The Resource Library at the Middle East Studies Center now has over 1,000 books and films! At over 106,000 pages and 32 feet high if you piled each book on top of each other, we are almost a third of the way to passing the Statue of Liberty and have just 637 feet to go until equaling the tallest minaret in the world.

Besides books and DVDs, the library has teaching resources, posters, maps, various cultural items, books for K-12 students, and copies of workshop materials.

The library has a self-service check out system. Resources may be borrowed for a month at no cost and picked up on site. Arrangements can also be made to ship materials.

The library continues to grow through generous donations, for which we are very grateful. Thank you for supporting the Middle East Studies Resource Library!
Director’s Message

Last year, I began this message by remarking that it was an exciting time for Middle East studies at Portland State. Indeed, recognition as a National Resource Center for Middle East studies under the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI program offered a great opportunity to grow the program in new directions. This year, however, marks a critical – and yes, exciting – time for Middle East studies, as unfolding events continue to bring a new focus to our view of the region. Moreover, these events underscore the real importance of the Middle East Studies Center’s core mission of promoting understanding of the region’s people, cultures, languages and religions.

I’m pleased with the topical programming the Center produced this year in response to current events, from Lawrence Pintak’s talk on ‘Media Wars: Journalists, Generals & Jihadis’ to panel discussions with Bridget Guarasci (Iraq Today) and Ellen Lust (Revolt & Reform: Electoral Politics in the New North Africa).

Audio recordings from many of these lectures and discussions are now available as podcasts through iTunes and via download from the Center’s new website.

In addition to these and other public programs, including a new film series and monthly midday brownbag lectures, the Center hosted a pair of academic conferences, including an interdisciplinary symposium for undergraduate students throughout the Portland area, and an international pedagogy workshop on content-based instruction of Middle East languages. The latter event spawned a collaborative, web-based resource of lesson modules for use in the classroom.

Thank you for your interest in the Middle East Studies Center. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

James P. Grehan, Director

PHOTO BY ADAM WICKHAM

Middle East Studies Center

Contact the Middle East Studies Center to subscribe to the Oregon Middle East Studies Consortium listserv and receive details on upcoming events relating to the Middle East:

Portland State University - MESC
Post Office Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751

East Hall 318
632 Hall Street

503 725 4047 tel
503 725 5320 fax
middleeaststudiescenter@pdx.edu
pdx.edu/middle-east-studies
Student Fellows & Scholars

With Title VI funding, the Middle East Studies Center awarded the following Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. Fellowships provide support for tuition and a stipend for living expenses.

FLAS fellowships are available to students in any department who are pursuing a course of study which requires advanced foreign language and area studies training and who plan to use the training and language skills for graduate study or a career in an international field. Fellows must be enrolled full-time at Portland State University as degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate students. Priority is given to students who have strong academic records in their major and their language area of study.

Summer 2012 recipients:
- Touraj Houshmand-Shafii (Persian)
- Matthew Innes (Arabic)
- Asena Lawrence (Turkish)
- Jena Mathews (Arabic)
- Katelin Putnam (Turkish)
- Bella Reid (Arabic)
- Jonathan Vance (Persian)

Academic year 2012-13 recipients:
- Pouya Ahmadi (Arabic)
- Ryan Deming (Arabic)
- Cody French (Arabic)
- Matthew Innes (Arabic)
- Nicholas Smith (Arabic)
- Jonathan Vance (Persian)

The Patricia & Gary Leiser Scholarship for Middle East Languages supports the study of Middle Eastern languages. Applicants must demonstrate a serious interest in the Middle East by taking courses related to the region.

2012 recipients:
- Kismet Kilbourn (Turkish)
- Karen Lickteig (Arabic)
- Jena Mathews (Arabic)
- Stella Williams (Persian)

The Elizabeth Ducey Scholarship for Middle East Languages is open to students intending to pursue a Middle East studies degree program. Students must be enrolled in and making satisfactory progress in a Middle Eastern language.

2012 recipients:
- Karen Lickteig (Arabic)
- Seth Thomas (Arabic)
- Stella Williams (Persian)

The John Damis Scholarship for Middle East Studies supports undergraduate or graduate International Studies and Political Science majors with a focus on the Middle East.

2012 recipients:
- David Duke
- Touraj Houshmand-Shafii
- Karen Lickteig
- Jena Mathews
- Seth Thomas

Congratulations to all of our fellowship and scholarship recipients!

Getting involved at the Middle East Studies Center has been one of the best decisions I’ve made this year.

Sofia Ellis-Curry
Sophomore, International Studies Major

Sofia began volunteering at the Middle East Studies Center in Fall 2011
Gift of the Word

The Millar Library’s Spring 2012 exhibit, *The Gift of the Word: An Exhibition of Recent Acquisitions to Portland State University Library Special Collections*, celebrated the legacy of Gordon Hunter. His love of books and his passion for history inspired him to make a gift to the Library’s Special Collections through the Oregon Community Foundation that each year helps the Library acquire new rare and significant books and manuscripts to support the teaching and research at Portland State University.

This exhibit included two Quran pages, from the 10th and 14th centuries, as well as an Ethiopian Magic Scroll, an Armenian Prayer Roll, and an excerpt from a Coptic manuscript. Researched, curated and designed by Portland State students and faculty, *The Gift of the Word* represents the active engagement and learning at the heart of Portland State.

The Middle East Studies Center presented contextual programming for the exhibit, including a talk by one of the world’s leading scholars on Ethiopian magic scrolls, Dr Steve Delamarter, and a workshop on the art of Arabic calligraphy with Portland State Middle East Student Advisor, Kanaan Kanaan.

**Select text contributed by Anne Mcclanan & Jennifer Wilkerson**

Notes from Abroad & more online

The Middle East Studies Center’s website has moved! Our new site has been redesigned with a fresh new look, updated information, and improved navigation that makes it easier for visitors to connect with the work of the Center.

Visit pdx.edu/middle-east-studies/ to check out the new site! Please update your bookmarks and let us know what you think!

Audio recordings from select talks in the Middle East Studies Center’s Lecture Series are now available for free download as podcasts from the iTunes store and on the Center’s website: pdx.edu/middle-east-studies/podcasts

This summer, in collaboration with the Portland State University Education Abroad office, the Middle East Studies Center piloted *Notes from Abroad*, a new student blog featuring reflections on travel and study abroad in the Middle East. So far, seven Portland State students have volunteered to share their experiences from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya and Morocco.

Visit www.middleeastpdx.org/blog/ to check out the blog!

While you’re online, like the Middle East Studies Center on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!
Conferences & Workshops

In March, the Middle East Studies Center proudly hosted a pair of (very different) conferences.

Undergraduate student conference

The Middle East Studies Center’s first annual conference on the Middle East for undergraduate students featured presentations of undergraduate research by seventeen students from Lewis & Clark College, Portland State University, and Reed College.

Oren Kosansky, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Lewis & Clark College chaired a panel on 'Language Marking Difference: the Role of Language in Contemporary Morocco' was chaired by Portland State University Associate Professor of Turkish Language and Literature, K. Pelin Başçı served as faculty discussant for a panel on 'Nationalism in Turkey – depicted through language, literature and film.' Students gave papers on topics ranging from 'Politicizing Desires: [Trans-]nationalisms and Sexualities in Israel' to 'The Mosque in Film' on a panel chaired by Reed College Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Kambiz GhanéaBassiri, entitled 'Contemporary Issues in the Middle East.' Finally, Portland State Professor of Art, Anne McClanan, served as discussant for a panel on 'Religion and the Arts in the Middle East.'

Thanks to our student presenters and faculty discussants for an exciting and informative conference, attended by over ninety undergraduate students from across the city!

Content-based language instruction workshop

The Western Consortium of Title VI National Resource Centers for Middle East Studies’ Spring 2012 workshop focused on content-based instruction in widely spoken Middle East languages, commonly taught in North America: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish.

Content-based instruction (CBI) is a holistic approach to teaching and learning languages. It utilizes a content area, a subject matter, a disciplinary interest, or a theme as the context and pretext for the teaching and learning of a language. It can be described as the ‘learning of language through a subject matter.’

The workshop addressed various debates about CBI — including project-based approaches and curricular models — in the context of Middle East Languages taught at institutions of higher education. It brought Middle East languages to the center of CBI discussions, CBI to the center of academic exchanges regarding the teaching and learning of Middle East Languages.

Organizers of the workshop included Professors Dirgham H. Sbait, Anousha Sedighi, and K. Pelin Başçı, with advice from colleagues in the Department of World Languages & Literature and its distinguished Russian Flagship program: Drs. Steve Thorne, William Fischer, Sandra Freels, and Anna Yatsenko.

The conference brought together professors of Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish from the Western Consortium, from various distinguished campuses across the nation, and in some cases, internationally, from Çukurova and Anadolu Universities and from the American University in Cairo.

One result of the workshop is the collaborative development of an online resource for CBI: www.middleeastpdx.org/cbi

SELECT TEXT CONTRIBUTED BY DIRGHAM H. SBAIT, ANOUSHA SEDIGHI, & K. PELIN BASCI

IMAGE BY TAM RANKIN
Persian Studies

Minor course of study

A new minor course of study in Persian language and literature through the Department of World Languages & Literatures provides students with a background in linguistics, literary, and cultural aspects of the study of Persian. Students work towards linguistic proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening. They are introduced to Iranian culture and its diverse perspectives, traditions, and practices.

Cultural activities

The program is complemented by a lecture series, field trips, cultural activities and community events to provide a deeper understanding of Iran and its peoples.

Program building

A grant from the PARSA Community Foundation will help hire an Iranian scholar in residence to advise the University on how to develop a stronger Iranian Studies program.

World-renowned scholar of Persian literature, Dr. Dick Davis will teach 'Introduction to Persian Literature' and 'Iranian Women Writers' in Winter 2013 and 'Persian Literature in Translation' and 'Persian Mythology & Folklore' in Spring 2013.

Understanding Persian culture through film

All students and faculty from Portland State University can watch 32 outstanding films that offer entertainment and insights on Persian Culture for free, thanks to a grant from Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute.

The collection includes award winning narrative feature films directed by famous directors such as Majid Majidi (The Color of Paradise and Baran) and Dariush Mehrjui (Mumi's Guest, Shirak, The Mix, Mr. Gullible, The Lodgers, Sara and The Lady). Each film is introduced by a scholar who places the film within its proper cultural and historical context.

The films are instantly available through July 3, 2013.

SELECT TEXT CONTRIBUTED BY ANOUSHA SEDIGHI & JEANNETTE P. HERENIKO

Lunch & Learn

With funding from the Portland State University Internationalization Minigrant program, the Middle East Studies Center launched a popular new midday brownbag lecture series. The monthly Lunch & Learn series provides an opportunity for participants to learn more about current events in the Middle East through informal presentations and discussions with experts in the field.

Through informal presentations followed by discussion, scholars offer academic analysis of current events including subjects such as the Egyptian revolution, humanitarian aid in Libya, and the U.N. vote on Palestinian statehood. These conversations provide a forum for the community to engage in thoughtful dialogue about the region, ask questions, and share their opinions. This responsive series fosters an increase in international awareness and a community of learning with a shared interest in the Middle East.

Lunch & Learn presenters this year included Lindsay Benstead, Portland State Assistant Professor of Political Science; Masoud Kheirabadi, Portland State adjunct faculty; Steve Niva, member of the faculty at the Evergreen State College; Omar Reda, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Oregon Health and Science University; Laura Robson, Portland State Assistant Professor of History; Asmaa Taha, Reed College Arabic Language Scholar; and Radwan Ziadah, Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Middle East Studies at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, founder and director of the Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies in Syria and co-founder and executive director of the Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Washington, DC.

Thanks to everyone who has made this series such a success!
Global Education Through Film

International films transport an audience to new lands and provide viewers with unique insight into other cultures.

This summer, the Middle East Studies Center hosted a three-day institute for K-12 educators entitled Global Education Through Film. Participants attended presentations by Portland State faculty and scholars, explored strategies for using film in the classroom, viewed screenings of multiple international films and received resources to support education through film. The workshop encouraged teachers to increase their understanding of film as an educational tool to inspire interdisciplinary learning about world history and cultures, current events, and other global concepts.

The institute was presented with co-sponsorship from the University of Oregon Center for Asian & Pacific Studies, and the Oregon Council for Social Studies.

In Memoriam

Ülkü Erzurumlu (April 21, 1937 – July 20, 2011) was born in Kars, Turkey. She received her B.A. degree from Portland State University in 1974. Prior to earning her degree at Portland State, she studied at the University of Ankara, Turkey in late 1950s. She worked as a language instructor through Portland State’s Peace Corps Training Programs for Turkey from 1963-1968.

In 1970, she became the first instructor to teach Turkish Language & Literature at Portland State as part of Middle East Studies Center’s Foreign Language Program. Until 1976, Erzurumlu taught first and second year Turkish. In 1977 when Portland State did not have the available funds to support the program, second year Turkish was cancelled.

Erzurumlu’s students expressed their disappointments by writing letters to the academic affairs unit (see right). In order to meet the needs of the students who wished to continue their Turkish language education, the program sought support for funding. Erzurumlu continued teaching at Portland State until 1984. She also took initiatives to lead and participate in outreach activities to promote Turkish culture outside of the classroom. Ülkü Erzurumlu, a pioneer of Turkish Studies at Portland State University, contributed immensely to advancement of Turkish language and culture in Oregon.

Her contributions to the Turkish Language & Literature program were and are appreciated by her colleagues and students.

SELECT TEXT CONTRIBUTED BY CHIK ERZURUMLU

Mrs. Erzurumlu is an outstanding instructor. Her patience and her enthusiasm are remarkable, and she is a great asset to the Middle East Studies Center.

Ülkü Erzurumlu, being well educated in her field, not only helped me learn Turkish with much enthusiasm and pleasure, but also brought an understanding of her country and people.
Save the Date!

WORKSHOP

Minorities in the Modern Middle East

APRIL 26-27, 2013
URBAN CENTER
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information, contact the Middle East Studies Center:
pdx.edu/middle-east-studies | middleeaststudiescenter@pdx.edu | 503-725-4074