NEW PROGRAMS
THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS STUDIES
PhD PROGRAM COMPLETES ITS
SECOND YEAR AND THE NEW ARABIC
STUDIES MAJOR OFFERED BY MESAS

ALUMNI CORNER
CATCH UP WITH ENTREPRENEUR
EUGENE YUKIN AND MASTERS
STUDENT JOCELYNN RAMIAH

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS
AND ACCOLADES

COMING OF AGE IN
NINETEENTH-CENTURY
INDIA

The
Girl-Child
and the
Art of
Playfulness

Ruby Lal

STUDY ABROAD IN ISRAEL,
MOROCCO, AND INDIA
Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the MESAS Department Newsletter! As the primary educational and informational resource on the Middle East and South Asia for the Emory community, the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies fulfills the following educational mission:

- MESAS offers comprehensive majors in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies and Arabic Studies, and minors in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Hindi, and Mediterranean Archaeology.
- MESAS faculty members teach and conduct research on the Middle East and South Asia from a variety of disciplines and perspectives.
- MESAS classes are committed to examining actively all subjects in a comparative context through a multidisciplinary lens.
- MESAS majors are taught to develop an integrative vision of the Middle East and South Asia that sees these regions as linked through economic, social, linguistic, and cultural connections that have existed since premodern times.

The MESAS Newsletter illustrates the department’s mission by highlighting new programs and course offerings, announcing major upcoming events and study abroad opportunities, and providing news of awards, conferences, and other notable activities. Each issue will highlight the achievements of selected faculty members and graduating majors who have excelled in MESAS and beyond. The newsletter will also highlight major developments in the Islamic Civilizations Studies Ph.D. program, the graduate program associated with the MESAS department. On behalf of the MESAS family of faculty, students, and staff, I am happy to welcome all readers to share in our proud record of achievements.

DR. VINCENT J. CORNELL
Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Middle East and Islamic Studies, Department Chair
HONORING ODED BOROWSKI
A DEDICATION TO 38 YEARS AT EMORY

Through an academic career spanning more than forty years, including thirty-eight years at Emory, Oded Borowski has earned the respect and admiration of many students and colleagues. Widely recognized as one of the worlds experts on daily life in 8th century BCE Judah, his depth of knowledge and experience as a researcher, teacher, and administrator, his many publications, honors, and awards, his service to the profession, and his leadership of archaeological digs, particularly at Tell Halif in Israel, all speak to a highly productive scholarly career.

To honor Dr. Borowski and his many contributions to the field, the Iam Institute for Jewish Studies, with support from the Judith London Evans Fund in TIJS, held a scholarly gathering entitled, "Eighth Century Judah and its Cultural Context: A Symposium Honoring Professor Oded Borowski," on February 4, 2014. The goal of the symposium was to explore the material culture of 8th century BCE Judah, one of the main focuses of Borowski's scholarship, as reflected in his archaeological digs and in his writings, looking at the relationships and influences that have been detected between the various groups occupying the region at the time. The papers presented at the symposium will eventually form the core of a planned festschrift honoring Borowski.

Borowski's career at Emory closely reflects the evolution of its programs in Hebrew language, Middle Eastern studies, and Jewish studies. He inaugurated the Hebrew language program at Emory when he arrived in 1977 and for several years served as both director of that program and head of the Semitic Languages division. Appointed as an assistant professor in 1980, he achieved tenure in 1985 and full professorship in 2005. Along the way, he has directed the Near Eastern Studies program, chaired the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Languages and Literatures, and has directed the Mediterranean Archaeology program since its inception in 1997. He was one of the founding faculty of the Institute for Jewish Studies in 1999 and served as the first Judith London Evans Director of TIJS in 2011-12. He regularly teaches undergraduate courses on Biblical archaeology and daily life in ancient Israel and works with graduate students whose programs include archaeological elements. In addition, he has spent many summers directing the Emory archaeology study abroad program, providing in depth experience for many students at archaeological digs in Israel. Throughout his career, Borowski has been involved at all levels in a variety of digs, from survey and salvage excavations in the 1960's, through staff and supervisory positions at Tel Gezer, Tel Dan, Tel Beth Shemesh, and Ashkelon. Most notably, he has led the excavations at Tel Halif, the site of the Lahav Research Project, serving as director of Phase IV of that effort since 1999. His research has generated articles, book chapters, reviews, and conference presentations too numerous to list, including the books Lahav III: The Iron Age II Cemetery at Tell Halif (2013), Daily Life in Biblical Times (2003), Every Living Thing: The Daily Use of Animals in Ancient Israel (1997), and Agriculture in Iron Age Israel (1987). He has also been the recipient of numerous grants, awards, fellowships, and visiting professorships, and has served the profession through many offices in professional organizations. His scholarly plans for the coming years are to complete the publication preparation of two articles and publish a final excavation report titled Lahav VIII: Tell Halif Excavations in Field III 1977-1987: Life in the Shephelah in the Bronze and Iron Ages. Dr. Borowski will also prepare for publication the results of the excavations he recently directed at Tell Halif and work towards completing his next book tentatively titled "I will give you the rain of your land in its due Season": Water in the Land of Israel in Biblical Times.
Faculty Publications and Accolades


Rkia Cornell wrote *"Al-Fatihah, Prayer: Christian and Muslim Perspectives, 91-98*, (Georgetown University Press, 2013). A Chinese translation and Indian edition of her critical translation of Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Salami’s *Dhikr an-Niswa al-Muta ‘abbidat* and *Sufiyaat* titled Early Sufi Women (Fons Vitae, 1999) are in press. She directed the study abroad program at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco for its 7th year. She was awarded the 2013 Emory College Language Center Excellence in Language Teaching Award. In 2013, Dr. Rkia Cornell received a Cum Laude Ph.D. in Theology from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for "Rabia from Narrative to Myth." Her Cum Laude Ph.D. was the first such award in Theology at VU in 25 years. She was also appointed Professor of Pedagogy in Arabic effective September 1, 2015. She is the first Professor of Pedagogy in the MESAS department.


Allal El Hajjam wrote a collection of poems called *The Tattoo did not Engrave on the Twilight* (House of Poetry in Morocco, 2014). He also published several poems in *Al-Alam* newspaper of Rabat and in the *Aajnaak* magazine of Rabat. He also presented a talk titled *"America In Arab Poetry"* at the University of Oklahoma.

Hilary Gopnik was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of $350,000 for her research project, "Integration of Urban and Rural Populations in the Iron Age South Caucasus: Archaeological Investigations in Naxcivan, Azerbaijan," at Oglanqala. She also published *"Tempus interruptus: Archaeological explanation and the unfinished columns of Oglanqala Period III, Faint Histories and Unruly Publics: The Archaeology of Eurasia from Past to Present,"* (Oxford University Press, In Press) and *"The Origins of Political Complexity in Naxcivan"* (with Lauren Ristvet, Veli Baxsaqiev, and S. Ashurov) in *Austausch und Kulturkontakt im Sudkaukasus und seinen angrenzenden Regionen in der Spätbronze-/Frühzeit*, 281-290. (Beier, 2013). She was selected by the Archaeological Institute of America to deliver a series of public lectures across the United States and Canada as the Archaeological Institute of America Graham Lecturer (2013–2014).

Naama Harel published *Will Two Walk Together, Except They Have Agreed?: Integrating Biblical Texts in the Teaching of Modern Hebrew*, *Higher Education: A Journal for Methodology and Pedagogy for Teaching of Hebrew Language and Literature in the University*, Vol. 15, 183-190. (National Association of Professors of Hebrew, 2013). She also gave a talk titled "Gender and Species in the Shtror: The Womanbird in Devorah Baron's Work" at The National Association of Professors of Hebrew 2014 International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and "Kafka's Political Zoology," at Politische Zoologie, Würzburg University. She was also the recipient of the HSUS Summer Retreat Program at Shin Pond. She was awarded the 2013 100 Women for Animal/Humane Studies and the recipient of the 2013-14 Emory College Language Center Curriculum Development Fellowship.

Scott Kugle published *Living Out Islam: Voices of Lesbian, Gay and Transgender Muslims* (NYU Press, 2013) which was nominated for the Lambda Literary Award in the category of LGBTQ Non-Fiction. He also wrote *"Sufi Meditation Manuals from the Mughal Era, Faith and Practice in South Asian Sufism, 459-489* (Oriente Moderno, 2012) and presented "Sexuality: The Need for a New Islamic Understanding (Fiqhi)" at Brunel University’s *"Law, Religion and LGBT Rights: Revisiting Christian and Islamic Legal Traditions Regarding Sexuality"* conference in London. In 2014, Dr. Kugle researched Gender, Performance and Media in India for his New Directions Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Ruby Lal published *Coming of Age in Nineteenth Century India: The Girl-Child and Art of Playfulness* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and is launching a book series titled *"Islandic South Asia, (London: 1. B. Tauris)* and will serve as its editor. She also gave the inaugural keynote address at the third Ashoka Cross-over Series lecture titled, *"What It Means To Be A Woman: Teaching and Writing the History of India"* at Ashoka University, New Delhi. She was appointed full professor effective September 1, 2015. Dr. Ruby Lal is the first female full professor in the department.

Roxani Eleni Margariti finished coediting (with Arnold Franklin, Marina Roustow and Uriel Simonsohn) a volume of essays in honor of her mentor Mark R. Cohen titled *"Jews, Christians and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern Times*, (Brill, 2014). She saw to publication two articles that she had been working on for a long time, one on cross-cultural collaboration and partnerships of medieval Jewish merchants in the Western Indian Ocean in the above volume and one on monetization of economies in the medieval Indian Ocean in *Religion and Trade: Cross-Cultural Exchanges in World History*, 1000–1900. (Oxford University Press in 2014). She also spoke at a workshop on the 9th-century Belitung shipwreck at the Asian Civilizations Museum in Singapore. This shipwreck finds constitutes dramatic and direct material evidence for maritime contacts between T’ang China and the Abbasid Middle East.
Elliott McCarter directed the MESAS Language Forum and delivered a paper titled ‘Making the Land of the Citi’ at the Conference for the Study of Religion in India at Butler University. He was also selected by the Executive Committee of the Emory College Language Center to receive the 2015 ECLC Curriculum Development Fellowship in order to integrate Urdu into the first and second year Hindi curriculum.


Tsepk Rigzin was appointed Lecturer in Tibetan effective September 1st, 2015.


Gehane Shehata was appointed Lecturer in Arabic effective September 1st, 2015.


Samantha Grayman was awarded two chapters with Sanjay Subrahmanyan: “Ideologies of State Building in Vijayanagara and Post-Vijayanagara South India: Some Reflections,” Universal Empire: A Comparative Approach to Imperial Culture and Representation in Eurasian History, 210:232, (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and “Notes On Political Thought In Medieval and Early Modern South India,” Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History, 165:199, (Cambridge India, 2013). He was recently awarded the Koppaka Professorship in Telugu Culture, Literature, and History Chair. The children of Koppaka Visveswara Rao and his wife Sita endowed this chair with their $1.5 million donation.

Devin Stewart was appointed Lecturer in Arabic effective September 1st, 2015.
**Bobby Jones Scholars**

Three of the four Emory students selected for the 2015-16 Robert T. Jones Jr. Scholarships are MESAS majors. Kate Cyr, Peter Habib, and Kadiata Sy were selected based on their academic achievements and leadership in programs and organizations on campus and in the Atlanta community.

Commonly known as the Bobby Jones Scholarship, the award honors the late Robert T. Jones Jr., an internationally renowned golfer and Emory alumnus. Mr. Jones was not only an accomplished golfer, but also a scholar with diverse interests and a man known for his integrity and grace. The awards mark the close relationship between Emory University and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

The scholarship provides a year of study for four Emory students at the University of St. Andrews; four students from St. Andrews also spend a year studying at Emory in this exchange. Bobby Jones Scholars may seek a degree or take courses without seeking a degree.

The Robert T. Jones Trust selects individuals who will be excellent representatives of Emory University at St. Andrews. In general, the qualities required to fulfill this ambassadorial scholarship include academic excellence, exemplary character, integrity and citizenship. The final selection committee includes Emory University faculty, Bobby Jones alumni and community supporters of the Bobby Jones Program.

**Abigail Averill**
MESAS / Journalism
Abigail will spend the first half of a gap year working in Los Angeles and applying to joint degree programs in law and public policy and tentatively spend the second half studying Arabic in Oman.

**Katherine (Kate) Cyr**

**Middle Eastern and South Asian studies. She will pursue a degree in Middle East, Caucasus, and Central Asian security studies. A recipient of the QuestBridge Scholarship, Peter was selected for the Community Building and Social Change Fellowship and served this fall as an intern at the Carter Center. He is the president of the Emory Christian Fellowship and a member of the Emory Executive Roundtable.**

Peter Habib

**MESAS / Mathematics**

Abigail is deciding between pursuing a Masters degree in Political Science with a concentration in Security, Peace, and Conflict at Duke University or a Masters in Conflict Resolution with a concentration in Arab Studies at Georgetown University.

**Kadiata Sy**

**MESAS / History**

Charles will commission as a 2LT in the Army’s Armor branch and serve on Active duty for four years. Afterwards he plans on attending either law school to study Constitutional Law or pursue an advanced degree in either Middle Eastern Studies or History.

**Abigail Chambers**

**MESAS / Journalism**

Abigail is a double major in International Studies and Middle Eastern and South Asian studies, and a Development Studies minor. At St. Andrews, he intends to pursue a degree in Middle East, Caucasus, and Central Asian security studies. A recipient of the QuestBridge Scholarship, Peter was selected for the Community Building and Social Change Fellowship and served this fall as an intern at the Carter Center. He is the president of the Emory Christian Fellowship and a member of the Emory Executive Roundtable.

Kate Cyr

**MESAS / International Studies**

Kate will pursue a degree in peace and conflict studies at the University of Saint Andrews as a Bobby Jones Scholar.

**Shannon Gority**

**MESAS / Anthropology**

Shannon is currently considering various options for her future.

**Naheed Hada**

**MESAS / International Studies**

Naheed is deciding between the MPhil program in Development Studies at Cambridge University, an MSc in Global Governance and diplomacy at Oxford University, an MSc in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and an MSc in Violence, Conflict, and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

**Kim Mithani**

**MESAS / Economics**

Irfan will be pursuing a Masters degree in Muslims, Societies, and Civilizations and a Masters in Teaching at the Institute of Islam Studies and the University of London.

**Kate Moran**

**MESAS / Arabic Studies**

Kate will be studying Arabic in Meknes, Morocco with a Critical Language Scholarship this summer before moving to Nazareth, Israel for the year to work with AlManarah, a disability advocacy organization focused on fostering self-empowerment and providing legal support for Israel’s Arab communities.

**Deenie Schlass**

**Arabic Studies / Business Administration**

Deenie will work at Citigroup in New York City in the Sales & Trading Analyst Program.

**Naomi Smith**

**MESAS / Arabic Minor**

Naomi will take a gap year to apply to masters programs including but not limited to the Georgetown MA/ID program in Arab Studies and International Law and other similar programs in Arabic and Islamic Studies.

**Kadiata Sy**

**MESAS / Political Science**

Kadiata will pursue a degree in Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian security studies at the University of Saint Andrews as a Bobby Jones Scholar.
AMY JOHNSON AWARD

Dr. Amy Johnson graduated from Emory University in 1991 with a double major in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science. After earning her PhD in Modern Middle Eastern History from Harvard University, Amy joined the faculty of Berry College in Rome, Georgia. Following Amy’s untimely death in December 2004, her parents, Dennis and Paula Johnson established this award. As an undergraduate, Amy distinguished herself as a bright young scholar of the Middle East, who showed remarkable commitment to promoting cross-cultural understanding. This award commemorates Amy’s legacy at Emory by providing support for students who share Amy’s passion for understanding the peoples and cultures of the Middle East.

This annual award, up to $1,000, is to defray expenses arising from studying for a semester or longer in the Middle East. Applicants must be undergraduate female students in good academic standing. Preference will be given to students who plan to study in Egypt, and to students who are majoring in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies.

MESAS is committed to replenishing the Amy Johnson fund and welcomes tax-deductible donations, in honor of her legacy and in support of future students. Checks payable to “Emory University” may be mailed to: Emory University, MESAS Department, 537 Kilgo Circle, Callaway Center S-312, Atlanta, GA 30322.

In this issue we asked the last three recipients to share with us how they were able to use the award and what it meant for them to receive it.

The Amy Johnson Study Abroad Award truly helped make my current semester in Morocco financially feasible, but more than that, it gave me the sense of being included and endorsed by Emory’s MESAS department. The funds have helped me conduct research while in Morocco, and I look forward to bringing that research, along with the invaluable experience of studying abroad, back to Emory and my community.

-Leah Michalove

I received the Amy Johnson award two years ago, and could not have been more grateful. Being given this award was such a wonderful opportunity for me, as it allowed me to spend the summer studying in Morocco, where I was able to vastly improve my Arabic language skills and experience first hand the wonderful culture of the country. Not only was I able to study in Morocco, but I was able to travel as well, visiting Marrakech, Chefchaouen, and a number of other beautiful and incredible places. It was such an amazingly wonderful experience for which I am immensely grateful.

-Abigail Chambers

As an Amy Johnson scholarship recipient, I was able to travel to Ifrane, Morocco for the Al-Akhawayn University Summer Arabic Language program. I was allowed to study Arabic in a class with native speakers and become acquainted with a variety of Arabic literature. I also learned some Moroccan dialects, and this came in handy while travelling to several different cities. I am very grateful to have received the scholarship, and my study abroad experience was unforgettable.

-Cynthia Vint

ARABIC STUDIES MAJOR

The Arab world, boasting a long tradition of cultural contributions to humanity, holds a crucial position in political and economic affairs. Its main language, Arabic, is spoken as a native language by approximately 300 million people from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, with pockets of Arabic speakers in Africa and Asia as well. Many undergraduate students and majors in MESAS have expressed their wish to major in Arabic Studies to expand upon the currently existing Arabic minor.

At Emory, the major in Arabic Studies, first offered in Fall 2015, provides an important complement to existing undergraduate majors in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, International Studies, and Jewish Studies, drawing on the programs and initiatives of the Emory College Language Center. The major offers experience in literary and linguistic analysis and study abroad. The Arabic Studies major will also benefit students who are thinking of applying to Emory graduate programs in Islamic Civilizations, studying the Graduate Division of Religion (the Islam track in West and South Asian Religions), Law, and Public Health.

AIMA IV CONFERENCE

In October 2013, Emory held the Fourth International Symposium of the International Association for the Study of Middle and Modern Arabic, Eastern Arabic symposia were held in 2004 (Louvain-la-Neuve), 2007 (Amsterdam), and 2010 (Florence). Emory was the first university to host such a prestigious conference in the United States. Among those attending were the founders of the association, Jacques Grand-Heury (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and Jérôme Levatin (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, France). The Association Internationale du Moyen-Arabe (AIMA) was founded in 2004 to examine varieties of the Arabic language that exhibit dialectal features and occupy an intermediate position in the Arabic world, as well as the Arabic language in the Middle East and Middle Eastern Arab countries.

The study of Middle Arabic has a number of goals. First, Middle Arabic texts throw light on the history of spoken Arabic, allowing us to understand the habits of authors and scribes writing in this medium may allow scholars to provide documented evidence of historical changes in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and other linguistic features. They also provide many examples of writers’ use of the traditional Arabic writing system to cope with novel dialectal forms, something that is the standard procedure of most editors. Something that appears to be a mistake may actually be a purposeful example of a unique linguistic feature.

The Arab world, boasting a long tradition of cultural contributions to humanity, holds a crucial position in political and economic affairs. Its main language, Arabic, is spoken as a native language by approximately 300 million people from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, with pockets of Arabic speakers in Africa and Asia as well.