

The Near East Reports...



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

Volume 11

Summer, 1998

From the Chair:

This has been a year of significant transition in the department, including transition in leadership. In Autumn of 1997 I accepted the position as Acting Chair of NELC, following on the splendid service of Naomi Sokoloff, who at the same time began a term as Chair of the Jewish Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies, and in Autumn of 1998 I begin a regular five-year term as Chair of the department. The learning curve has seemed steep at times, but the patience and support of a wonderful faculty and staff have made this past year a very enjoyable one.

A major part of the challenge in this past year was constituted by three national searches to fill faculty positions, an unusually large number for a department of this size. There was the new joint appointment with Jewish Studies in Biblical Hebrew and Hebrew Bible, announced in the last issue of this Newsletter, and made possible by the Samuel and Althea Stroum Endowment. We were thrilled that this search was successfully completed with the hiring of Scott Noegel as Assistant Professor. By now Scott is well-known to most folks associated with Near and Middle Eastern studies at UW, having been a post-doctoral Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies in 1995-96, and having returned here this past year (after teaching in 1996-77 at Rice University) to be Acting Assistant Professor during our search for a permanent appointment. For many of us who have been on this faculty since the 1970's, the filling of this position is especially meaningful, since it is a restoration of a vital area of curricular coverage lost during cutbacks in the 1980's. Prof. Noegel has established a reputation as an exceptionally talented and enthusiastic teacher and a superb colleague, and we look forward to tremendous benefits

that his addition will bring to NELC, Jewish Studies, and Comparative Religion, among other programs.

The second national search, to fill the position in Turkish language and literature, is still in progress. Three excellent candidates have been brought to campus for interviews and none has been eliminated from consideration, but a variety of factors conspired to extend the search process into the Autumn of 1998. Meanwhile, I am particularly grateful that our Turkish program has been able to rely on language instruction by superbly qualified teaching assistants, and on seminar contributions and general advisory support from Affiliate Professor Walter Andrews, one of the most respected figures internationally in the field of Turkish literature.

Finally, the third search has recently been successfully concluded with the appointment of **Nadia Yaqub** as Lecturer Part-Time in Arabic language. Ms. Yaqub has a proven record as an excellent Arabic language teacher at Berkeley, where, in addition to her teaching during the academic year, she coordinated the summer Intensive Arabic Program for three years. She is scheduled to have completed her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, in August 1998. Her dissertation (advisor Muhammad Siddiq, formerly a faculty member in NELC at UW) is entitled "Drinking From the Well of Poetry: Tradition, Composition and Identity in the Practice of Oral Palestinian Poetry Duels." In addition to working on the completion of her dissertation, Ms. Yaqub has spent the last year, funded by a grant from the Berkeley Language Learning Center, in preparing Web-based materials for the study of Advanced Media Arabic. She therefore also brings valuable expertise in the area of computer technology for

the support of Arabic language instruction. Another exciting dimension of Nadia's addition to our faculty is that she will also be



Lecturer in Arabic Nadia Yaqub

serving as the coordinating lecturer for a new, federally funded distance learning initiative for interactive video instruction in Arabic, which our Middle East Center has contracted with Montana State University in Bozeman and several other Northwest regional colleges and universities, over the next two years. And the Middle East Center is providing funds for her also to teach a course on Middle Eastern folklore in the Spring Quarter of 1999. This Part-Time Lecturer position has been supplied to NELC by the Dean's Office for two years, and we hope that it can become permanent and expanded to full-time. Student demand for Arabic has been increasing, and the addition of this position not only will accommodate more adequately this rising demand, but also will help free our other Arabic faculty, Professors Terri DeYoung and Brannon Wheeler, to meet the crucial and expanding curricular needs in Arabic literature and Islamic studies.

These three positions are indicative of only some of the vital transformation and growth underway in NELC. The Modern Hebrew program is thriving under the direction of Naomi Sokoloff, with significant increases in 1997-98 in first-year enrollments. The achievements of Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, leader of our Persian program, were recognized this year with his promotion to Full Professor. And our program in Central Asian studies continues to be recognized as an international resource, under the enthusiastic and devoted guidance of Ilse Cirtautas.

We have a relatively young and extremely talented faculty in a department with a distinguished past, built on the pioneering accomplishments of such leaders as Professors Emeriti Farhat Ziadeh, Nicolas Heer, and Pierre MacKay. We are definitely now poised for a new and different chapter, and I think it promises what may be some of the most exciting advances in the NELC's history. I want to thank all of the NELC family who have been so supportive during my "on the job" learning during this past year. Special mention should be made of my gratitude to our office staff, Jane Lund and Marian Schwarzenbach, for their skills, good nature, and their willingness always to go the extra mile. On behalf of all in the department, I offer special thanks also to architect and designer Mamoun Sakkal, an affiliate member of the faculty, for once again generously donating time and talents in laying out this Newsletter for publication.

Finally, while thinking of the past, present and future of the NELC "family," I note with great sadness the tragic passing on January 17, 1998, of Theodora MacKay, Affiliate Assistant Professor in NELC, and wife of Professor Pierre Mackay. Theo was a very active contributor to and supporter of Middle Eastern studies at the University of Washington. She was a member of the Middle East Studies Program, and served on the editorial board of the UW's Middle East publication series. She is missed.

Michael A. Williams

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Chairperson

Michael A. Williams

Professors

Bacharach, Jere L., (Adjunct); Ph.D., 1967, Michigan; History of the Middle East, Islamic history

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Associate Professors

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

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

Assistant Professors

Noegel, Scott, Ph.D., 1995, Cornell University; Hebrew Bible, ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures

Wheeler, Brannon, Ph.D., 1993, University of Chicago; Islamic studies, comparative religion, late antiquity, Jewish studies, legal studies.

Lecturers Part-Time

Wheeler, Deborah, Ph.D., 1993, University of Chicago; Political science and Middle Eastern studies

Yaqub, Nadia, Ph.D. expected 1998, Berkeley; Arabic language, Arabic oral poetry, Middle East folklore

Heinrichs, Timothy, Ph.D., 1991, UW; Introduction to Islamic Civilization, A97

Visiting Lecturer

Devens, Monica, Ph.D., 1978, UCLA; Elementary Modern Hebrew, A97 – Sp98

Affiliate Professor

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

Affiliate Assistant Professor

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

Affiliate Instructors

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

Sultan-Quarraie, Hadi, Ph.D., 1997, University of Washington; Persian language and literature

Teaching Assistants 1997-98

Arabic: **Suha Kudsieh**

Amara Simons

Ahmed Souaiaia

Alexander Elinson

Hebrew: **Ricky Rivlin**

Persian: **Fevziye Barlas**

Turkish: **Erdag Goknar**

Ali Igmen

Özlem Sensoy

Uzbek: **Hamit Zakir**

Introduction to Hebrew Bible: **Karen Winslow**

Readings in Ottoman Turkish: **Hurriet Gokdayi**

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Among the courses taught by **Professor Ilse Cirtautas** during 1997-98 were Intermediate Uzbek and Middle Turkic, a new "Introduction to Kazakh and Kirghiz Oral Literature," and a new seminar on



Chingiz Aitmatov (left) with Prof. Cirtautas and Mikhail Gorbachev at the Issyk Kul Forum

Central Asian Oral Epics. Her research included a volume containing translations by herself and her graduate students of contemporary Uzbek short stories, with introductions and notes, scheduled for publication by University of Washington Press in late summer of 1998. Her paper on "New Publications on the Epic 'Manas,'" appeared in *Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Bulletin* Vol 2:2, pp. 21-24, and she is scheduled to present a paper on "The Kazakh Minstrel Aqan seri (1843-1913)" at a conference on the "Cultural Heritage of Central Asia" in October 1998 in Lake Arrowhead, CA. She continues her research on "The Concept of the Hero in Mongolian and Central Asian Turkic Epics," and for her *Historical Dictionary of Kirghizstan*. In July 1997 she participated in the Issig Kul Forum held in Bishkek, Kirghizstan. The Forum organized by the well-known Kirghiz writer Chingiz Aitmatov is similar in scope and purpose to the Rome Forum. This year's meeting was attended by the presidents of Turkey and Kirghizstan, as well as by Mikail Gorbachev, the last president of the former Soviet Union. Professor Cirtautas organized and directed a

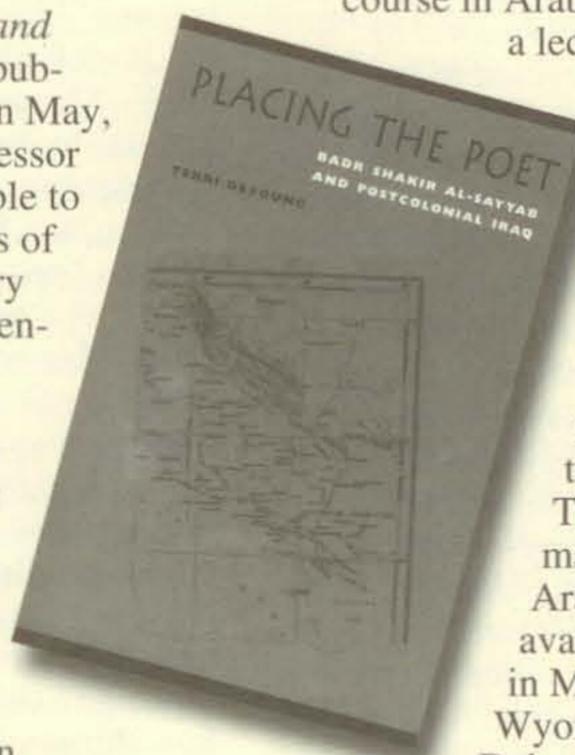
panel on Chingiz Aitmatov at the 29th National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, held in Seattle in November 1997. She also organized and presided at the

Tenth Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central/Inner Asian Studies held at UW in May 1998. Professor Cirtautas was honored with election as Board Member of the International Timur Association, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and in June, 1998, she

welcomed to campus a delegation of distinguished government and educational leaders from Tashkent, as part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Seattle and Tashkent. In Summer 1998 Professor Ilse Cirtautas again directed the Department's Summer Program in Central Asian Languages and Culture.

Professor Terri DeYoung's monograph, *Placing the Poet: Badr Shakir al-Sayyab and Postcolonial Iraq*, was published by SUNY Press in May, 1998. In this book Professor DeYoung makes available to a wider public the works of a major twentieth century poet who has been influential not only in Iraq, but throughout the Arab world. She has applied some of the more recent theories of postcolonial criticism and cultural theory to Sayyab's work, to show their applicability to the understanding of modern Arabic literature in general. Her earlier book, *Tradition and Modernity in Arabic Literature* (edited with

Issa Boullata), has begun to receive favorable reviews in the professional journals and was recently recommended in *Choice* (March, 1998) for purchase by college and university libraries with comparative literature programs. Professor DeYoung is currently finishing three articles: on the Palestinian poetess Fadwa Tuqan, on a dialogic reading of the Qur'an, and on the cross-cultural reception of *The Thousand and One Nights*. While on sabbatical in Autumn 1998 and Spring 1999, she will be working on a new book project. In Winter 1999 she plans to teach two literature courses, "Nationalism and Colonialism in the Modern Arabic Novel," and "The Crusades in a Cross-Cultural Perspective." This past year Professor DeYoung represented NELC on both the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Governing Council (where UW was an outgoing member) and the CASA Fellowship Selection Committee (on which UW will serve through 2000). She is serving as advisor and coordinator for a new distance learning project in Arabic. With a two-year grant from the National Security Education Program, Montana State University at Bozeman has contracted with our Middle East Center to develop a course in Arabic language, with a lecturer/coordinator



at UW instructing students at regional colleges and universities by means of interactive video and aided by on-site teaching assistants. This project will make first-year Arabic instruction available to campuses in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and North Dakota where it has not been practical to offer it before. In addition, Professor



DeYoung is working with members of the Seattle School District staff to help them develop programs for teaching Arabic in area K-12 schools. Finally, she is exploring with her colleagues nationally the possibility of making Arabic teaching materials available on the Web, as part of a project called the Arabic Language Network, which is being coordinated out of Johns Hopkins University.

Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak was promoted this year to Full Professor. He served this past year as Acting Director of the Middle East Center at the Jackson School of International Studies. He taught the classical Persian literature series (PRSAN 454-56) as well as Elementary and Intermediate Persian. In June, 1997, the two major academic organizations active in scholarship on Iran, namely the American Institute of Iranian Studies and the Society for Iranian Studies, asked him to chair the Program Committee for the Second Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies. Largely due to his efforts, the Conference, held May 22-24, 1998 in Washington, D.C., turned out to be a huge success, bringing together scholars engaged in the study of Iran and Iranate cultures in all disciplines and historical periods from all over the world. Professor Karimi also completed work as guest editor of a special issue of *The Journal of Iranian Studies*, devoted to introducing the topical literature of Iran in the last two decades to English speakers. This special issue, due to be out in September 1998, is the first of its kind in the *Journal's* 31-year history. In addition, Professor Karimi continued work on a major study of the interplay between censorship, pedagogy and literature in contemporary Iran, and wrote articles for *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, *The Encyclopedia Iranica*, and *Iran-Nameh*. He is currently editing a collection of essays on the modernist Iranian poet Nima Yushij (1887-1960). His recent book, *Recasting Persian Poetry*, was recognized at the

November MESA meetings by receiving the runner-up award for the prestigious Saidi-Sirjani book prize. Within the field of Persian/Iranian studies the Saidi-Sirjani award, given by the Society for Iranian Studies, is the highest recognition a scholar can achieve from his/her peers.

In addition to lecturing widely for UW departments and programs, and for local community groups, **Professor Scott Noegel** has this year taught courses on biblical Hebrew, themes in Near Eastern literature, hieroglyphic Egyptian, and the kings of monarchic Israel. During the year Professor Noegel published six scholarly articles, eight book reviews, and a series of entries for the forthcoming *Reader's Guide to Judaism* (Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers). He was recently awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for his national television arts screening *OffLine*. Currently, he is completing a monograph on dream interpretation as reflected in ancient Near Eastern literature, and also editing a book of collected essays on wordplay in Near Eastern texts. During the summer he is also filming an artistic recreation of the Epic of Gilgamesh, following a format similar to his impressive earlier recreation of the Descent of Ishtar.

Professor Naomi Sokoloff began a three-year term as Chair of the Jewish Studies Program in July, 1997. She was honored in the autumn by being elected Vice President for Membership of the Association for Jewish Studies, and she has been named Book Review Editor of *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*. This year Professor Sokoloff edited a special issue of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (16,2: Winter 1998), called "Israel and America: Cross-Cultural Encounters and the Literary Imagination." This volume contains essays on Jewish writing in the 1990s, focusing on how American Jews have perceived Israel, and how Israeli Jews have viewed America and the American-

ization of Israel. Further pursuing her interests in these topics, Professor Sokoloff presented a talk on "America in the Israeli Imagination" at a conference at Tel Aviv University in May 1998 devoted to "Fifty Years of Israeli Literature." In addition, she participated in a panel at the AJS annual meeting on "Translating Israel: Reflections on the Perception of Israeli Literature in America," and at the NAPH annual conference she spoke on a panel concerned with "Rethinking the Curriculum: Teaching Hebrew Literature in Translation." Professor Sokoloff's contributions to the field of Jewish literature were recognized this year in two entries—"Judaic Studies" and "Literature Scholars"—that appeared in *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, edited by Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore (Routledge, 1997). Her own article on "Popular Fiction" also appears in this encyclopedia.

After returning from Kuwait last year, **Professor Brannon Wheeler** has continued to teach courses Islamic Studies. In March of this year, he organized a successful workshop on Integrating Islamic Studies into Liberal Arts Curricula, bringing to the UW an international group of distinguished scholars. This workshop is leading to the creation of a new undergraduate concentration in Comparative Islamic Studies at the UW. Professor Wheeler's article on interpretation in Islamic law, in Arabic, appeared this year in an edited volume entitled *Ashab al-Qalam* (Kuwait, 1997). He also has two articles appearing: "Moses or Alexander? Some early Islamic Exegesis of Q 18:60-65" in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 57.3 (1998): 191-215 and "The Jewish Origins of Q 18:65-82? Reevaluating Arent Jan Wensinck's Theory" in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (July 1998). His article entitled "'The New Torah': The Quran and other Revealed books in early Islam," is scheduled to appear in the *Journal of the Greek Oriental*

Society, Graeco-Orientalia 9 (1998). He continues his work as editor for *Religious Studies Review*, and has recently been named editor of a new series in *Comparative Islamic Studies* for Cassell Publishers. This summer, he is working on an article for the journal of the St. Petersburg Society for Byzantine and Slavic Studies, *Byzantinorossica*. He has also been invited to present a paper, "The land in which you have lived: inheritance of the Promised Land in classical Islamic exegesis," at the 11th Annual Klutznick Symposium this Fall. In between painting the house and rebuilding two decks, Brannon is also completing a book length manuscript on Biblical prophets in the Qur'an entitled "A Prophet Like Moses."

Professor Michael Williams assumed responsibility as Acting Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization in September 1997, and has now agreed to a five-year term as Chair of that department. This year he was President of the Pacific Northwest Region of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, and his presidential address, delivered at the meetings at the University of Portland in May, was entitled "Stories and Secrets, Books and Canons in Ancient Christianity." In March he gave a lecture on "Codices and the Canonizing Process: Two Case Studies from Ancient Christianity" at the Divinity School, University of Chicago. His presented a paper on "Negative Theologies and Demiurgical Myths in Late Antiquity" at the national meetings of the AAR/SBL in San Francisco, November 22-25. Among his currently projects is an article on the "Nag Hammadi Codices and Related Texts" contracted for *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. His most recent book,

Rethinking "Gnosticism": An Argument for Dismantling a Dubious Category (Princeton, 1996) is scheduled to appear in a paperback edition in 1999.

Professor Emeritus Farhat J. Ziadeh was honored by being awarded the prestigious Mentoring Award at the meetings in San Francisco (Nov 22-25) of the Middle East Studies Association. The



Prof. and Mrs. Ziadeh and Prof. Jere Bacharach

wording of the award recognizes Professor Ziadeh's "exceptional contributions to the education and training of others in Middle East Studies." It notes "his example as a researcher, perennially curious and excited by discovery, while keeping to rigorous methodology," and "the rare combination of deep knowledge of his field with a warm heart." Professor Ziadeh is acclaimed as "an outstanding mentor who represents and fosters the finest of Middle East Studies scholarship." This award was instituted only last year, and each year is bestowed on one scholar in the field. All associated with this department over the past several decades are well aware of how fitting is this award, and how deeply indebted education in Middle East Studies here and elsewhere is to the contributions Professor Ziadeh. Among his other activities during this past year, he was invited in October 1997, to give a paper at a conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London on "Mulazama, or the Creditors' Pursuit of Debtors in Islamic Law."

Affiliate Professor Walter Andrews traveled to Turkey during September and early October 1997, where (among other things) he met with the poet Hilmi Yavuz to put the finishing touches on a book of translated selections from the latter's poems. The book is now finished and is being considered by publishers. During winter quarter, Professor Andrews attended a conference at Princeton in memory of Professor Allin Luther on the subject of Nizami of Ganja and presented a paper on Nizami and Fuzuli ("Layla Grows Up: Nizami's Layla and Majnun 'in the Turkish Manner' "). He completed and submitted an article entitled "Contested Mysteries and Mingled Dreams" to a festschrift for Talat Halman being produced at Columbia. He is also editing and contributing to a volume of essays on Turkish literature, which will be completed at the end of the summer 1998. We are also very grateful to him for having served during 1997-98 as faculty advisor for our Turkish program, and for teaching a graduate seminar in winter of 1998 on "Culture Between Ottomans and Turks." Professor Andrews has agreed to serve in a similar capacity during 1998-99.

During the last academic year **Adjunct Professor Jere L. Bacharach** gave scholarly presentations at the International Congress of Numismatists in Berlin, the International Congress of North African and Asian Studies in Budapest, and at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, in Los Angeles. He published an article in the Jordanian journal, *Yarmouk Numismatics*. He was honored with election as President of the Middle East Medievalists. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, while stepping down as a Board member, MESA and Treasurer, Society for Iranian Studies. Locally, he was appointed to the City of Seattle Sister City Association and continues as President, Washington World Affairs Fellows. His one major Middle East



trip was a ten day visit to Yemen from San'a to the Wadi Hadramaut which he found fascinating.

Adjunct Professor Martin Jaffee was appointed on July 1, 1998, for a three year term as Samuel and Althea Stroum Professor of Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies, where he teaches in both the Comparative Religion and Jewish Studies Programs. His research focuses on the role of oral tradition in the early shaping of Rabbinic Judaism. During the 1998-99 academic year he will be on sabbatical leave with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Prof. Jaffee has chaired the Comparative Religion Program since 1991 and will resume that position upon his return from sabbatical. He has recently been invited to be the Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecturer in the Humanities for the Spring quarter of 1999.

Affiliate Instructor Mamoun Sakkal gave a paper, "Muqarnas in Aleppo: Early Examples" at the MESA National Convention in San Francisco. His paper "Geometry of Ribbed Domes in Spain and North Africa" will appear in the *Journal of the History of Arabic Science* published by the University of Aleppo and due out this Summer. He lectured on "Muqarnas: Geometries of Space and Light" at the University of Washington, and about "Preservation Resources on the Internet" at Historic Preservation Week held at the Everett Public Library. Mr. Sakkal's Web site about Arabic Calligraphy attracted more than 20,000 visitors in its first year (www.sakkal.com). An article about the site appeared in *Al-Jaddeda* Magazine of London. He lectured and led workshops on calligraphy at University Presbyterian Church, School of Architecture at UW, World Languages Day at UW, and the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. A one man show of Mr. Sakkal's calligraphic artwork took place at The Gallery, University of Texas in Austin. The show was featured on the evening

news of Austin's local TV station and was reviewed in *Anbaa Al Arab* newspaper published in Los Angeles.

Affiliate Instructor Hadi Sultan-Qurraie's Ph.D. dissertation, "Modernity and Identity in Azeri Poetry: Mo'Juz of Shabustar and Iranian Constitutional Era," received "honorable" mention from Foundation of Iranian Studies, and is under contract to be published soon. Dr. Sultan-Qurraie has also recently edited and written the Introduction for *Selected Works of Bakhtiyar Vahabzada*, just published by Indiana University Press, Turkish Studies Publications. This is in fact the second edition of this collection, which earlier was published without direct reference to the Azeri identity of the poet and without any reference to the Azeri literature or poetry tradition. After having pointed out this fact to the publishers, Dr. Sultan-Qurraie was invited to edit and introduce the new edition. The second edition has now highlighted Vahabzada's Azeri identity, and includes a general discussion by Dr. Sultan-Qurraie's of the nature of Azeri literature. Of Vahabzada's work, the volume contains 24 poems, 5 ruba'is, 4 short stories and a play, and also includes comments on his work from *The New York Times* as well as the poet's autobiographical note. Hadi has donated a copy of the volume to NELC's library.

In September of 1997 **Lecturer Part-Time Deborah L. Wheeler** completed her year as a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher at Kuwait University where she was investigating "New Communications Technologies and the Security of Islamic Values." During the year she gave several invited lectures in Morocco, Syria, and Toronto, and held meetings with members of the Kuwaiti ruling family. Dr. Wheeler gathered enough materials for a book-length manuscript on Kuwait's unique transition to the Information Age, as well as several related articles, including "Global Culture, Global Clash: New Communications Technologies and the Islamic World—A View from Kuwait,"

forthcoming in *Communication Research*. In March of 1998 she returned to Kuwait at the invitation of the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research to present a paper entitled "The Social Impact of the Internet in Kuwait," at an international conference on "Kuwait's Conference on Information Superhighway." Dr. Wheeler presented versions of her Kuwait research in several other invited lectures—in October on Orcas Island, in February at the University of Chicago, and in June at the American Association of Engineering Educators Conference in Seattle. At the MESA meetings in San Francisco she chaired a panel on "The Americanization of Israel." In Autumn 1997 she taught a new course on "Islam and Technology," developed from her research in Kuwait, and she plans another in Winter of 1999: "Islam and Cyberspace." During 1997-98 she also served as a consultant on Middle Eastern issues for two locally-based multinational corporations who plan to do business in the Gulf.

During the academic year 1997-98, **Visiting Lecturer Monica Devens** taught elementary modern Hebrew and the summer intensive elementary course. She experimented with a new approach to this course, introducing the concept of a "culture curriculum" in addition to traditional language mastery. This past year she has prepared for publication a practical manual, a pronunciation guide for Torah readers, and is continuing work on a concordance to the Ethiopic Bible. She hopes to complete work on the Book of Psalms in the coming year.

Mark Wegner was the Visiting Costigan Lecturer in Middle Eastern History during 1997-98. Mr. Wegner was finishing his dissertation on "The Debate Over the Revival of the Caliphate in Egypt, 1922-26," from the University of Chicago. Among his course offerings during the year was a contribution benefiting students of Arabic language: "Readings on the Modern Middle East in Arabic" during Spring Quarter.

Our hearty congratulations to all the following students in NELC who received their M.A. degrees this year. This year's was a rather large and impressive class of graduates: **Tasia Asakawa** has been accepted into the Ph.D. degree program at the UW in the Department of Geography. **Alex Elinson** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Columbia University, where in Autumn 1998 he will begin his degree work focusing on Arabic and Hebrew literature of Medieval Spain. Alex has also been awarded a TAship in Columbia's Arabic Language program. Before departing for New York, Alex served one more time as T.A. in Arabic here, for NELC's Summer 1998 intensive language program. **Suha Kudsieh** graduated from the M.A. in March, and has moved on to further graduate studies at the University of Toronto. The most immediate plans after graduation for **Ricki Rivlin** involved motherhood, and we are pleased to note the birth of her son Yonathan, born June 10, 1998! **Özlem Sensoy** received a Stout fellowship and studied in Istanbul, Turkey during Autumn 1998. She has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Indiana University, to study Turkish literature and translation theory. **Amara Simons** received a FLAS for the 1997-98 academic year, and she assisted Professor DeYoung with the Elementary Arabic course during Spring Quarter. This summer Amara is teaching Intensive Elementary Arabic with fellow graduate, Alex Elinson. Amara is another of our graduates who has been accepted into the Indiana University Ph.D. program in Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, and in August Amara and cats will head east to Bloomington. **Ken Petersen** has accepted a position with the ACTR/ACCELS (American Council of the Teachers of Russian/American Council for the Collaboration of Education and Language Study). He will be based in Washington, D.C. where he will serve as Webmaster and developer of language-learning materials for the Internet in Central

Asian Turkic and Persian. Three of our graduating M.A. students were accepted into UW's own Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies: **Fevziye Barlas, Erdag Goknar, and Elmira Köchümkul(ova)**. Fevziye will be working on contemporary Persian literature in Afghanistan, especially related to the war. She served as TA for both intensive Tajik and Persian for Native Speakers in the Summer 1998 language program. Fevziye also published articles last year in Carvan, a newspaper published by Afghani in the L.A. area. Erdag will be doing research during Autumn Quarter on East/West cultural

dilemmas in the 20th century Turkish novel at Bogazici University, Istanbul. Elmira will focus her doctoral studies on Central Asian oral epic literature. In 1997-98 Elmira was president of the Central Asian Studies Group. She gave performances of Kirghiz traditional music and recitations from oral literature at a conference on "Civil Society in Central Asia in Washington, D.C., and lectured and performed also at Washington State University. We are extremely proud of all of these graduates from our Master's program, and extend very best wishes to them as they move on to their next challenges!

Student Fellowships and Assistantships:

Kagan Arik was the recipient of an Elizabeth Kerr MacFarlane Scholarship in the Humanities for 1998-99 to support him in the final stages of his dissertation work.

The following M.A. and Ph.D. students were awarded Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowships for 1998-99: Tolga Esmer, Erdag Goknar, Hurriyet Gokdayi, and incoming student David Hunsicker.

Incoming student David Hunsicker was also awarded a Nicholas Poppe Fellowship.

Natasha Younes has been awarded the Bateh Fellowship for 1998-99.

Incoming M.A. student Talgat Imangaliev has been appointed the Graduate Student Associate with the Language Learning Center.

The following students have been appointed as teaching assistants for 1998-99:

Arabic:	Margaret Hirsch, Ahmed Souaiaia, Mostafa Elostaz.
Hebrew:	Roei Ganzarski, Magid Shihade
Persian:	Fevziye Barlas
Turkish:	Kagan Arik, Erdag Goknar (Sp 99)

FROM OUR STUDENTS

Tolga Esmer has received a Summer FLAS fellowship, and will be studying at Bogazici University during 1998-99.

Two of our students in Arabic, **Julie Coons** and **Daryl Mutton**, have received fellowships to study Arabic at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad in Cairo for the full academic year in 1998-99. Julie had already spent the 1997-98 academic year in the Arabic Language Institute at the American University in Cairo through the UW exchange program.

Two of our undergraduates were inducted this year into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest honor society. One of these is graduating senior **Lyn Eisenhauer**. This summer Lyn will earn a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, plans to travel to Turkey to work in the fall, and hopes in a few years to return to school to do graduate work in Turkish Studies. Another inductee, **Tobias Kammer**, is also a major whose emphasis is on Turkey. Tobias will graduate in June 1999 and plans to continue his studies at the University of Washington Law School.

In addition, both Lyn and Tobias were among the NELC majors on the Dean List for 1997-98. The other two NELC majors with this achievement were **Ellen Kuperstein** and **Nick Toombs**. Congratulations to all of these students on being honored for their outstanding academic performance.



Masonry muqarnas portal, Madrasa al-Adimiyya, Aleppo. Photo by Mamoun Sakkal

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Central Asian Languages group** is proud to present a language-learning site for Uzbek on the Internet. The site features over 60 minutes of Real Audio and Video files, comprehension activities and interactive dialogs. This learning tool was created by graduate student, Ken Petersen along with the help of our exchange student from Tashkent, Dilbar Akhmedova. You can visit the site at: <http://gaudi.llc.washington.edu/uzbek/uzb>.

Presentations in 1997-98 sponsored in association with the Central Asian group included: Talgat Imangaliyev, NELC, "Internet Resources on Oil and Gas in Kazakhstan"; Ken Peterson, NELC, "On the Jadid-Movement in Uzbekistan"; a round-table discussion with scholars and students from Central Asia, chaired by Kagan Arik, Ph.C., "Language Situation in the Central Asian Republics Since their Independence"; Hamit Zakir, "Influence of Jadidism Among the Uyghurs of Xinjiang"; Helen Faller, Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, "Ismail Bey Gasprinski (Gaspirali) and Mir Said Sultan Galiev: Two Tatar Jadidists in a Colonized Setting"; Ilse Cirtautas, "Kazakh & Kirghiz Animal Stories: A Reflection of the Life of Central Asian Nomads"; Professor Gulnara Kuzibaeva, United Nations' Family Planning Specialist, "Population Growth in Uzbekistan: Causes and Consequences"; Maria Kozhevnikova, Graduate Student, REECAS, "Russia's Policy Towards Kazakhstan"; Ken Peavler, Peace Corps, "My Experiences as One of the First Peace Corps Volunteers in Kirghizstan, 1993-1995"; Oliver L. Wei, Sea Peace Corps, "As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan 1995-1997"; Dilaram Sansizbayeva, Visiting Scholar from Kazakhstan, "Some Economic and Political Aspects of Kazakhstan: Oil and Gas Sector"; Nargiza Yusupova, Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics, Tashkent: "Uzbekistan: The Road to Market Economy." Dr. Charles Carlson, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Prague), "RFE/RL After the Cold War," and "Development in Tatarstan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan"; Iris Beybutova, Fulbright Scholar from Kirghizstan, "Building a Civil Society in Kirghizstan"; Askar Kusainov, Fulbright Scholar from Kazakhstan, "Kazakhstan's Economy Development Until the Year 2030"; Risbubu Beybutova, Kirghiz National State University, Bishkek: "Needs for Changes in Kirghizstan's Higher Education."

The **Persian Circle** sponsored a succession of important activities during the year. In Autumn 1997 there was a lecture by Dr. Baqer Parham on the topic of "The Intellectuals in Today's Iran," and a showing of "Tide and Tranquillity," the latest film by the internationally acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Reza Allamehzadeh. In November, Fereydoun Moshiri, perhaps Iran's most popular living poet, was at UW to give a reading from his works. Weekly meetings of the Circle featured eight gatherings wherein members or guests gave talks or led discussions on a variety of cultural and literary topics. The regular weekly gatherings in Winter Quarter included discussions on topics ranging from the legendary Iranian hero Rostam to relations between Afghanistan and Iran, to Islam among Iranians in America. In January there was a special panel discussion on "Women in Contemporary Iran," featuring



Pianist Ariana Barkeshli

Professors Fatemeh Keshavarz (Washington University, St. Louis) and Nayereh Tohidi (UC, Northridge). In April, with support from ASUW, GPSS, NELC and the Middle East Center, the Persian Circle sponsored a return visit by Saba, Breeze of the East, a folk and contemporary musical ensemble performing Iranian, Azerbaijani and Central Asian songs. In May there was a special program of piano and poetry recital by two prominent artists, poets Yadollah Royai and pianist Ariana Barkeshli. In June the Circle hosted another return visit by political theorist Farrokh Negahdar. In July, Simin Behbahani, Iran's outstanding and outspoken woman poet also revisited our campus to read her poetry to immensely enthusiastic crowds.

WJSA CONFERENCE SET FOR MARCH 14-16, 1999

Over 150 scholars from the United States and Canada are expected to attend the fifth annual conference of the Western Jewish Studies Association March 14-16, 1999 on the UW campus, hosted by the Jewish Studies Program. Proposals for presentations from all areas of Jewish Studies are invited; areas of special interest include: a) Sephardic Studies; b) Canadian Jewish Studies; c) studies of Jews in the Pacific Northwest, and d) pedagogy and curriculum development in Jewish Studies. One of the highlights of the conference will be a keynote speaker co-sponsored by the WJSA and the Association for Jewish Studies. For more information or registration, contact the chair of the program committee, Prof. Naomi Sokoloff, Box 353120, UW, Seattle, WA 98195-3120, or naosok@u.washington.edu.

PUBLIC LECTURES:

Public lectures sponsored or co-sponsored in 1997-98 by NELC included:

Professor Evelyn Accad, U. Illinois, Champaign-Urbana: "The Women's Movement in Tunisia"

Dr. Michael Carasik, Ph.D. Brandeis University, "The Bible in Five Dimensions."

Fred R. Dallmayr, Packey Dee Professor of Government, University of Notre Dame: "Liberation

Beyond Liberalism: Voices from Islam and Buddhism"

Dr. Walter Feldman, U. Pennsylvania, "The Indian Style and the Creation of the Ottoman Literary Canon"

Selim S. Kuru, Ph.C. Harvard University, "On the Margins of the Canon: Deli Birader, Scholar and Author in the Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Empire"

Dr. Scott Noegel, UW, "The Exegesis of Dreams in Biblical Israel and the Ancient Near East."

WORKSHOP ON ISLAMIC STUDIES HELD

On March 6-8, 1998, UW hosted a national workshop on "Integrating Islamic Studies into Liberal Arts Curricula," sponsored by NELC, UW's Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, and the Jackson School of International Studies, including the Comparative Religion, the Middle East Studies, and the South Asia Studies programs. Organized by Prof. Brannon Wheeler of NELC, the highly successful workshop attracted scholars and participants from many regions and institutions. Included were papers on "The Training of Teachers of Islam in the Liberal Arts" (A. Kevin Reinhart, Dartmouth); "Teaching Islam in the Multi-Cultural Classroom" (Jane McAuliffe, Toronto); "Teaching Jewish Studies: A Comparative Case" (Martin Jaffee, UW); "Muslim Women through Literature" (Zayn Kassam, Pomona College); "Study of Islam and the Study of Religion" (Carl Ernst, NC Chapel Hill); "Regional Foci in the Representation of Islam" (Bruce Lawrence, Duke); "Islamic Studies in MESA" (Anne Betteridge, U. Arizona); "The Pre-modern/Modern Divide in Teaching Islamic Studies" (Ahmet Karamustafa, Washington U.); "Political and Theological Aspects of Teaching Islam" (Jonathan Brockopp, Bard College); "Understanding Islam through Comparative Theology" (Richard Martin, Emory); "Non-traditional Teaching Technologies" (Scott Noegel, UW); "Linguistic, Interdisciplinary, and Cultural Conundrums of Teaching Islam" (Tazim Kassam, Colorado College); "Building Islamic Studies Programs" (Ernst, Lawrence, and Martin).



Dr. Adem Hakan Ozoglu, University of Chicago, "Pre-existing Ties and Kurdish Nationalism: A Study on Kurdish Notables in the Post World War I Era"

Dr. Carol Selkin, Ph.D., Duke University, "Purification Installations in Graeco-Roman Palestine."

GIFTS TO DEPARTMENT:

NELC has been the beneficiary of several gifts during the year, and we take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to these donors: **Professor Ilse Cirtautas** made very substantial monetary donations, especially in the form of matching funds for support of graduate students in Central Asian Studies. Also making very generous contributions to these matching scholarship funds were **Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak** and NELC alumnus **Mr. Conrad Jacobsen**.

We thank UW alum **Dr. Rosalind Gwynne** for her continuing commitment in donations to the Department, and **Professor Bilal Ayyub** and **Mrs. Deena Ziadeh Ayyub**, **Mr. Albert Abed** and **Mrs. Shireen Abed**, and **Mr. George Salem** and **Mrs. Rhonda Ziadeh Salem**, for their gifts again this year to the Ziadeh Fund. We offer our thanks to **Affiliate Assistant Professor Nannette Pyne**, who has donated to the departmental library a beautifully bound set of *Al-Kamil fil-Tarikh*, by Ibn al-Athir. The twelve volumes plus index were printed in Beirut, leather-bound and gilt-embossed. In addition, we are extremely grateful to **Professor Emeritus Pierre MacKay**, who also gave a large number of very important research volumes to NELC's library.

The Afrassiabi Fund for Persian Studies

NELC's Persian program received this past year a gift in the amount of \$1000 from the Afrassiabi family, in memory of Mr. Hooshang Afrassiabi, a highly respected leader in the Iranian community in Seattle and a longtime supporter of Persian studies in NELC. Mr. Afrassiabi died in Seattle on February 14, 1998. He received his Bachelor degree in Persian literature from Shiraz



University, and in his lifetime put his literary talents to work both as journal editor and as author. But he also earned a degree in Administration from Tehran University, and his career included significant contributions in government service. Hooshang Afrassiabi held important positions in the city of Shiraz, including the office of Mayor. After retirement in 1979, he and his family moved to America and settled in Seattle. We are thrilled to announce that one of his sons, Dr. Ali Afrassiabi, has indicated that he intends to pledge \$25,000 over five years to create an endowed fund in honor of his father, to be used to support the study of Persian civilizations. In addition to this pledge Dr. Afrassiabi has indicated that he will continue to give \$1,000 or more to NELC's annual fund so that various activities in support of Persian studies can continue to thrive. As an initial use of these funds, the Department will establish a \$500 annual prize for the best essay written on any topic related to Iranian studies, broadly defined. Details of this prize will be announced in October 1998. Another \$500 will be used to sponsor lectures related to the study of Persian language and literature and Iranian culture and civilization. The Department offers its sincerest thanks to the Afrassiabi family for their very generous gift and the much-appreciated support it brings to Persian studies at the University.

The Near East Reports...

Editor: Michael A. Williams

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

Sponsored by the Central Asian Studies Group (including Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies and the Uzbek Circle), the Turkish Studies Group, the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program, and the Jackson School of International Studies, the Tenth Annual Poppe Symposium was held on Saturday, May 9, 1998 in Denny Hall. Established in honor of famed Central Asian scholar, Nicholas Poppe, the symposium was once again attended by an international slate of participants. There were presentations on city planning in Tashkent (Nimat Akmalov, Mayor's Office, Tashkent), land reform and water management in Kirghizstan (Tasia Asakawa, UW), Kazakstan's trade policy (Dilyaram Sansybayeva, National Bank of Kazakstan), nationalism and epic songs in Central Asia (Maria Kozhevnikova, UW), Russian nationalism and Eisenstein's "Ivan Groznyi" (Helen Faller, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), minority rights and the Uighurs of Xinjiang (Rajen Pareck, Columbia University), intellectual antecedents of Turkestani Jadidism (Ken Petersen, UW), the Kazak Minstrel Aqan Seri (Ilse Cirtautas, UW), Central Asian Turkic wisdom literature (Elmira Köchumkul(ova), UW), and the concept of "Qut" among the Kazaks of Xinjiang (Kagan Arik, UW).