Nikolaos Van Dam Honored at Syrian Studies Association Annual Reception

The Syrian Studies Association honored Ambassador Nikolaos van Dam with a panel discussion at its annual reception in December 2011. The reception, held in conjunction with the Association’s annual board and business meetings and the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, included a critical appreciation of the fourth edition of van Dam’s *The Struggle for Power in Syria: Politics and Society under Asad and the Ba’th Party* (I. B. Tauris, 2011). Syrian Studies Association President Fred Lawson presided over a panel that included Professor Joshua Landis of the University of Oklahoma and Professor Lisa Wedeen of the University of Chicago.

The panel discussion was a lively combination of personal reminiscences, critical analysis, and commentary on the ongoing uprisings in Syria – a reflection of the many ways in which van Dam’s text remains as relevant today as when it was first published in 1979.