Prof. Geoffrey Schad,  
Secretary-Treasurer of the Syrian Studies Association  

By Fred Lawson

At its November 2008 business meeting, the association installed Geoffrey D. Schad as secretary-treasurer. Dr. Schad is assistant professor of history at Albright College, and is a member of the Committee on Academic Freedom of the Middle East Studies Association. He is a specialist on the economic, social and business history of Syria during the Mandate period, who received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2001. His publications include "Colonial Corporatism in the French Mandated States: Labor, Capital, the Mandatory Power, and the 1935 Syrian Law of Associations," Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Mediterranee, no. 105-106 (2005) and "Toward an Analysis of Class Formation in Syria," in N. Meouchy, ed. France, Syrie et Liban 1918-1946 (Damascus: IFEAD, 2002). Dr. Schad has held a number of elected and appointed offices in the SSA. In addition, he serves as list editor for H-Levant.

Fred H. Lawson holds the Frederick A. Rice in the Department of Government at Mills College, Oakland, California, USA. He is the author, most recently, of Constructing International Relations in the Arab World (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006). He is also chair of the SSA Prize Committee.

Beverly Levine, New SSA Graduate Student Representative  

By Steve Tamari

Beverly Levine joined the Syrian Studies Association board during the business meeting held in conjunction with the annual MESA convention held in November 2008 in Washington, DC. Ms. Levine is a fourth-year PhD student in History at Washington University in St. Louis. She will be conducting research for her dissertation during the academic 2009-2010 academic year on the social history of medicine during the French Mandate period. Just as this issue of this newsletter went to press, Ms. Levine learned
that she had been awarded a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad in order to pursue her research. In the short time she has been on the board, Ms. Levine has demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm for our association. She contributed an article for this issue on the ways and means of carrying out a pre-dissertation exploratory trip to Syria. She has expressed interest in involving more graduate students in the work of the Association and encourages like-minded young scholars to contact her at balevine@wustl.edu.

*Steve Tamari is editor of the Syrian Studies Association Newsletter.*