Submitted By:
- Farha Ghannam - fghanna1@swarthmore.edu

Board Members:
- Farha Ghannam (President) - fghanna1@swarthmore.edu
- Lara Deeb (Incoming president) - ldeeb@ScrippsCollege.edu
- Fida Adely (Treasurer) - fja25@georgetown.edu
- Kamran Ali (Secretary) - asdar@mail.utexas.edu
- Julie Peteet (Board) - julie.peteet@louisville.edu
- Arzoo Osanloo (Board Member) - aosanloo@u.washington.edu
- David McMurray (Board Member) - david.mcmurray@oregonstate.edu
- Ilana Feldman (Board Member) - ifeldman@gwu.edu
- Moain Sadeq (Archaeology Board Member) - msadeq@qu.edu.qa
- Rehenuma Asmi (Student Board Member) - rehenumasmi@gmail.com

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.
Number of Members: 387

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.
As of Sept. 2012, MES has 387 members.

Low membership fees, relevant activities, and major political and social changes in the Middle East continue to generate interest in the area and its anthropology.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).
Financial Balance: 19,384.25

Publication Sponsored budgets.
Not applicable

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.
We spend money on an annual reception after the business meeting, on an annual Student Paper Prize, a biennial Distinguished Scholar Award, and travel subvention for our graduate student board member. This year, we used some of our money to sponsor for two workshops: one geared towards mentoring our graduate students and junior faculty and another focused on teaching the Arab revolts.

Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.
Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for Cultural Anthropology
Session: LIFE, DEATH, AND AFTERLIFE IN THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: THE ARAB SPRING: POLITICAL SUBJECTIVITIES, IDEOLOGY, AND THE FUTURE
Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: DISPLACEMENT, MIGRATION AND CULTURAL BROKERING

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: ISLAM/RELIGION IN THE NEOLIBERAL AGE: CONFLICTS AND AFFINITIES

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: ISLAM, SECULARISM, AND THE STATE

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: AESTHETICS, POLITICS, AND RELIGION: THE ROLE OF (PERFORMING) ARTS IN THE ARAB UPRISINGS

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: PROPERTY RIGHTS IN ISLAMIC CONTEXTS

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: AFGHANISTAN: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THREE DECADES OF MILITARY OCCUPATION, WAR AND VIOLENCE ON SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: LABOR, MARKETS, BORDERS, AND CONFLICT

Session Type: Volunteered  
Session: GENDER, CITIZENSHIP AND KINSHIP

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: MES Mentoring Social for Graduate Students and Junior Professors

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: Teaching the Arab Revolts: Integrating Contemporary Middle East Protests into our Syllabi

Session Type: Special Events  
Session: Remembering John G. Kennedy

Awards  
List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.  
None

Meetings  
Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?  
No  
If granted, who/what was it/they used for?  
Incomplete  
List spring meeting activities
Mentorship:

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)

Undergraduate and/or graduate students.
Student Paper Prize competition, graduate student board membership.

This year we started a new function called: Mentoring Social for Graduate Students and Junior Professors. We hope to continue with it in coming years.

Early career scholars.
MES started a new function called: Mentoring Social for Graduate Students and Junior Professors. We hope to continue with it in coming years.

Independent scholars.
NA

Outreach:

Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

MES has been in close touch with colleagues at Middle East Studies Association, who are planning to create the “Association for Middle East Anthropology,” a sub-group of MESA. MES is keen on coordinating with this group to increase the presence of anthropology at MESA. We will designate a liaison to work on planning different activities with AMEA. In particular, we hope to work on closely coordinating some activities when the AAA and MESA overlap with time and space in 2015.

Communications:

Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

The board discussed ways to further enhance the role of MES website, which is affiliated with the AAA, in enhancing our communication with our members. We need to find ways of managing and updating the website in ways that respond to the needs of our members.

Although the MES does not maintain a listserv of its own, there is a well-subscribed listserv, aaamideast, utilized mostly by graduate students and maintained by members of the independent Task Force for Middle East Anthropology, which posts material of interest, including job announcements and other news. For official Section business we use the AAA master membership list, which reaches all current MES members. Student Board member Rehenuma Asmi is our Contributing Editor to Anthropology News, and also maintains a Facebook page for members of the Middle East Section.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.
None.

Initiatives:
What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

The Section will award its annual Student Paper Prize and Distinguished Scholar award in 2013.

We plan to continue with more workshops that will benefit the Section’s graduate student members.

The board decided to create a new book award, which will be given to the best book in the subfield. It will be given biannually, alternating with the Distinguished Scholar Award. The amount of the award will be $500. The first book award will be given at the AAAs in 2014, and the eligible books for that year’s award will be those published in 2012 and 2013. We will create a book award committee during our business meeting at the 2013 AAAs.

In Spring 2013, we will elect two board members, a treasurer, a secretary, and a president.

Ask AAA:

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

Not applicable

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

We are not sure if this is something the AAA Executive board would be able to address but we wonder if there are ways to avoid the continual overlap between the AAA and the Middle East Studies Association annual meetings? Our members are eager to participate in both meetings but often have to choose one or the other and it would be important for Middle East anthropology to be present in both venues.

In addition, we would very much hope that the AAA would avoid scheduling key functions sponsored by MES at the same time. The last meetings, for example, not only had MES panels overlapping but also two of our key workshops were scheduled at the same time. We had to combine the two functions to avoid competing over the same audience. We have heard complaints about that from several of our members.

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