College offers a unique opportunity to combine study and travel. Whether you just want to see the world, immerse yourself in a different culture, or catapult your language skills, studying abroad gives you a chance to do so while receiving college credit. The Middle East and South Asia Studies Program at WFU now offers several options for students with an interest in the region.

Lindsey Schmidt, a junior, has participated in two MESAS programs and describes her experience this past summer in Egypt: “Having travelled to Morocco in the summer of 2011, I knew that I wanted to go back to the Middle East to study abroad one more time. While Egypt automatically caught my eye, my decision to go to Cairo was not without hesitation. Egypt has been a country that, within the past year and a half, has seen tremendous change.”

Schmidt, who travelled to Egypt with the university’s summer 2012 program, continues: “As an Anthropology major with minors in Political Science and MESAS, what better place to witness a evolution and its aftermath than in Egypt? Cairo is a world of its own: it’s bustling, over-crowded, full of constant traffic, and overwhelming. Despite its negative attributes, though, Cairo grows on you quickly and you learn to love it. The people are friendly, want to speak English with you (or make fun of you when you speak to them in classical Arabic rather than their dialect, ammiyya),

Professor Browsers and students in Egypt.
and haggle with you in the souk. My time in Cairo was unbelievably fascinating, chaotic, and educational. I encourage all students to consider studying abroad in Egypt (and Morocco).”

Senior Austin Smith describes his experience in India this past summer: “I have traveled to poor countries before. I’ve been to the Philippines a lot and I kind of thought that I knew what India would be like but India is something else entirely. No experience can prepare you for India, it has its own way, you just have to come to India and figure it out.”

In addition to programs in Egypt and Morocco, the university offers MESAS students a chance to study in India, Indonesia, and Nepal. For information regarding the available summer 2013 programs visit studyabroad.wfu.edu.

**Faculty Focus: Eranda Jayawickreme**

Our newest faculty member for the Middle East and South Asia Studies Program is Eranda Jayawickreme, an Assistant Professor of Psychology and a visiting scholar of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Jayawickreme received his Ph.D. in positive and social/personality psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in October 2010. Professor Jayawickreme has an interest in questions related to moral psychology, adversarial growth and the study of well-being. His other research interests include thinking about adversarial growth in terms of permanent positive personality change, well-being and post-traumatic growth among war-affect ed populations in Rwanda and Sri Lanka, the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of positive psychology, and the effect of monetary incentives on judgments of moral offenses.

In 2011, Professor Jayawickreme received a grant in the amount of $449,869 from the John Templeton Foundation’s From Beliefs to Virtuous Behaviors Funding Priority. The funds were awarded for a 3-year project, entitled “What Are the Real Benefits of Hardship? Examining Possibilities for Behavioral Growth Following Adversity.” This project, co-led by Dr. William Fleeson, also of Wake Forest University, and Martin Seligman, from the University of Pennsylvania, examines actual behavioral growth following adversity: 1) the triggers of behavioral growth following adversity; 2) the key psychological connectors between cognitive growth and behavioral growth; and 3) the behavioral forms that growth takes.

Professor Jayawickreme is the first affiliated faculty member from the department of psychology and we are glad to have him with us.
Study Abroad

Fez, Morocco

SUMMER I (9h)
May 27-July 5, 2013

Information Meeting:
Tuesday 13 Nov at 5pm (Greene 321)

Courses Offered:
- ARABIC: All Levels (6h)
- FRENCH: Elementary or Intermediate (6h)
- HUMANITIES 224: Cross-cultural Encounters In Morocco (3h)

NOW ENROLLING!
APPLICATION FOR SUMMER 2013
(deadline Feb 15, 2013)

Information: Center for International studies or Dr. Rémi Lanzoni,
Dept. of Romance Languages / tel: 758 5549 / lanzoni@wfu.edu
International Conference on Minorities in Islam/ Muslims as Minorities

Aiming to enrich our understanding of the status of minorities in Muslim-majority contexts and the experiences of Muslims living as minorities throughout the world, Professors Michaille Bowers (Politics and International Affairs) and Nelly Van Doorn Harder (Religion) organized a three day conference to share research and exchange ideas. Scholars from a multiplicity of fields, including history, political science, religion, sociology, and literature and traveling from places such as Turkey, Ethiopia, Greece, Belgium, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the Arab Emirates, Israel, and Canada attended the meeting, which was held on the campus of WFU. Fourteen WFU faculty directly participated in the proceedings by presenting papers, acting as respondents, and chairing panels. Dozens of students also participated in the conference by helping coordinate the event, taking visiting scholars out to lunch (an event sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the GLBTQ Center, and the Chaplain’s Office), and performing an Arabic folk dance (see p. 5).

Peter Mandaville, Director of the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies and Associate at George Mason University began the conference with a keynote address, entitled “They be crushing me for years now: Atlantic Muslims and subaltern Islam.” Peter Mandaville argued that diasporic communities, transnational social movements, modern information and communication technologies contribute to a wider Muslim public sphere. With interests regarding the political economy of Islamic activism, the role of emerging powers in the developing world, and post-Western international relations, Mandaville’s research provides insight to the spread of Muslims.

John R. Bowen, Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, closed the first day of conference panels and paper presentations with a second keynote address, entitled “Emerging Practical Jurisprudence in the Muslim Diaspora: Notes from Britain.” Focusing on the Muslim population in Europe and the affects of 9/11, Bowen argues how the Muslim diaspora has affected England in particular. The Screening of the documentary film Cedars in the Pines: The Lebanese of North Carolina also took place prior to the conference. The film is directed by Dr. Akram Khater, an Alumni Distinguished University Professor (CHASS), History Professor, Director of Middle East Studies Program, and Director of Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies.

A full conference program, biographies of the participants, and information about other events surrounding can be found on the conference website at http://college.wfu.edu/mimmconference.

Funding for the conference was provided by the Provost’s Office, the Humanities Institute, the Carsswell Fund of the Department of Philosophy, the C.H. Richards Fund of the Department of Politics and International Affairs, the Middle East and South Asia Studies, the Office on Multicultural Affairs, the Center for International Studies, and the Department of Religion.
Dabke Flash Mob

As part of the Muslim as Minorities/Minorities in Islam Conference, students with an interest in learning more about Arabic culture learned and performed the dabke in a flash mob fashion. A sort of line dance, the dabke is common at celebrations throughout several Arab countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. The dance both incorporated an artistic performance into the conference and provided a means of transitioning from a day of formal academic panels to a more relaxed intellectual exchange over dinner. The performance occurred outside of the Graylyn Inn and the flash mob format contributed an element of surprise and spontaneity for those attending. The visiting scholars very much enjoyed the event and so did the students.

Bearta Al-Chacar, a dance instructor, author, UNICEF Ambassador, and Lebanese immigrant from Raleigh, NC instructed students in the dance over four days. Joey DeRosa, a junior, describes his experience as a dancer saying, “from an educational standpoint, I found that learning about culture from the beat of a drum was a great change of pace from more conventional methods. The experience provided me with a knowledge of Arab folk dance that is hard to grasp without getting your feet wet, or in this case, moving. Who knows I may even get to flaunt my dabke skills in Amman, Jordan where I plan to study next semester.”

The project was funded by the Interdisciplinary Performance and the Liberal Arts Center (PLACE) Creative Partnerships. Professor Michelle Brow-ers, one of the conference organizers, wrote the grant in hopes of developing a form of demonstrable cultural proficiency among tand building links between the growing number of students of Arab descent and students with an interest in the Arab culture.
**Immersed in India Film Premiere**

Produced by Kimberley Dryden, a 2013 MFA Candidate in the Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University, Immersed in India is a short documentary film that depicts the personal journey of students who travelled abroad to India last summer. Professor Anada Mitra along with his wife Swati Basu and 11 students explored India and learned about the communication, culture and sustainability of India. Dr. Mitra while on his trip states, “an absolutely set of individuals have come together to create a learning community that exemplifies, the ‘ashram’ system of teaching.” Outlining the challenges student’s faced with the ashram teaching method, of complete cultural immersion the film depicts the experience the students and professors had in the submergence of the Indian culture.

**Fulbright Eslam Amin**

Thanks to Fulbright, our Arabic program has a visiting scholar from Egypt, Eslam Amin, to assist our Arabic professor, Dr. Darlene May. In Egypt, Amin took a course at the Zagazig University instructed by an ex Fulbright Scholar who suggested she apply for the scholarship. The Fulbright Scholarship for Foreign Language Teaching Assistant requires the scholar to take two courses every semester along with performing their assistant duties. Currently Amin is taking Ethnicity and Diversity in America and Instruction Design Assessment and Technology. She enjoys both courses.

This is Amin’s first trip outside Egypt and so far she has had no problem adjusting, in part because she said she had already anticipated the culture being very different from her own.

Once Amin returns to Egypt in May, she hopes to become a language instructor there. Amin describes her experience as “good, because it has allowed me to refine my knowledge of Arabic to a more conversational tongue rather than a native tongue.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARB112</td>
<td>Elementary Arabic II</td>
<td>MWF 10:00am-10:50am</td>
<td>Darlene May</td>
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<td>ARB112</td>
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<td>ARB213</td>
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<td>Islamic Art &amp; Architecture</td>
<td>TR 12:30pm-1:45pm</td>
<td>Chanchal Dadlani</td>
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<td>HST261</td>
<td>Modern South Asia</td>
<td>TR 2:00pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Rais Rahman</td>
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<td>Nation, Faith &amp; Gender in the Mid-East</td>
<td>MWF 10:00am-10:50am</td>
<td>Charles Wilkins</td>
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<td>Travelers in the Early Modern Mid-East</td>
<td>W 2:00pm-4:30pm</td>
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<td>MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm</td>
<td>Kenneth Hoglund</td>
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<td>Contemporary India</td>
<td>MW 12:30pm-1:45pm</td>
<td>Neil DeVotta</td>
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<td>POL269</td>
<td>Arab &amp; Islamic Political Thought</td>
<td>MW 2:00pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Michaeelle Browers</td>
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<td>Intro to Asian Religions</td>
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<td>Tanisha Ramachandran</td>
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<td>REL105</td>
<td>Monotheisms: Judaism, Christianity &amp; Islam</td>
<td>TR 9:30am-10:45am</td>
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<td>REL108</td>
<td>Intro to Hindu Traditions</td>
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<td>REL109</td>
<td>Intro to Buddhist Traditions</td>
<td>TR 11:00am-12:15pm</td>
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<td>REL109</td>
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<td>REL388</td>
<td>South Asian Women</td>
<td>TR 2:00pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Tanisha Ramachandran</td>
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The Program in Middle East & South Asia Studies

The Middle East and South Asia Studies program organizes events, encourages study abroad, and offers an undergraduate minor, all aimed at providing students with opportunities to engage in a multidisciplinary study of the history, politics, literature, peoples, and cultures of the Middle East and South Asia.

Upcoming Events

November 8: “1000 Lights” Film Screening. Kim Dryden, Wake Forest University Film Student. 6pm in Auditorium 404, ZSR Library.

November 12: “Quest for the Blue Mountain” Film Screening. Dr. Whitney Azoy, distinguished scholar on the culture of Afghanistan. 7pm, 111 Carswell Hall.

November 13: An Anthropological Understanding of Afghanistan. Dr. Whitney Azoy, a distinguished scholar on the culture of Afghanistan. 7pm, Museum of Anthropology.

Coming in the Spring Semester

Lecture by Ann Phillips on “Stabilization and Reconstruction Missions: Lessons from Afghanistan and Haiti. Time, date and place TBA. Contact Professor Helga Welsh (Politics and International Affairs) for more information.

Public lecture by Vasif Kortun a leading Turkish contemporary art curator. Time, date and place TBA, contact Professor Chanchal Dadlani (Art) for more information.

For additional information about faculty, events, course offerings, visit http://college.wfu.edu/politics/mesasprogram/