To: All Middle East Studies, Global Studies, International Studies, and International Relations Alumni of the College of William and Mary

You are invited to the First Annual Critchfield Conference in Middle East Studies on March 27-28, 2009. The conference features guest scholar and keynote speaker, Professor Engseng Ho on Friday, March 27, 2009. On Saturday, March 28 the conference continues with three panels of 11 presenters, all of them recent graduates of the college who are now working in diverse fields that intersect with Middle Eastern Studies.

We envision the conference as an intersection of academic inquiry and professional networking, and as a homecoming for our ME/GS/IS/IR Alumni. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity for our current students involved in Global Studies and International Relations to meet with you, W&M graduates, in both formal and informal settings, and to get a glimpse of the opportunities that await them, many of them opportunities that you have created!

Please consider joining us beginning on Friday, March 27 at noon, and ending on Saturday evening, March 28 with a dinner for all participants and music by the William and Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble with the group’s Alumni All Stars!

Registration Information

The First Annual Critchfield Conference in Middle Eastern Studies is free of charge, but as space is limited, we request that you register by e-mailing Luanna Martins (ldmartins@wm.edu), the administrator for Global Studies at the College.

A block of rooms has been reserved for you by the Reves Center at the Days Inn on Richmond Road. The conference rate is $55.00 a night. Call and make your reservations directly with the Days Inn at (757) 229-5060. Be sure to ask for the College’s Critchfield Conference rate.

We look forward to seeing you on campus on March 27-28, 2009.

Please register for the conference by sending your reply to Luanna Martins (ldmartins@wm.edu) in the Global Studies Office by Sunday, March 15th. Please indicate in your e-mail if you will attend the entire conference or specific events.

___ Entire conference
___ Friday Lunch Seminar
___ Friday lecture
___ Saturday breakfast
___ Panel 1
___ Panel 2
___ Panel 3
___ Reception
___ Buffet Dinner

For more information please contact:
Anne Rasmussen, Chair, Middle East Studies Faculty, (757) 221-1097 (akrasm@wm.edu).
Amy Kuenker, Programming and Publicity Coordinator, Reves Center for International Studies, (757) 221-3047 (alkuenker@wm.edu)
The Conference begins on Friday, March 27, 2009 with events featuring guest scholar and keynote speaker, Professor Engseng Ho of Duke University, and continues on Saturday with three panels of 11 presenters, all recent graduates of the college who are currently working in diverse fields that intersect with Middle Eastern studies.

Friday, March 27, 2009

12:00-1:30pm  Lunch Seminar with Professor Engseng Ho, Reves Room, Reves Center for International Studies


A 20-minute presentation will be followed by discussion.

This interactive seminar will focus on a comparative discussion of Dubai and Singapore. State-society relations in these very small and very successful places are seen as different from those in the taxation-representation models of Western political theory. Professor Ho will encourage participants to think about the contemporary success of these two port cities in terms of their long durée geographical significance, and the unusual role of government as merchant. Recommended reading for preparation will be publicized in advance of the seminar. Registration required.

4:00-5:30pm  Public “Key Note” Lecture, Professor Engseng Ho, Washington Hall 201

“Indian Ocean Islam: World Religion & the Shaping of Transregional Space.”

In his presentation of Indian Ocean Islam, Engseng Ho begins with two questions: Is there a shape to the space between regions? and Can a world religion provide a cultural shape to such spaces? To explore these questions Professor Ho will draw from his research materials that explore the graves and genealogies of the Hadrami area and culture in Yemen and its Diaspora. He will then trace these questions through Arabia, India and Southeast Asia work. The lecture will focus on the pre-modern, but include some reference to contemporary trends. Ho’s methodology reveals the ways we can use cultural materials to think about unusual social geographies.

Engseng Ho is the author of *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean* (University of California Press 2006). Professor Ho's research interest includes social theory, ethnographic history/text, creolization, Diaspora, precolonial cosmopolitanism, Islam, Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Indian Ocean.
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Middle East Studies and Transregional Perspectives

Sat., March 28, 2009 Alumni Center. “Middle Eastern Studies: Trans-regional Issues and Multi-Contextual Applications”

Three panels with presentations by William and Mary Alumni

8:30-9:00am Breakfast in Pollard Room

9:00-10:30am Leadership Hall. Panel 1: Continuing Research in the Middle East

• Cliff Martin, “Yemen and Diasporic Migrant Workers”
• Aisa Martinez, "Women's Organizations and Cultural Identity in the Sultanate of Oman"
• Ayah Ibrahim, TBA
• Elizabeth Williams, Georgetown University, "Envisioning Reform: Debating Personal Status Legal Reform for Syria during the French Mandate"

10:30-11:00am Coffee Break, Pollard Room

11:00-12:30pm Leadership Hall. Panel 2: Arts, Humanities and the Public Sector: Middle East and Beyond

• Anne Elise Thomas: “Sisters of the Circle: Reaching Young Refugee Women Through the Arts”
• Sunni Fass: "Exhibiting the World with the Roots and Routes of Musical Instruments"
• Matt Hoffman: “Working with Young People from the US and Arab World Through the Cultural Initiatives.” (Legacy International)

12:30-2:00pm Lunch on your own

2:00-3:30pm Leadership Hall. Panel 3: What Can You Do with a Degree in Middle Eastern Studies?

• Alexa Poletto, Georgetown University, "From Fulbright to Finance: Working in the Middle East"
• David Cutherell, "Working for an NGO: Preserving Cultural Heritage in Afghanistan"
• Sulaiman Bah, IREX, "International Development and the Middle East: Crossroads of Opportunities"
• Banan Malkawi, "Starting a Non-Profit: The Hadetha Project"

3:30-4:00pm Leadership Hall. "The Indian Ocean in World History: An Online Resource"

Susan Douglass, Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center

4:00-6:00pm Free time. Rehearsal by ME Ensemble members

6:00-6:30pm Reception, Pollard Room.

6:30-8:00pm Buffet Dinner, Leadership Hall.

◊ Music by the W&M Middle East Music Ensemble with Alumni All-Stars.