

The Near East Reports...

NELC

from the Department of
Near Eastern Languages and Civilization
at the University of Washington

Volume 10

Summer, 1997

From the Chair:

NELC has a new look — a logo which we are delighted to feature here on the first page of this newsletter. The logo was designed by graphic artist and calligrapher **Mamoun Sakkal**, who is an affiliate member of the NELC faculty.

Also new in NELC is a position in Biblical Hebrew and Hebrew Bible. Beginning in 1998-99, NELC and the Jewish Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies expect to share a joint appointment in this field, made possible by the Samuel and Althea Stroum Endowment. This welcome

area of study is cause for real optimism. While the details of the permanent appointment are being worked out, NELC will have a one-year visiting position, to be filled by **Scott Noegel**. Dr. Noegel taught courses for NELC when he was a Cole Fellow in the Jewish Studies Program in 1995-96. We are very pleased to have him back and look forward to his course offerings on Hebrew, biblical topics, Themes in Ancient Near Eastern Literature, and Egyptian Hieroglyphs.

There is considerable other personnel news to report this year as well. **Terri De Young** has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Assistant Professor **Kemal Silay**, much to our disappointment, has taken a position at Indiana University. This is a great loss for our Turkish program, but we understand that he received an offer too good to turn down. We also bid farewell this year to **Charlotte Albright**, Adjunct Instructor in NELC, who has moved to Great Britain with her family. Affiliate Assistant Professor **Don Stilo**, too, has left for the Continent; he has taken a position in Goettingen, Germany, conducting research on Vafsi, a language spoken in Iran. We wish all of these colleagues of ours good luck in their new endeavors.

Next year we will welcome back Dr. **Hillel Gamoran**, who for several years has taught Introduction to the Talmud. In the coming year we will also be fortunate to host Dr. **Alma Kunanbaeva** to teach Central Asian Oral Traditions in a Changing World. Dr. **Deborah Wheeler** will

teach Introduction to Islamic Civilization, plus several other courses related to the Near East sponsored by other units on campus. Dr. **Monica Devens** will contribute to the instruction of modern Hebrew. We are pleased that Professor Emeritus **Pierre MacKay** was available to offer courses for NELC this year, and that he will continue to teach in the coming year.

We thank Dr. **Nader Nazemi** for teaching Introduction to Islamic Civilization in NELC in the past academic year, and we thank Dr. **Michael Shalev** for teaching From Zionism to Liberalism: Labor, Capital and The State in Israel. Please note, too, that many of our graduate students have taught courses for NELC this year. (See "News from our Students" for details.) Thanks to all of them for the important role they have played in our instructional program.

Finally, the leadership of the Department will also be changing. I will be taking on the position of Chair of the Jewish Studies Program starting in summer 1997. Professor **Michael Williams** has been appointed Acting Chair of NELC for 1997-98. On behalf of the entire faculty, I welcome him and look forward to working with him in the coming year.

As I wind up my responsibilities as Chair of NELC, I extend special thanks to the NELC office staff, **Jane Lund** and **Marian Schwarzenbach** for all the good work they have done to sustain the department.

Naomi Sokoloff



Professor Scott Noegel

development will strengthen the programs in both departments. NELC lost a position in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Semitics in 1983; reestablishing this very important



Prof Farhat Ziadeh received the Spirit of Liberty Award presented by the Ethnic Heritage Council on July 4, 1997 at the swearing-in ceremony for naturalized citizens at the Flag Pavilion at the Seattle Center. The award, which was presented by Representative Jim McDermott, is given to a naturalized American citizen who has contributed the most to American public life and also to his or her own heritage.



Detail of a wall tile. Near East Collection, Seattle Art Museum

The Near East Reports...

News from the Faculty 3
 From our Students 8
 Departmental Events 9
 Student Organizations 9
 Students at Model Arab League Conference 10
 Nicholas Poppe Symposium 11
 Public Lectures 12

Chairperson

Naomi B. Sokoloff

Professors

Cirtautas, Ilse D., Ph.D., 1958, Hamburg; Turkic languages and literatures.

Heer, Nicholas L., (Emeritus); Ph.D., 1955, Princeton; Arabic language and literature, Islamic theology and philosophy.

MacKay, Pierre A., (Computer Science), (Classics, Comparative Literature); Ph.D., 1964, California (Berkeley); Topography of the Near East, Ottoman Turkish and Classical Arabic literatures.

Ziadeh, Farhat J., (Emeritus); LL.B., 1940, London; Arabic language and literature, Islamic law, Islamic institutions.

Associate Professors

DeYoung, Terri L., Ph.D., 1988, California (Berkeley); Arabic language and literature.

Karimi-Hakkak, Ahmad, Ph.D., 1979, Rutgers; Persian language and literature.

Sokoloff, Naomi B., Ph.D., 1980, Princeton; Hebrew language and literature.

Assistant Professors

Silay, Kemal, Ph.D., 1993, Indiana; Turkish language and literature.

Wheeler, Brannon, Ph.D., 1993, University of Chicago; Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, History of Religions.

Adjunct Professors

Bacharach, Jere L., (History, International Studies); Ph.D., 1967, Michigan; History of the Near East.

Jaffee, Martin S., (International Studies); Ph.D., 1980, Brown University; History of Judaism and late antiquity, methods in study of religion.

Williams, Michael A., (International Studies); Ph.D., 1977, Harvard; Early Christianity and religions of antiquity.

Affiliate Professor

Andrews, Walter G., Ph.D., 1970, Michigan; Turkish language and literature, Ottoman Turkish.

Affiliate Assistant Professors

MacKay, Theodora, Ph.D., 1968, Bryn Mawr; Publications, ancient Anatolia.

Pyne, Nannette, Ph.D., 1982, Washington; Medieval Near Eastern history, geography and archaeology.

Affiliate Instructor

Sakkal, Mamoun, M. Arch, 1982, Washington; History of Islamic art and architecture.

Teaching Assistants 1996-97

Arabic: **Mostafa Elostaz,**
Suha Kudsieh,
Dustin Langan,
Amara Simons,
Ahmed Souaiaia

Hebrew: **Andrea Arai,**
Ricky Rivlin

Persian: **Hadi Sultan-Qurraie**

Turkish: **Nilufer Patterson,**
Ozlem Sensoy

Uzbek: **Hamit Zakir**

Introduction to Hebrew Bible: **Karen Winslow**

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Professor Walter Andrews has completed a new book of translations, *Ottoman Lyric Poetry*, prepared with Najaat Black and Mehmet Kalpakli (University of Texas Press). In October Professor Andrews gave a paper at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul for a conference on Translation Theory ("Starting Over Again: Some Suggestions for Rethinking Ottoman Divan Poetry in the Context of Translation and Transmission"). In March he gave a paper at the University of Chicago called "Other Selves, Other Poets, and the Other Literary History", and in May he presented "Professional Companions: The Backstage Bawdy History of Poets' Lives in the 16th Century Ottoman Court" at a Turkish Studies Association conference in Knoxville. The Turkish translation of his book, *Poetry's Voice, Society's Song*, will be published in Turkey in the fall of this year. In addition, Professor Andrews made presentations to the Turkish Circle and conducted a video interview with Turkish author, Orhan Pamuk, who visited the University of Washington in March.

Professor Jere L. Bacharach continues to serve as Director of The Jackson School of International Studies while also wearing a number of other administrative hats on and off campus. One of his most time consuming but interesting activities was chairing the U.W.'s Provost's Committee on Accountability. Accountability is a national issue and the U.W. is one of the leaders in creating measures which more accurately reflect the multiple, interrelated roles faculty have as educators, researchers, publishing scholars, and contributors to society through outreach and public service activities. Professor Bacharach's professional service included serving on the Board of Directors, Middle East Studies Association, and co-Chairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the American Historical Association's January 1998

meeting, which will be held in Seattle. Travel, as always, is part of his life, and one of the trips found him in Israel, Jordan and Kuwait, where he was negotiating with representatives of a number of universities for U.W. student and faculty exchanges.

Squeezing in time for research in addition to his administrative work and teaching responsibilities has been hard, but Professor Bacharach plans to share some of the results of his continuing work on Islamic numismatics at an international conference in Budapest in early July. It is rumored that the opportunity to visit Hungary played a part in motivating him. During the last academic year the volume he has co-edited of the papers of Martin Hinds was published by Darwin Press of Princeton. His current work also involves contributing to a volume on Islamic archaeology in Egypt which he is editing.

In Summer 1996 **Professor Ilse Cirtautas** directed the Department's Eighth Summer Program in Central Asian Languages and Culture. Since 1989 the summer programs have attracted students from other universities. Many of them subsequently entered the Department's Graduate Program. As in previous summers the languages offered were Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tajik and Uzbek. A rich extracurricular program of lectures, discussions and films immersed the students in the culture and history of Central Asia. The Summer School Performance Party, August 11, was again the highlight of the program. Students performed sketches, recited poetry and told stories in the languages they had studied. For several years now videotapes of the performances have been shown on Tashkent TV, Professor Cirtautas again received several letters of appreciation, including a personal letter from Islom Karimov, President of Uzbekistan. A generous grant from the State Department (Title

VIII), administered through the Social Science Research Council, provided fellowships for most of the students.

In September 1996 Professor Cirtautas concluded her project on "Kazakh, Kirghiz and Uzbek Advanced Teaching Materials for Self-Study." For each of the three languages she developed *A Reader in Current Affairs*, and *Listening Materials*, based on TV and Radio programs from Tashkent, Almaty and Bishkek. The project had received substantial funding from the U.S. Government through the Language Learning Center.

At the start of the academic year, in Autumn 1996, Professor Cirtautas hosted the following scholars from Kirghizstan: Dr. Aygul Musakojoeva, funded through ACCELS and Dr. Akinay Satarova, Fulbright scholar. She also was host to Dr. Dilnara Isamiddinova, IREX scholar from Uzbekistan. In November 1996 Professor Cirtautas hosted His Excellency Sodik Sofoev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States and the United Nations. She gave a reception in his honor for students and faculty and arranged meetings for him with UW administrators.

From March 8 though 14 Professor Cirtautas visited Uzbekistan as a guest of the Government of Uzbekistan. She was the official representative of the University of Washington in a delegation of Seattle's business and community leaders. In Tashkent she had meetings with high-level officials, including the Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of Culture. She also met with the new president of Tashkent State University and discussed with him revisions of the exchange agreement between the University of Washington and Tashkent State University, signed in January 1997.

She is currently finishing a book manuscript, *Historical Dictionary of Kirghizstan*, to be published by Scarecrow Press, Boston, for the series, *Asian Historical Dictionaries*.

Probably the most important change for **Professor Terri DeYoung** this year in the academic field was the official notification on April 25 of her promotion to Associ-



ate Professor with tenure in the NELC Department. She wishes to take this opportunity to thank all her colleagues whose support and encouragement over the past few years has been warmly appreciated.

In Autumn Quarter she had a chance to teach for the University's Honors Program, in a re-vamped version of a non-Western civilization course sequence that also included new offerings by Professor Karimi (in Winter Quarter) and Professor Silay (in Spring Quarter). In Winter Quarter she was able to offer a new course, for Arabic majors in the Department, on Arab-American writers, focusing on the Mahjar movement of the 1890's to the 1930's. The course looked at a number of influential American writers who emigrated from the Arab world, including Kahlil Gibran (author of *The Prophet*) and Mikha'il Nu'ayama (a 1916 graduate of the University of Washington Law School). Because of the enthusiasm and interest this course generated, Professor DeYoung hopes to be able to offer a version of it in translation for non-majors in the near future.

In Spring Quarter, Professor DeYoung was appointed a Teaching Fellow in the University of Washington's Center for the Humanities where she taught a graduate seminar in the subject of her current research: "Others or Brothers: Episodes in the History of the Islamic Encounter with Europe." This course (and the book which will emerge from it) has been exploring, through the lens of varied versions and extensions of the frame-story of *The Thousand and One Nights*—in both Western and Arabic literatures—how perceptions of the Western/Eastern "other" have been shaped by the dynamic and often tense encounters between both cultures.

In other areas of Professor DeYoung's research agenda, she recently completed her share of the editing for *Tradition and Modernity in Arabic Literature*, a collection of essays by major figures in the field of Arab literature. Her own book,

Placing the Poet: Badr Shakir al-Sayyab and Postcolonial Iraq, is due out at the beginning of 1998. In addition, she plans to submit a revised version of her Ph.D. dissertation, on the role of myth in modern Arabic poetry, for publication sometime this summer. The publication of this work will allow her to honor one of the last requests made to her by Professor Mounah Khouri before his untimely death last December. Finally, Professor DeYoung is in final stages of preparing two major articles slated for publication in the near future. The first, "Death, Love, and the Ghost of al-Khansa: the Female Poetic Voice in Fadwa Tuqan's Elegies for Her Brother Ibrahim," is due to appear in a volume of essays tentatively titled, *Literary Creativity and Social Change: Essays in Modern Arabic Literature*, edited by Wael Hallaq of McGill University. The second article, tentatively titled, "'Say! In the Name of Your Lord': Dialogue and the Generic Code of the Qur'an," should be ready for publication in the autumn.

Professor Martin Jaffee's speaking engagements this past year took him to Berlin, where he addressed the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften on "The Oral-Cultural Matrix of the Talmud Yerushalmi." The talk was part of a larger meeting of scholars from Israel, Europe and the US on "Text & Context: The Talmud Yerushalmi in its Graeco-Roman Setting." Professor Jaffee also delivered lectures at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. In his role as Chair of the Association of Jewish Studies section on "Talmud, Midrash and Rabbinics," he organized a special session on "Orality and the Shaping of Rabbinic Literature."

In 96-97 a number of Professor Jaffee's long-term writing projects reached publication. In addition to articles in *Prooftexts*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and

Theory and Method in the Study of Religions, Professor Jaffee published two books: *Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions* (Prentice Hall; co-authored with J. Corrigan, F. Denny, and C. Eire) and *Reader in Monotheistic Religions* (Prentice Hall; co-edited with Corrigan, Denny, and Eire). These books are designed to serve introductory university instruction in the comparative study of religion.

During the academic year, Professor Jaffee continued his work as Chair of the Comparative Religion Program, served on numerous Jackson School and College Committees, and spoke on various topics to such local groups as UW Hillel and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak taught a full slate of courses last year, published *Remembering the Flight* (Ayandeh Publications, Vancouver, B.C. 1997), his translations of Forugh Farrokhzad's Persian poems, and continued to work on two edited works of literary scholarship. Two of his essays, one on Persian literature in 1996 and the other a biography of the medieval Persian poet Ibn Yamin, were published, the former in *The Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook for 1996*, the latter in *The Encyclopaedia Iranica* (Volume VIII, fascicle 1). In addition, he published several Persian articles and book reviews in *Iran Nameh* and *Mehregan*.

Last year Professor Karimi presented papers at three scholarly gatherings. In November he participated in the annual conference of The Middle East Studies Association (MESA). In March and April he was invited to the University of Virginia and the University of California at Berkeley. In both universities he presented lectures on aspects of the Persian ghazal of India. At Berkeley, he also addressed the Iranian community in Northern California on his approach to modernity in Persian poetry. Beginning in Janu-



ary 1997, Professor Karimi has been asked to share his views on various aspects of Persian literature with the listeners of KRSI, the Iranian expatriate radio in Los Angeles. As part of his service to general audiences for Persian literature and Iranian culture, he participates in this program on an honorary basis every Wednesday evening by introducing a literary topic and taking calls from the listeners.

In May The Society for Iranian Studies and The American Institute of Iranian Studies jointly asked Professor Karimi to accept to be the convenor of the Second Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, to be held in Washington, DC in May 1998. The Conference will bring together scores of scholars from North America and Europe, as well as from Iran and other Persian-speaking countries.

Dr. Scott B. Noegel received a BA in Hebrew Studies and History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1989 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Semitic Languages and Literature from Cornell University in 1993 and 1994, respectively. He then served as a consultant on

ancient Egyptian language and history for the Discovery Channel's CD-ROM project Nile "Passage to Egypt." From 1995-96 Dr. Noegel pursued a post-doctorate position as the Hazel Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies in the Jewish Studies Program here at UW. In 1996-97 he was Visiting Assistant Professor at Rice University in Houston, TX. His publications include nearly thirty articles on diverse topics concerning biblical and ancient Near Eastern languages and literatures, two dozen book reviews, and a monograph on wordplay in the Hebrew Bible and other ancient Near Eastern texts ["Janus Parallelism in Job" (*JSOT* Sup 223; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996)]. Scott is now in the process of completing two additional monographs; the first on the linguistic evidence for the northern dialect of the biblical Song of Songs (co-authored with Gary A. Rendsburg of Cornell University) and the second on the ambiguous language of dream interpretation in the ancient Near East.

Mamoun Sakkal, NELC's Affiliate Instructor and renowned expert in Arabic calligraphy, has appeared in a featured guest interview on the television program *OffLine*. *OffLine*, a nationally distributed cable arts program based in upstate New York, receives local, regional, and national exposure and airs in more than forty cities nationwide. The interview focuses on Mr. Sakkal's artistic and personal history, his artistic approaches and philosophy, his reinterpretation of his Arab and Islamic heritage in modern works of art, and on his most recent accomplishments in 3-D computer design.

Mr. Sakkal's interview places him among other well-known *OffLine* interviewees, including composer Philip Glass, Kitchen co-founder Steina Vasulka, San Francisco filmmaker Craig Baldwin, New York kinetic sculptor and inventor, George Rhoads, Seattle's avante pop group Tall, and Thelma

Schoonmaker, Martin Scorsese's film editor. In Seattle, *OffLine* airs on the first and third Monday nights of every month after midnight at 12:30 am on TCI, Channel 29. For more information see: <http://www.lightlink.com/offline>.

In March of 1997 Mr. Sakkal launched an Internet web site about Arabic calligraphy, with articles, calligraphic prints, Arabic calligraphy clip art, and instruction on calligraphic design. The site is visited by more than a thousand viewers every month, and has allowed Mr. Sakkal to do calligraphic and web design work for clients in Japan, the Netherlands, and Saudi Arabia. For more information see: <http://www.sakkal.com>.

His calligraphic art was included in the "Art by Architects" exhibition at Seattle AIA, and was prominently featured in the Autumn 1996 issue of *Arts and the Islamic World*, the premier magazine about Islamic art published in London. The article reviewed the exhibition "Inscription as Art in the World of Islam," in which Mr. Sakkal displayed his calligraphic work, gave a workshop demonstration, and delivered a paper about "Arabic Calligraphy in the Digital Age."

In addition to designing the new logotype for NELC, he designed logotypes, posters, and covers incorporating Arabic calligraphy for Islamic Media Foundation, Al-Jadid Magazine, Arabic Yellow Pages, and Islamic Society of North America.

Assistant Professor Kemal Silay continued to teach Turkish and Turkish Literature in Translation to a sizable number of students in the 1996-97 academic year. In the Spring Quarter, he also offered Cultural History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey to 35 students as part of the Honors Program's "History of World Civilization" sequence.

After the publication of his book, *An Anthology of Turkish Literature*, which was welcomed with great enthusiasm by specialists of Medieval and Modern Near

Eastern Literatures, he continued working on his many other ongoing publication projects. He finished editing *Turkish Folklore and Oral Literature: Selected Essays of İlhan Başgöz*, which is currently in print and scheduled to appear by the end of 1997 from Indiana University Press. Also scheduled to appear very soon is his article entitled, "Singing His Words: Medieval Ottoman Women Poets and the Power of Patriarchy," in *Women in the Ottoman Empire* (edited by Madeline Zilfi (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1997)). In addition, he has finished a review of Orhan Pamuk's "The New Life," which will appear in *World Literature Today*. The *Cultures of Islam* project, which is under contract with the University of Washington Press, continues to advance. This book, edited by Silay and Nanette Pyne, is expected to be published in 1998.

Professor Silay's most recent project is *Turkish Poetry on CD-ROM*, for which he received an Institute of Turkish Studies grant. He will be traveling this summer to Turkey to collect video and audio data which he will digitize and edit upon his return. He also expects to record interviews with several contemporary poets of Turkey and digitize them as video clips for the CD-ROM.

Among his numerous academic presentations this year were: "Behind the Veil of Rhyme: Ottoman Women Poets," delivered at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, sponsored by the Middle East Center and the Department of Comparative Literature (October 3, 1996); "The Study of Ottoman Poetry: Prospects for the Twenty-First Century," at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association in Providence, Rhode Island (November 22-24, 1996); "'All Poets Are Liars': Negotiating Challenges in the *Divan-i Mihri*," at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association as part of the panel entitled, "Comparative Poetics in Middle Eastern Poetries"; "Waking the Dead: (Re)Creations of



AATT Bulletin edited by Professor Kemal Silay

Ottoman Court Poetry and the Politics of Postmodernism," at the American Comparative Literature Association Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (April 10-13, 1997); and "The 'Destruction of Ottoman Literature' in Modern Turkey: A Postmodernist Myth," at Princeton University (April 23, 1997). Professor Silay also gave a presentation on the "Usage and Production of Multimedia in Teaching Language and Literature" at the "Central Asian Language Pedagogy Workshop" organized by the Social Science Research Council (June 6-7, 1997) in Washington, D.C.


Professor Naomi Sokoloff has been appointed Director of The Jewish Studies Program at the University of Washington for a three-year term, beginning in 1997-98. In her research she has been pursuing work in two sometimes overlapping areas: the first is popular fiction by Jewish writers, and the second is literary representations of Israelis by American Jews and of American Jews by Israelis. Her recent publications dealing with these issues include "Jewish Mysteries: Detective Fiction by Faye Kellerman and Batya Gur" (*Shofar*

Summer 1997) and "Sleuths and Sages: Detective Fiction by American Jewish Women" (accepted for publication in *Midstream*). She is guest-editing an issue of *Shofar* on the topic of Israel and America as perceived in one another's literature.

Over the past year Professor Sokoloff has presented aspects of her work at a number of conferences and public lectures: "Israel-Diaspora Relations: Unraveling the Mystery of the Other" (at The Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly, Seattle, Nov. 1996); "Investigating Israeli Society: The Detective Fiction of Faye Kellerman and Batya Gur" (at the NELC Colloquium, Nov. 1996); "Jews in American Popular Literature: The Detective Fiction of Rochelle Majer Krich" (at the AJS convention, Boston, Dec. 1996); "Popular Fiction by American Jewish Women" (at the Western Jewish Studies Association, Tucson, April 1997); "Investigating Jewish Identity: Detective Fiction in Israel and America" (at "Many Voices, Many Choices," a symposium organized by Hadassah, UW, April 1997). Professor Sokoloff has helped organize a panel on "The Americanization of Israel" for the MESA annual conference in San Francisco (Nov. 1997), and will present a paper there on "Detecting Cultural Difference: Crime Fiction in Contemporary Israel." This interdisciplinary session is sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies. In addition, she will participate in a panel called "Translating Israel: On the Reception of Hebrew Literature in America" at the AJS convention in Dec. 1997.

Professor Sokoloff continues to serve on the board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies, and she is a member of the Board of Directors of Hillel, Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

After teaching advanced Arabic and a seminar on "Knowledge and Authority" during the Fall quarter, **Professor Brannon Wheeler** traveled to Kuwait to spend nine months as a Visiting Professor at the College of Shariah and Islamic Studies, Kuwait University. While in Kuwait, Brannon has been giving public and university



lectures, auditing courses, speaking to faculty at the College of Shariah, and pursuing research on Islam in contemporary Kuwaiti society. In part, this research includes a study of Islamic road signs, mosques, and Islamist movements in Kuwait. He has also been continuing his research on the growth of the Quranic sciences and their relation to the development of Islamic law.

While abroad, Professor Wheeler has been invited to deliver a number of lectures in the Middle East and North Africa. In February he delivered a lecture entitled "*al-'Aql fi ikhtilaf al-fuqaha 'ala takhrij ahkam al-shariah min usuli-ha*" at the Ashab al-Qalam in Hawally, Kuwait. In April he gave a series of lectures in Arabic at the University of Sidi Muhammad b. Abdallah (Fes), Ibn Zuhr University (Agadir) and at USIS (Rabat), all in Morocco. In May he is giving a series of lectures at the University of Sana'a in Yemen. He has also been invited to present a paper on the Quran and Torah at the Institute for Graeco-Oriental and African Studies in Neopoli of Laconia at the University of Ionnina in Greece, and his paper on "Heavy Eyeballs and Regurgitating Fish" was accepted for presentation at the 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. Brannon was also fortunate to visit Dubai, Cairo, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi to further some of this research.

Professor Wheeler's first book, *Applying the Canon in Islam: The Authorization and Maintenance of Interpretive Reasoning in Hanafi Scholarship*, was published by SUNY after he joined the faculty at the UW. His article entitled, "Moses or Alexander?" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, and another article, "The Jewish Origins of Quran 18:60-65?" was finished and accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. Brannon continues his work as editor for the Islam section of *Religious Studies Review* and his editing of a contributed volume on *Teaching Islam as a Religion*.

Deborah L. Wheeler was awarded a Council on the Foreign Exchange of Scholars Senior Fulbright Research Grant to Kuwait for 1996-97. Dr. Wheeler is studying "New Communications Technologies and the Security of Islamic Values," a topic upon which she is currently writing a book. In Kuwait, she has had a position as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Political Science. She has given several lectures at the University and has served as a consultant and advisor on Information Technology and Society issues at several government organizations and private sector corporations. Moreover, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has invited her to return to Kuwait to be a keynote speaker at a conference they are organizing for spring of 1998 on Kuwait's Information Future. Deborah has been asked by one of Kuwait's leading thinkers, Dr. Muhammad al-Rumaihi, and the Ministry of Information to apply jointly for a research grant from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science to focus upon the impact of satellite TV and the Internet on Kuwait's national consciousness and global economic future.

In the course of the year, Dr. Wheeler has been the guest of the American Cultural Center in Damascus, Syria, where she delivered two lectures. The first was entitled, "*al-Shabakah wa al-bahth al-'asri*" and the second, "The Economic Impact of the Information Age on the Middle East." Over 70 people attended each lecture and learned about a technology which is still officially illegal in Syria. The Moroccan-American Commission invited her to lecture at the University of Fez, the University of Agadir, and the U.S. Embassy in Rabat.

In addition to work on the information revolution in the Middle East, Dr. Wheeler is preparing for publication a book for the University of Texas Press, entitled, "*The Diplomacy of Popular Culture in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*." The expected publication date is 1998.

This year Dr. Wheeler experimented with publishing an article in a new electronic journal called "*Monitors, A Journal of Human Rights and Technology*" (<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~monitors>) which has given her the opportunity to reach a global audience. The article published with *Monitors* is called "In Praise of the Virtual Life?" It looks at the development, spread and impact of new communications technologies in the Islamic world, focusing upon the economic, political and cultural effects of the Internet and satellite TV. In the future she plans to publish another article electronically in which video images drawn from her research in the Vanderbilt University Television News Archive can be included as visual and audio texts.

Dr. Wheeler looks forward to returning to the UW to teach two new courses: one on Islam and Technology, which will focus on responses in the Islamic world to the Age of Information, and another on the Global Information Infrastructure project, which will consider the impact of the Virtual Age on processes of international relations.

Professor Emeritus Farhat J. Ziadeh continued his research in Islamic law and institutions. His article entitled, "Compelling Defendant's Appearance at Court in Islamic Law", which compared Islamic law and Roman law on the subject, appeared in *Islamic Law and Society*. He completed a chapter on Islamic law and jurisprudence to be included in the proposed volume edited by colleagues Nanette Pyne and Kemal Silay on Islamic civilization. He conducted a seminar session at The Jackson School, taught one reading course, served on a Ph.D. committee, and is presently assisting two graduate students in reading courses. He was the main speaker at a function honoring the late Professor Nouri Alkhaledy at Portland State University, and lectured to various schools and civic groups in the Seattle area. As a service to the profession, he reviewed the work of colleagues at other institutions for purposes of publication or promotion.

Maureen Jackson, a student of Professor Kemal Silay, was awarded the James W. Redhouse prize for best progress in the Turkish language for 1995-96 by the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages and the Turkish Studies Association.

Zamyat Kirby received a grant to study Arabic in Tangier, Morocco this summer in a program administered by Georgetown and the American Institute for Maghribi Studies.

Elmira Köchümkülkizi is a graduate exchange student in NELC. Her area of concentration is the oral literature of the Central Asian Turkic peoples. Upon receiving her M.A. in June, 1998, Elmira is planning to go back to her home country, Kirghizstan, and teach at the University of Humanities in Bishkek. On May 23 and May 26, 1997 Elmira performed Kirghiz songs accompanied by the *komuz* (three-stringed fretless lute) and recited episodes from the epic *Manas* at the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle.

Amara Simons has completed her second year of studies in the Department. It has been a busy year for Amara, as she has assisted with the Elementary Arabic course, both in the Summer with Nancy Dietrich, and in the Fall and Winter Quarters with Ahmed Souaiaia. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Amara has served as a Staff Associate in the Language Learning Center, where she helped to organize and maintain NELC audio and video resources, as well as to explore the latest advances in pedagogical technology.

Amara has been awarded a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for the Summer, 1997 and for the 1997-98 academic year. This summer, Amara will travel to Morocco to study Colloquial Moroccan Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic at the Arabic Language Institute in Fes. She will return in the Fall to complete the requirements for the Master's degree. Amara plans to graduate from the Department in June of 1998 with a major concentration in Arabic, a minor concentration in Hebrew, and a

specialization in the translation of medieval literary texts.

Hadi Sultan-Qurraie completed his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature in Spring 1997. His dissertation, "*Modernity and Identity in Azeri Literature: Mo'juz of Shabustar and the Iranian Constitutional Era*," focuses on an Iranian Azeri poet who has virtually remained unknown in his homeland, let alone anywhere outside it. Mirza Ali Mo'juz of Shabustar (1874-1934) was an Iranian Azeri poet who chose to write his poetry not in Persian, the dominant language in modern Iran, but in Azeri Turkish which had been historically suppressed as a means of literary

communication. Besides introducing Mo'juz to the non-Azeri audience, Hadi's dissertation tries to define a locus for the poet in the literature of the Iranian Constitutional Era.

As a full-time Teaching Associate Dr. Sultan-Qurraie is teaching Persian in the NELC Department. Hadi has been active in NELC lecturing on the topics relevant to his area of research. His paper on "The Problems of Identity and the Azeri Authors of Post-Constitutional Iran" presented in the 1996 meeting of MESA was applauded by many listeners, and he had interviews with *Shabake-ye Aftab* (A Persian TV Channel) as well as Voice of America's Azeri program. Hadi

Student Fellowships

Erdag Gökner has received a William Chester Fritz Scholarship for 1997-98 from the College of Arts and Sciences, to pursue his studies in the field of Turkish.

The following M.A. and Ph.D. students have received Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowships to further international education: **Tasia Asakawa**, **Elmira Köchümkülkizi**, **Özlem Sensoy**, **Suha Kudsieh**, and **Ben Smith**. In addition, **Özlem Sensoy** has received a W.W. Stout Fellowship from The Graduate School to supplement the Schwartz award in support of her study and research in Turkey. NELC gratefully acknowledges the support of The Graduate School.

Incoming M.A. student, **Deirdre MacDonald**, has been awarded a NELC Fellowship.

Incoming M.A. student, **Scott Prada**, has been awarded support from the Nicholas Poppe Fund.

Sally Farhat has been awarded a Batteh Scholarship for 1997-98.

Ken Petersen has been appointed a GSA with the Language Learning Center.

The following students have been appointed as TA's in NELC in 1997-98:

Arabic:	Alex Elinson, Suha Kudsieh
Hebrew:	Ricky Rivlin
Persian:	Fevziya Barlas
Turkish:	Erdag Goknar (Fall and Spring) Özlem Sensoy (Winter)



DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

taught in Portland State University last summer and he will teach in Berkeley in the Summer of 1997.

During the 96-97 year Ph.D. student **Karen Winslow** taught Introduction to the Hebrew Bible at the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University and Women in the Christian Tradition at Seattle Pacific University. In March she delivered a lecture to the Seattle Pacific University community on "Eve: Temptress or Mother? Traditions of Interpretation." This spring she is scheduled to present a paper at the Regional AAR/SBL entitled: "Qumran's Authoritative Texts: Scriptures or Canon?"

Patricia J. Woods completed her qualifying and general exams and became a doctoral candidate in February 1997, at which time she completed her tenure as Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison for the Middle East Center. She helped to found the Graduate Student Organization of the Association for Israel Studies, of which she is interim president. She published a book review of Harvey Goldberg, ed., *Sephardim and Middle Eastern Jewries: History and Culture in the Modern Era* (Bloomington, 1996) in *New Perspectives on Modern Turkey*, April 1997. She also completed a second book review, *Gad Barzilai, Wars, Internal Conflicts and Political Order: A Jewish Democracy in the Middle East* (SUNY 1996), forthcoming in *The Middle East Journal*, Summer 1997. Patricia received a Social Science Research Council Predissertation fellowship to travel to Israel and research the conflict between the Supreme Court, the Rabbinical Court, and Israeli society over the place of religious personal status (family) law in the civil laws of the state of Israel.

Congratulations to the following students for completing B.A.'s in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization in the past year:

Victor Angel
Lisa Beck
Elmira Köchümulkizi
Gregory Sund

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Turkic & Turkish Student Organizations:

As has been the tradition for several years at the UW three student organizations concerned with informing themselves and others on new developments in Central/Inner Asia met weekly during the 1996-97 academic year. **The Student Association for Inner Asian Studies**, which became part of the **Türk Studies Group**, met regularly on Wednesdays. The organization's president, **Özlem Sensoy**, a graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, put together an ambitious program of traditional music from Central Asia and Turkey. **Elmira Köchümulkizi** gave a concert of traditional Kirghiz songs (April 16), and a local group of Turkish musicians, **Yeni Sez**, played traditional Anatolian music.

The Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group, founded in 1991, met regularly on Thursdays. The program focused in Autumn 1996 on recent developments in Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan. Dr. **Aygul Musakojoeva**, ACCELS-scholar and economist from Bishkek, discussed "Aspects of Kirghizstan's Economy" and Dr. **Akinay Satarova**, Fulbright scholar from Kirghizstan, presented a lecture on "Kirghizstan's State and Private Institutions of Higher Learning." The two visiting scholars also participated in a panel discussion on a "View on Kirghizstan: Current Situation and Prospects" (Oct. 10).

Two meetings were assigned to the discussion of new publications in Kazakh and Kirghiz, introduced by graduate students and Professor **Ilse Cirtautas**. Later in the year several lectures focused on healthcare in Central Asia. On January 30, Dr. **Lloyd P. Johnson** of Seattle discussed "Health Care Reform in Kirghizstan" and on February 6, **Nancy Nervsveen**, a Registered Nurse from the Swedish Hospital in Seattle, talked about her personal experiences in bringing medical relief to Kazakhstan. The topic of healthcare in Central Asia was also taken up by Dr. **Murad Yunusov**, of Tashkent, who talked about his experiences as a physician in Uzbekistan at an **Uzbek Circle** meeting, May 16.

Other presentations of the Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group included a joint meeting with the Uzbek Circle and the Türk Studies Group on "Current Resources for Research on Central Asia," presented by **Mary St. Germain**, University of Washington Libraries (February 14), and a meeting, jointly organized with the Uzbek Circle, offering a discussion on the "The Ethnic Conflict in Osh 1990," led by Professor **Ilse Cirtautas**.

The Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group is also publishing the *Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Bulletin*. Its forthcoming issue is devoted to the Kirghiz author Chingiz Aitmatov and includes articles by our graduate students **Erdag Göknar**, **Tasia Asakawa** and **Elmira Köchümulkizi**.

During 1996-97 the Uzbek Circle met weekly to hear lectures on and discuss Uzbek politics, culture, and society. Some of the more memorable meetings were "The New Uzbek Alphabet," "Architectural History of Tashkent," and "Current Resources for Research on Central Asia." Next year the Uzbek Circle and the Kazakh /Kirghiz Studies Group will become subgroups of the Central Asian Studies Group.

The **Persian Circle** had a number of distinguished visitors during the past academic year. In the fall, Mr. **Mohammad Nouri**, the renowned Iranian vocalist and folk singer, brought to us a medley of the songs he has



STUDENTS GARNER ACCOLADES AT THIS YEAR'S MODEL ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE

The 10th annual Pacific Northwest Model of the League of Arab States was held at St. Martin's College in Lacey, Washington this year. Our delegation, composed of **Suha Kudsieh** (Ph. D. Student, Near and Middle Eastern Studies), **Aaron Hudson** (MA student, Middle East Studies, Jackson School of International Studies), **Josie Hendrickson** (Senior, Comparative Religion, Jackson School), and **Brenda Pierce** (Senior, Middle East Studies, Jackson School) was recognized for its expertise on Jordan, its exemplary oratory proficiency, and its tenacious, nose-to-the-grindstone efforts. This team received the Certificate of

collected and sung over the last forty years or more. His concert, held on November 9, 1996, was attended by over 200 people, both from within the campus community and from outside.

Winter quarter's events were headed on January 4, 1997 by an evening of reading by **Simin Behbahani**, Iran's foremost female poet. The other notable event of the Winter quarter was an evening of lectures, recitals and musical performances commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Iranian poet Forugh Farrokhzad. Held on February 22, 1997, the evening featured noted literary critic **Houra Yavari**, musicians **Bahman** and **Susan Azadi**, and veteran radio and television personality, **Iraj Gorgin**.

On March 2, 1997 The Persian Circle, aided by contributions from the community, sponsored a special lecture by the controversial Iranian thinker **Abdolkarim Soroush**, whose views on state and religion have stirred up one of the most lively debates of the last two decades in Iran. Dubbed "the Martin Luther of Iran" by *The New York Times*, Dr. Soroush spoke to an audience of about 200 interested individuals on the topic of "Freedom, Pluralism, and Islamic Thought."

The Persian Circle also held weekly meetings during the academic year. In these gatherings, a variety of topics ranging from recent political developments in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, to music in Iranian films, to cloning were discussed among the members and other people interested in speaking and hearing the Persian language.



Recognition as an Outstanding Delegation to the Model Arab League. Individually, **Aaron Hudson**, **Brenda Pierce** and **Josie Hendrickson** won Outstanding Delegate awards. Congratulations to all.

The model is one of fifteen held across the United States annually. It is similar to the Model United Nations, and each participating school represented one of the Arab League member states. This year, the delegation from the UW represented Jordan.

Approximately nine universities and colleges from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon participated in the three-day event. Numerous interests of the Arab League were discussed at this year's conference. These included political issues (conflict resolution over the islands in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf), economic issues (creating an Arab Free Trade Zone), social issues (education reform), security issues (democracy and stability), and Palestinian affairs. The keynote speaker was Professor John Damis of Portland State University, who spoke to the delegates about the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Next year's Model Arab League is tentatively scheduled to be held at Shoreline Community College. If anyone has any questions regarding the Model Arab League, feel free to contact Brenda Pierce at Hanan@u.washington.edu.

The Near East Reports...

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Production: Marian Schwarzenbach
Graphics/Design: Mamoun Sakkal



**NINTH NICHOLAS POPPE
SYMPOSIUM ON INNER
ASIAN/CENTRAL ASIAN
STUDIES**

The University of Washington's Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Inner/Central Asian Studies drew scholars and students from universities around the country, including Harvard and New York University. Established in honor of the famed Central Asian scholar, Nicholas Poppe, the symposium marked its ninth consecutive year on May 3rd. It was organized by the UW Central Asian Studies Groups, (the Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group, the Uzbek Circle, the Türk Studies Group and the Persian Circle) and was sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Center, The Middle East Center, and The Jackson School of International Studies. Papers were presented on topics varying from traditional healing among the Kazakhs to the political organization of steppe culture, the novels of Chingtiz Aitmatov, and current issues affecting women in Central Asia. Themes included identity, culture, myth, politics, and gender. **Kagan Arik** (University of Washington) presented "Aspects of Healing Among the Kazakhs of Xingjiang;" **Gerald Filitti** (New York University) presented "Perestroika, Independence and Revival of Islam in Uzbekistan;" **Helen Fallor** (University of Michigan) presented "Cultural Space and Family Narrative: Kazakhs Negotiate Identity." The question-and-answer sessions were lively, and at times took the form of debates. Of the ten presenters, one was Kazakh, one Kirghiz, one Tajik, and two were Turkish. The organizers are already planning for next year's symposium, which they hope to make into a two-day event.



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229 Denny Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

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Thank you to the following for their generous contributions to NELC: Ilse Cirtautas, Naomi Sokoloff and Doug Berry, The Georgia-Pacific Corporation, James McNelis, Jacalyn M. Carroll and Habitat for Humanity.

The Department thanks Pierre MacKay for his generous donation of Arabic books to the NELC Library.





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PUBLIC LECTURES:

In 1996-97 the department co-sponsored a number of public lectures. These included:

Professor **Richard Frye** (Harvard University): "Aspects of Central Asian History"

Professor **Uli Schamiloğlu** (Indiana University): "The Rise and Fall of Islamic Turkic Civilizations in Medieval Eurasia" and "The New Orientalism: The Study of Islam in Central Asia"

Professor **Sumru Özsoy** (Bogazici University, Istanbul):
"Subutay: An Emerging Turkish-Uzbek Pidgin?"

Peter Cole: "Ask the Dead and They'll Tell You:
Readings From the Selected Poems of Shmuel
Ha-Nagid"

Dr. Deborah Wheeler: "In Praise of Virtual Life: New
Communications Technology and The Informa
tion Revolution in the Islamic World."

NELC thanks our co-sponsors for these events, including The Jewish Studies Program, UW Hillel, Creative Writing, Romance Languages, The Middle East Center, and the Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies.

Also in 1996-97, in its fifth year as a forum for faculty and advanced students to present their research, The NELC Colloquium presented Professor Naomi Sokoloff, speaking on "Investigating Israel Society: The Detective Fiction of Faye Kellerman and Batya Gur," and Hadi-Sultan-Qurraie, speaking on "The Problems of Identity and Azerbaijani Authors of Post-Constitutional Iran."



Professor Richard Frye (at left).