Art History: Orientalism and Visual Culture	Zandi-Sayek
<b>Govt 312:</b>	<b>Politics of Developing Countries</b>	<b>Bill (retiring)</b>
<b>Govt 341:</b>	<b>Persian Gulf Politics</b>	<b>Bill (retiring)</b>
<b>Govt 391:</b>	<b>Topics in Government (ME topics only)</b>	<b>Bill (retiring)</b>
<b>Govt 491:</b>	<b>Seminar in Government (ME topics only)</b>	<b>Bill (retiring)</b>
Hist 490C:	Topics in History (ME topics only)	Rafeq/Abdalla
Hist 491C:	Topics in History (ME topics only)	Rafeq/Abdalla
<b>Intl 390:</b>	<b>Topics in International Studies (Middle Eastern topics only)</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Intl 480:</b>	<b>Independent Study in International Studies</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Intl 495/496:</b>	<b>Senior Honors in International Studies (Middle Eastern topics only)</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Intl 498:</b>	<b>Internship</b>	<b>--</b>

Mus 365:	Topics in Music: Middle East	Rasmussen
Rel 211:	Introduction to the History of Jewish Thought	Raphael
Rel 307:	Topics in Religion (Islamic topics only)	Sonn
Rel 308:	Topics in Religion (Islamic topics only)	Sonn
Rel 317:	Women in Islam: Tradition and Change	Sonn
Rel 318:	Islam in the Modern World	Sonn

MECFAC Draft Proposal to USAID: Exchange Program to enhance dialogue with and understanding of the Middle East (submitted Fall 2004)

The College of William and Mary will develop an exchange program with universities in the Middle East to promote dialogue and mutual understanding. The program as presently articulated will involve at least three universities in three different countries: Syria, Turkey, and Iran. It is envisioned as a multi-year initiative and may serve as a model for future exchange programs in the Middle East.

These countries will be the primary focus of our efforts initially for several important reasons. First, they each represent a different linguistic and cultural heritage in the Middle East (Arab, Turkish, and Persian). Second, they each represent a different level of engagement with the West and the United States in particular: Turkey, the most moderate of the countries, has striven to bridge the gap between the East and West, Muslim and Christian world for the past eighty years, and is eager to join the European Union to further bridge this gap. At the same time it is feeling the same pull towards a politicized Islamic ideology as are other Middle Eastern countries. Syria on the other hand represents one of the last bastions of secular Arab nationalism, which, despite its anti-colonialist ideology, has nevertheless maintained good diplomatic ties with Western countries as well as the United States. It is also has a highly educated populace which is eager to develop more ties with the outside world. Iran is in a sense on the other side of the equation: an Islamic theocracy, with a strong anti-American ideology, whose populace nevertheless is eager for more contact with the West and Americans in particular. In sum, these countries represent pivotal areas of change in the Middle East, and are loci of important oppositional currents to the West.

We have begun by identifying partner universities in Iran, Syria and Turkey with whom we will develop our program. These will be The University of Damascus in Damascus, Syria, Bogazigi University in Turkey, and the University of Tehran in Iran. Through the contacts provided by current William and Mary faculty, we hope to develop official, sustainable partnerships with each of these universities at both the faculty and student level, in a way which will benefit both sides of the partnership by enriching both of our curriculums with person to person contact.

Using these local universities as partners, we will (in cooperation with the relevant US diplomatic personnel where available) seek to legitimize the university to university relationship as far as is possible in order to ensure the sustainability of the program over the long term. In addition, we will seek to reach out in our efforts beyond the university community in order to make connections with the local communities both in the United States and in our countries of contact to broaden the impact of the program as much as is possible (e.g. developing sister-city relations, involving NGOs as appropriate, etc.)

Although our current request is for funding for one year, we envision this as an ongoing multiyear program which will have a different focus from year to year. The focus or theme in any one year may be limited to aspects of a specific country in the Middle East, or it may be based on a topic which will draw from a range of countries in the Middle East as well as the United States.

The program will be structured as two-way movement of people and ideas from the Middle East to the United States and vice versa, and will involve both faculty and students from both sides of the partnership. From the perspective of the students, we will try to emphasize and attract primarily undergraduate students, but graduate students as well will be drawn into the

program as appropriate. We will try as much as is possible to attract to the program individuals in the contact countries who may be outside of the mainstream of contact with the West for whatever reason. That is, we will strive to open a dialogue not just with individuals who may already be somewhat westernized or attracted to the West already, but those who have drawn themselves up against the West or the United States in particular. In light of this, we will strive to make optimal use of interpreters in order to overcome the linguistic barriers which may be a primary impediment to simple communication.

The program at William and Mary will be an exchange of both faculty and students, and will take the form of courses for credit taught by visiting faculty for William and Mary students, as well as opening William and Mary classes to visiting students. The courses and outreach activities (public lectures, community forums, K-12 educational outreach programs, etc.) will be structured around a particular theme, such as "Youth: The Global Generation," "Redefining Public-Private Spheres," or a variety of topics centered on one of the particular contact countries and will strive to blend on-campus learning (in the classroom) with more experiential learning (tied to the outreach program). The program will employ distance learning technology where appropriate, in order to reach as widely a diverse audience as possible. On the opposite end, we look toward developing in the long term an exchange program in which William and Mary faculty and students will visit and study at the sister university either for a semester or part of a semester, continuing to discuss and research the same themes and issues that were developed at William and Mary.

In sum, the programs we propose to create at these Middle Eastern universities will seek to promote the integration of in-class teaching on topics related to Middle East, Islam, and United States foreign policy at William and Mary with hands-on experience in the selected



Middle East countries. The programs that we would develop would be cogent and focused while at the same time open and flexible enough to accommodate differing choices of students, especially for those who cannot/wish not to spend a semester in the Middle East.

William and Mary is well positioned to offer this type of program. Its Middle East Studies faculty is diverse and internationally known, and its students have already been successful in gaining grants for overseas study and research in the Middle East. For example, members of the W&M faculty have been involved in consulting both for federal agencies on Islamic societies in general, and for private companies concerning Iraqi rebuilding projects. Professor Tamara Sonn (Religious Studies) has consulted for USAID and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. She and Professor Jeffrey Gerlach (Economics) recently developed a proposal for distribution of foreign aid and future petroleum revenues for a company involved in banking software. As well, our Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy is currently developing a proposal to establish a training program for Iraqis in modern administrative procedures and democratic principles.

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Huntington Library, the United States Consulate in Istanbul, and Bogaziçi University invite proposals for papers and workshops to be presented at a conference on “Ottoman and Atlantic Empires in the Early Modern World” to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, October 19-21, 2005. This conference calls for historically grounded cross-cultural comparisons that will explore such intersections between Ottoman and Atlantic (particularly Anglo-American) empires and world views in the early modern era. The conference will take two forms, one consisting of formal sessions with papers and the second constituting methodological and historiographical workshops focused on primary sources. The program will be structured so as to match or create workshops that coincide with

themes in the sessions. The workshops will then serve as critique and commentary on the formal presentations. We expect that Ottoman scholars will read in the histories of early modern European empires in the North Atlantic, and American and British historians will read in the history of the early modern Ottoman empire. For more information see

<http://www.wm.edu/oieahc/conferences/ottoman.htm>

Professor Gul Ozyegin (Sociology and Women's Studies) has strong ties with Bogazici University. She spent her research leave in 2003 at Bogazici University as an affiliated faculty member to conduct a research project and she was invited to teach a summer course this past summer. Gul Ozyegin's research is a sociological study of young adults who were born in the 1980s in the midst of profound societal changes that have radically destabilized Turkey's national identity. Her study's participants are students at Bogazici University. Established in 1863 as an American College, Bogazici University is one of the most prestigious universities in Turkey with the most rigorous admissions requirements. As an elite institution, it offers its students a major avenue for upward social and economic mobility but also brings together students with vastly different biographies, shaped by family backgrounds as well as regional, secular-islamic and urban-rural distinctions. This juxtaposition of contrasting biographies makes this university an ideal site for the exchange program(s) we propose to develop.

Critchfield Memorial Fund: The Critchfield fund has grown dramatically, and is now over \$500,000 thanks to a grant from the Starr Foundation and other generous contributors. Lois Critchfield has been an effective champion of Middle East Studies and has been instrumental in helping raise these funds, and has been given the Botetourt Award this year for her efforts. Interest on the endowment will be available in the new fiscal year (after 1 July 2005). In the fall, we hope to design the faculty-student Middle East initiative to be sustained through this fund. In

spring, students will be apprised of scholarships to study in the Middle East. Additional funds will be used to support the Arabic House and made available through the Faculty International Travel Grants initiative.

In hopes of creating additional opportunities, Gail McEachron (Education) will be spearheading an effort by the Middle East Studies faculty to participate in a Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) supported by the Department of State.