CIRS to host conference *America and the Middle East after the Bush Presidency*

On October 23 and 24, 2007, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar’s Center for International and Regional Studies will host a working meeting of the “America’s Role in the World” project, undertaken by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy of Georgetown University. The October 24th conference *America and the Middle East after the Bush Presidency: A View from the Outside* will be open to the public in Doha.

The ISD study focuses on the geopolitical challenges that a new U.S. administration - Democrat or Republican - could face in 2009. The project seeks to define the central foreign policy choices and responses that are likely to be available. While ISD does not intend to offer specific policy prescriptions, it hopes to provide the candidates with a comprehensive agenda of issues that could require attention and on which they should be forming views and taking postions.

The “America’s Role” working-group consists of Thomas Pickering, a former ambassador to Russia, India and the United Nations and chairman of the board of ISD; Chester Crocker, professor of Strategic Studies at Georgetown University and boardmember of ISD; Casimir Yost, Director of ISD; and James Seevers, a former State Department official and current professor in the Masters in Foreign Service program and Director of Research at ISD.

The two-day event in Doha will allow the group to receive non-American feedback on the draft report. The first day will feature a private meeting in which the authors of the report will discuss their findings with regional experts. The second day will feature a conference held at Al Sharq Hotel, which will allow audience members to participate in discussions. Additionally, speakers may be available for further meetings and briefings during their stay in Doha.

CIRS has invited regional experts from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and Asia to participate. The guests will join working-group members from Washington and SFS-Qatar representatives to review the “America’s Role in the World” report.

For more information, please visit http://isd.georgetown.edu/americas_role_description.cfm. If you are interested in one of the project members, or in attending the event on October 24, please email cirsevents@georgetown.edu.

**About CIRS**

The Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Services in Qatar is guided by the principles of academic excellence, forward vision, and community engagement.

The Center’s mission revolves around five principal goals:

- To provide a forum for scholarship and research on international and regional affairs;
- To encourage in-depth examination and exchange of ideas;
- To foster thoughtful dialogue among students, scholars, and practitioners of international affairs;
- To facilitate the free flow of ideas and knowledge through publishing the products of its research, sponsoring conferences and seminars, and holding workshops designed to explore the complexities of the twenty-first century;
- To engage in outreach activities with a wide range of local, regional, and international partners.
Welcome from the Director:
Mehran Kamrava Joins the Center in Doha

We have an exciting year planned for the Center. As in the past, our activities and our mission will be informed by a commitment to academic excellence, visionary thinking, and community engagement. Our primary concern at CIRS is to foster a forum for the flow and exchange of ideas, quiet and contemplative dialogue, and meaningful involvement in the larger community of which we are a part.

With these guiding principles shaping our vision of ourselves and our mission in the coming years, CIRS’s focus in the near future will be in four primary areas: research and scholarship; events and conferences; outreach; and publications. In each of these areas, we are taking significant steps that, both individually and collectively, will greatly enrich the intellectual lives of Georgetown University, Qatar, and beyond.

In the area of research and scholarship, we are embarking on a major, multi-year, comprehensive study of Qatar and the Gulf in the International Economic and Political System. Made-up of three phases over a three year period, the study will begin with an in-depth examination of the international relations of Qatar and the Gulf in its first year, then move on to analyzing the international political economy of the Gulf region and Qatar in its second year, and will finally turn its attention to domestic social, economic, and political dynamics in Qatar in its third year. We have assembled an international team of experts, comprised of renowned specialists based in the United States and in Qatar, who will commence work on the project in November 2007.

A second area of focus for CIRS will be events and conferences, where we already have a proud tradition of having hosted two major, and highly successful, conferences over the last two years, one on the role and status of Arab women and the other on education in Qatar and the Arab world in the twenty-first century. For the coming year, we hope to build on our previous success by holding conferences on two important, and quite different, subjects.

On October 24, the Center will host a conference entitled America and the Middle East after the Bush Presidency: A View from the Outside. This conference will feature discussions by a distinguished panel of experts on US foreign policy, including former UN Ambassador and Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering, and Chester Crocker, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

The Center will host another major conference on April 5 and 6, 2008. This conference will be on the theme of Innovation in Islam, highlighting the religion’s long and distinguished tradition of fostering inventiveness and creativity in areas such as the arts, science, jurisprudence, and law.

In addition to conferences, CIRS will sponsor a number of seminars related to our research project on Qatar and the Gulf. We will also have two separate lecture series, one featuring Distinguished Speakers, and another, a Monthly Dialogue Series, in which we will feature our Faculty’s ongoing research and scholarly activities.

Also, this year we will host our third annual Model United Nations conference. Last year we had over 500 delegates from nearly 50 high-schools in 18 different countries. Needless to say, thanks largely to the efforts of Kathryn King, CIRS Program Coordinator, and of course the hard work of the student delegates themselves, the conference was a great success. This year’s MUN conference, to be held on January 24-27, 2008, will no doubt be equally successful.

One of the Center’s guiding principles is engagement with the community. For us, involvement with the community, broadly defined, is an integral feature of what we are all about. Accordingly, we are pursuing several exciting initiatives designed to deepen our connections with community-based organizations and educational establishments.

Additionally, we are in discussion with organizations such as Al Jazeera and Qatar University to launch several collaborative projects in the coming months.

As for our publications, we hope to produce several Occasional Papers, the first one of which, on the status of Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan, is already under preparation. We are producing this paper in collaboration with Georgetown’s Institute for the Study of International Migration, located in Washington, DC, and hope to have it completed and ready for distribution within a few weeks. Our Occasional Papers tackle other important issues that often do not get the attention they deserve.

Looking ahead, we hope to do more of the same—more publications, more events and conferences, more collaborative and outreach efforts, and more research and scholarship—and to do it better. And, with the talented and energetic staff with whom I am lucky to work, I have no doubt that we are well on our way to becoming a world-class institute for research and learning. Along the way, we are eagerly looking forward to serving you and other members of the community in Doha, in Washington, DC, and beyond.

Sincerely,
Mehran Kamrava
Director, CIRS

Dr. Mehran Kamrava joined the Center for International and Regional Studies as Director in June 2007. He is also a professor of Political Science at California State University - Northridge. He received his PhD in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge. His specialties include political development, comparative politics and Middle Eastern Studies.
Welcome from the Dean

It is with enormous pleasure that I welcome the new Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies, Dr. Mehran Kamrava, and celebrate the inaugural issue of the Center’s newsletter.

Dr. Kamrava, who joins the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service after a successful career at California State University, Northridge, introduces on the opposite page his ambitious plans for the Center during the coming year and beyond.

We are especially proud to make research and publication on the international affairs of the Gulf the focus of the Center’s program and to enhance collaboration between scholars in Qatar and experts on the Gulf from around the world. And, as in the past, the Center will make a special effort to engage the people of Qatar as audience and participants in many of our events.

Along with Dr. Kamrava and all of our colleagues at the School of Foreign Service, I look forward to a successful year and invite you to join us in person, through our publications or online at sfs.georgetown.edu/qatar. We value your interest and want to make you part of our family.

Sincerely,

James Reardon-Anderson
Dean
Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Inaugural event focuses on US and Iran

by Shervin Malekzadeh

On September 10, 2007, Dr. Mehran Kamrava, Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies, noted the cloud of uncertainty hanging over the region in his talk, “The United States and Iran: A Dangerous but Contained Conflict.” Compelled each morning to check whether or not war had broken out the night before, he described the current state of affairs between the United States and Iran as decidedly grim. Irreconcilable differences in foreign policy and strategic objectives appeared to be propelling the two countries towards open conflict.

Painting in broad historical strokes, Dr. Kamrava outlined the guiding principles or “logics” animating American foreign policy in the Middle East, including ready access to oil, the security of the state of Israel, and the containment of threats to American interests. Iran’s own strategic ambition of being a regional superpower whose security is guaranteed by proxies operating inside of Iraq and Lebanon, as well as Tehran’s insistence on a continued nuclear program, set the stage for an intractable conflict of interests between the United States and Iran.

The analysis was interlaced with a consideration of the role of leadership and personalities. He described the current American and Iranian administrations as populated by leaders whose rigid adherence to ideological precepts exacerbate an already heated situation. He then noted that what was once an American foreign policy premised on a realpolitik, balance-of-power approach to the region has been replaced by what the Project for a New American Century described as a “Reaganite policy of military strength and moral clarity,” exemplified by the neoconservative doctrine of “forward defense.” The ideals of “freedom” and “human dignity” emanating from Washington were not just slogans but the perorations of a “presidency of believers.” These ideologues found their counterparts on their Iranian side; Dr. Kamrava went so far as to describe Ahmadinejad as the “Iranian Bush.”

Nonetheless, Dr. Kamrava cautioned against reading too much into the positions of American and Iranian political leaders. Domestic pressures remain an unknown and crucial factor going forward, as both governments face growing discontent and division amongst popular as well as elite elements. In the short term, uncertainty will likely continue to hang over the region.

Dr. Kamrava closed by sharing possible future scenarios: A continuance of an untenable status quo in which unresolved tensions and hostility between Iran and the U.S. could spill over into open conflict - such a war would be a catastrophe for both sides. A glimmer of hope lies in the narrow path of reconciliation. Returning to his earlier theme, Dr. Kamrava advocated conditional engagement through the “Baghdad track” as a way for the U.S. and Iran to reconcile their differences.

Shervin Malekzadeh is a Teaching Assistant at the School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

January 2008 will mark the third year that high school students gather to discuss current international problems and crises under the auspices of Model United Nations at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

Based on the vision of Dean James Reardon-Anderson, CIRS has enabled hundreds of students from Qatar and the region to engage in intense discussions, ask questions, and learn from each other as well as from experienced diplomats. The students gather in Doha for several days each year and form networks for life. This year is no exception. From January 24th to 27th, 2008, the CIRS-sponsored MUN conference will welcome 300 students from Qatar and the region, from Algeria to Greece to Afghanistan. The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Doha. The 2008 conference will consist of seven committees and a student press corps. The committees range from intimate to intimidating and include mock sessions of the United States National Security Council, the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Arab League, the United Nations Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, and the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee. Student press teams will represent Al Jazeera English, CNN International and BBC World and will compile newsletters for participants. Each committee will be chaired by a Georgetown University student with MUN experience and training.

The conference schedule will include Opening and Closing Ceremonies, five to six committee sessions, a visit to Education City and a Diplomatic Lunch with members of Doha’s diplomatic and press corps.

Please e-mail qatarmun@georgetown.edu with any questions regarding the MUN.


CIRS Research: *Qatar and the Gulf in the International Economic and Political System* 

Beginning in November 2007, CIRS will launch a major, multi-year, comprehensive study of “Qatar and the Gulf in the International Economic and Political System.”

Made up of three phases over a three-year period, the study will begin with an in-depth examination of “The International Relations of Qatar and the Gulf” in its first year, then move on to analyzing “The International Political Economy of the Gulf and Qatar” in its second year, and will finally turn its attention to domestic, social, economic, and political dynamics in Qatar (“Qatar and The World in the Twenty-First Century: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges”) in its third year. CIRS has assembled an international team of experts, comprised of renowned specialists based in the United States and in Qatar, who will commence work on the project beginning in November 2007. CIRS hopes to secure outside funding to carry out this research project. In addition, CIRS has set aside more than $100,000 of its own annual budget for the next three years in order to support field work and research on this significant project.

During every year of the project, members of the research team will submit article abstracts and research summaries to CIRS Director, Dr. Mehran Kamrava, who is the project’s Principal Investigator (PI), by December 15. The PI will make these abstracts and summaries available to others by posting them on the CIRS website. CIRS will then convene two seminars through which members of the research team will share their research methodologies and findings with one another, with other interested scholars, and with members of the larger community.

An initial seminar will be held at CIRS in January of each year (2008, 2009, and 2010), so that members of the research team can share and discuss their preliminary findings with their colleagues and with the larger academic and policy-making communities. A second seminar will be convened the following October, during which researchers will share their final findings with one another and with other academics. At this time, members of the research team will also take part in a series of public meetings and lectures in order to discuss and share their research with larger audiences. The main purpose of these public meetings will be to maximize the potential for the transfer of the generated knowledge to academic, policy-making, and business communities in Qatar, as well as to all other interested parties.

Researchers will submit their completed articles to the PI by October 30th of each year. The PI will then compile and edit them into a book manuscript and submit them to the publisher soon thereafter. By the end of the third year of the research project, three edited volumes on Qatar and the Gulf will be published.
American and Qatari Artists perform together in Spring American Arts Festival

What do a former U.S. poet laureate, a National Geographic photographer and a university jazz band have in common? A dedication to the arts and a willingness to bring that spirit to Doha. From February 16 to March 8, 2007, CIRS hosted three weeks of cultural activities in conjunction with the American Arts Festival.

On February 16th, the Opening Ceremony was held at Al Bidaa Park on the Corniche. The Ceremony was open to the public, and was followed by performances by the Doha Jazz Band and the traditional Qatari Band “Al Lou’Lou’a” (The Pearl).

The first week of the festival centered on poetry. CIRS hosted Robert Pinsky, US Poet Laureate 1997-2002, who held a public lecture and participated in a poetry night with four Qatari poets. Three practical workshops were offered along with a discussion of Poetry in Translation. Students from Education City and other institutions gathered one afternoon for an “Open Mic” session to share their own poems or read favorites.

The second week of the festival featured Sam Abell, National Geographic Photographer, who spoke at a gala dinner for 400 people about his life and work. The winners from more than 350 submissions to the photography competition were announced. Thirty finalists were selected by a group of expert judges, Abdulrahman Fakroo, Christina Lindholm and Roman Turczyn. The week also featured workshops from the Qatar Photographic Society and a lecture by Professor Kate Sampsell-Willman.

The eighteen-member Juilliard Jazz Orchestra is the big band of the Juilliard School in New York City. Led by Victor Goines, the group performed during the final week of the festival. The orchestra played for two nights at the Qatar National Theatre to an audience of 500 people each night. A separate daytime concert was held at College of the North Atlantic for high-school and younger students. The band also gave a private performance at the Al Udeid Airbase. The final concert was held under the stars in Education City for an audience of approximately 850 people. The Qatari band “Al Lou’ Lou’a” joined Juilliard for this last performance.
Spring Education Conference Bridges Scholarly and Practitioner Communities

What are the uses of education? Who controls education? How is education delivered? Twenty-three panelists, among them scholars, practitioners and policy-makers from the United States, Qatar, Europe and the Middle East, came together to focus on these questions at a conference entitled Education and Change in Qatar and the Arab World.

This second annual research conference of the Center for International and Regional Studies was held on April 21-22, 2007 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Doha. The conference was co-sponsored by Georgetown University’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

The conference brought representatives from various sectors of education together under one roof. Schools and universities, teachers and teacher trainers were able to share information, case studies, success stories, and challenges and benefit from each other’s views. Panels included the Qatari perspective, shared by representatives from Qatar University, Al Bayan Scientific Secondary School for Girls and Omar bin Khattab School for Boys. Analysts from RAND Qatar Policy Institute discussed their findings on the independent school system new to Qatar. Independent schools are run by the Supreme Education Council, while governmental schools remain with the Ministry of Education.

Teachers, students and scholars who attended were given the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists on six topics: Classical Muslim Education, Education and the Modern State, Education and Social Development, Conceptual Approaches and Frameworks, Practical Assessments and Case Studies, and Future Goals and Prospects.

Dr. Osama Abi-Mershed, a professor of Arab History at Georgetown University, served as the conference chair. In this capacity, he moderated a unique final panel which brought all twenty-two speakers on stage to answer questions from attendees as well as to talk with each other in an open forum.

CIRS Research: The Iraqi Refugee Crisis in Syria and Jordan

In collaboration with Georgetown University’s Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), CIRS is conducting a major study of the conditions and impact of the Iraqi refugee crisis in Syria and Jordan. Although estimates vary greatly, international relief agencies and the United Nations estimate that as many as four million Iraqis have been internally displaced or have left Iraq for neighboring countries since 2003. According to the latest figures available, approximately 1.2 million Iraqi refugees now live in Syria and another one million live in Jordan.

The ISIM-CIRS study is led by Dr. Patricia Fagen and is supported by Dr. Mehran Kamrava. The study will examine the conditions of the Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria and will also analyze refugees’ impact on each host country’s social, political, and economic structures.

In specific, the study will examine the various strategies and policies of the host countries, as well as the conditions in which the refugees are likely to find themselves. Additionally, the study will try to answer what factors, apart from geographic proximity, have resulted in a disproportionate number of refugees finding their way to either Jordan or Syria as opposed to other countries neighboring Iraq.

The fieldwork phase of the study commenced in August 2007, with the first draft being ready sometime in the fall. The results of the research will be made available through the CIRS website in the form of an Occasional Paper, and, upon reviews and possible revisions, they will appear as one or more journal articles in appropriate publications.
**Visiting Scholar/Researcher**

Center for International and Regional Studies
Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Doha, Qatar

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar’s Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) is pleased to announce an opening for a Visiting Scholar Fellowship beginning in Fall 2008. The position is open to scholars in all disciplines working on any area of the Middle East, with priority given to those working on the Gulf. Visiting Scholars will receive library privileges at SFS-Qatar, office space, and a computer at CIRS. Georgetown offers a generous stipend and benefits package, including home leave and housing.

The Visiting Scholar is required to reside in Doha and is expected to participate fully in the intellectual and academic life of the Center and the faculty and students of SFS-Qatar. Visiting Scholars are also expected to deliver one or more public lectures, participate in CIRS conferences and seminars, advise students, and serve as an occasional guest lecturer in classes. Depending on needs and interest, the Visiting Scholar may be invited to teach one course as well. The exact duration and terms of employment are negotiable based on the Visiting Scholar’s availability and the Center’s needs. This position is ideal for mid- and senior-level academics.

SFS-Q, which is located in Education City in Doha, Qatar, is a branch of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and offers a four-year undergraduate curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree identical to that offered on the Main Campus of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Each year, SFS-Q admits a class of approximately 50 students, primarily from the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia, who will graduate from the Doha campus. The students and facilities of SFS-Q are outstanding. Compensation, terms of employment and professional opportunities for SFS-Q employees are highly competitive. SFS-Q employees join a community of scholars in Education City who teach in the other branch campuses of Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Texas A&M University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Compensation at all ranks is highly competitive.

The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2007, or until the position is filled.

Interested scholars should submit a cover letter and a statement outlining their intended research while in residence at CIRS, the names and contact information for five references, and a current curriculum vita to, Naila Sherman, CIRS Associate Director, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Suite 2100, Washington, DC 20007-2401. Materials may be submitted electronically as well to nhs2@georgetown.edu. Georgetown University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Women and minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

Center for International and Regional Studies
Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Doha, Qatar

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar’s Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) is pleased to announce an opening for a Post-Doctoral Fellowship. The fellowship will support a recent PhD recipient in all disciplines working on the area of the Middle East with priority to those working on the Gulf. The Fellowship is for a period of one academic year starting in the Fall 2008 semester. The Fellow is expected to devote this time to turning his/her dissertation into a book manuscript for publication. Georgetown offers a generous stipend and benefits package, including home leave and housing.

Applicants must have completed a PhD during the period January 1, 2007 to August 1, 2008. The Fellowship requires residence at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. The Fellow will be given library privileges at Georgetown University and office space at CIRS, and is expected to participate fully in the academic and intellectual life of the Center, including delivering occasional lectures at CIRS and taking part in the Center’s academic seminars and conferences. Depending on needs and interests, the Fellow may be invited to teach one course as well.

SFS-Q, which is located in Education City in Doha, Qatar, is a branch of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and offers a four-year undergraduate curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree identical to that offered on the Main Campus of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Each year, SFS-Q admits a class of approximately 50 students, primarily from the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia, who will graduate from the Doha campus. The students and facilities of SFS-Q are outstanding. Compensation, terms of employment and professional opportunities for SFS-Q employees are highly competitive. SFS-Q employees join a community of scholars in Education City who teach in the other branch campuses of Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Texas A&M University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Compensation at all ranks is highly competitive. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2007, or until the position is filled.

Interested candidates should submit a cover-letter, a current curriculum vita, three letters of recommendation, and a synopsis of their PhD dissertation. Also, candidates should provide a statement outlining the precise nature of their intended work during the period of the fellowship, the final product’s significance in terms of the discipline and the body of knowledge, and when the completion of the project for publication may be expected.

Please send application materials to Naila Sherman, CIRS Associate Director, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Suite 2100, Washington, DC 20007-2401. Application materials may be submitted electronically as well to nhs2@georgetown.edu. Georgetown University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Women and minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.
Fall 2007 - Spring 2008 CIRS Events

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<td>Conference <em>America and the Middle East After the Bush Presidency: A View from the Outside</em> Al Sharq Hotel, Doha</td>
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<td>Wed Oct 30</td>
<td>Monthly Dialogue Series Professor Amira Sonbol SFSQ Library, LAS Building, Education City, Doha</td>
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<td>Sat Nov 10</td>
<td>MUN Preparation Day LAS Building Education City, Doha</td>
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<td>Mon Nov 12</td>
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<td>Wed Nov 28</td>
<td>Monthly Dialogue Series Professor Patrick Laude SFSQ Library, LAS Building, Education City, Doha</td>
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<td>Fri Dec 7</td>
<td>CCAS Post Doctoral Lecture Doha</td>
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<td>Thu Jan 24-Sun Jan 27</td>
<td>Third Annual Model United Nations Conference Marriott Hotel, Doha</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-6</td>
<td>Conference on “Innovation in Islam” Doha</td>
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For all event inquiries, please e-mail cirsevents@georgetown.edu.

CIRS Staff Directory

**Mehran Kamrava**, Director  
mk556@georgetown.edu

**Naila Habiby Sherman**, Associate Director  
nhs2@georgetown.edu

**Maha Uraidi**, Events Manager  
mu29@georgetown.edu

**Kathryn King**, Program Coordinator  
kak29@georgetown.edu

**Aphrodite Hammad**, Administrative Assistant  
ah389@georgetown.edu

**Suzanne Mirgani**, Events and Communications Assistant  
sm623@georgetown.edu

CIRS Staff (left to right): Maha Uraidi, Kathryn King, Aphrodite Hammad, Mehran Kamrava, Naila Sherman and Suzanne Mirgani.

CIRS to exhibit at MESA  
Middle East Studies Association  
Annual Conference  
Montreal  
November 18-20, 2007  
Come visit us at Booth 8!