

The Near East Reports...

NELC

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

Volume 12

Summer, 1999

From the Chair:

The pages that follow reveal that 1998-99 was a very full year for NELC. Last year in this space I focused particularly on three national searches that reflected important transitions underway: one that had led to the hiring of Scott Noegel in the new Hebrew Bible and ancient Near East position, joint with Jewish Studies; another to the hiring of Nadia Yaqub as part-time lecturer in Arabic language; and the search, still ongoing at that time, for someone in Modern and Ottoman Turkish. It is a pleasure to report here on positive impacts resulting from the first two of these moves, as well as to announce how excited we are about the success this past year in the third search. Selim Kuru of Harvard University joins our faculty this autumn to fill our position in Turkish. Selim is superbly qualified to meet our special needs for someone with strong expertise in both Modern and Ottoman studies. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. in Turkish language and literature at Bogaziçi University, Istanbul, and is completing his Harvard dissertation under Professor Engin Sezer on an Ottoman work of the early 16th century by Gazâlî, an important scholar and literary figure of that era. He also taught Modern Turkish during his years at Harvard, and he has intellectual interests that range widely into several other areas that make him an excellent match for both the immediate needs in NELC and related units as well as for the Department's long-range vision and goals.

You will find inside reports about two important new curricular options for NELC majors that will begin this year. One of these, the new concentration in Biblical Hebrew and Ancient Near East Studies has become possible because of the addition last year of Scott Noegel to the faculty. The other is the new con-

centration in Comparative Islamic Studies, crafted by Brannon Wheeler. It is one of the fruits of recent initiatives such as last year's CIS year-long seminar that received crucial support from the Simpson Center for the Humanities. The faculty feels that these two new options will prove very attractive to many students, meet the needs of some existing and potential majors more adequately, and expand the Department's base of service to the student body.

The half-time Arabic lecturer position occupied by Nadia Yaqub has made possible huge strides in both the restructuring of our campus program in Arabic language and our crucial role in the federally funded distance learning project in Arabic language (joint with Montana State University and other institutions in the region). Dr. Yaqub did an outstanding job leading both projects, and the only regret to be noted is that, as it turned out, she herself could not continue with us beyond the first year due to her husband's acceptance of a wonderful position on the East Coast. Nadia is a friend and colleague who really will be missed. However, taking over her position will be Ahmed Souaiaia, a doctoral student in UW's Near and Middle East Studies Ph.D. program, whose exceptional skills and long experience with our Arabic program here render him superbly qualified to take us to the next level in these efforts.

All of these initiatives will now be progressing within an environment framed by a very exciting innovative

agenda. As announced below, NELC has been awarded a two-year "Tools for



Selim Kuru

Transformation" grant to supply resources for the development of new language software, web resources, and other tools to advance the teaching of Near East languages in general. Several were involved in drafting the proposal, and many will be involved in the project's implementation, but special credit must go to Scott Noegel for his enthusiastic and talented leadership on this front.

A few personal notes: It is my pleasure to congratulate Terri DeYoung on her appointment as new Director of the Middle East Center, a critically important role that I am sure she will fulfill superbly, and also to congratulate Naomi Sokoloff on her much-deserved promotion this year to the rank of Full Professor. I also welcome to the NELC roster adjunct member Joel Walker,

from the Department of History, who has been an eminently active contributor of ideas, time and energies in NELC and in collaborative academic ventures with this faculty. As usual, but not perfunctorily, I express a special thanks to our Administrative Assistant Jane Lund, who often seems to me to be the only truly indispensable member of the Department, and to Elaine Franks for her work on the production of the newsletter and the outstanding job she has done as secretary and receptionist. And I thank Mamoun Sakkal, for again so generously donating his time for the layout work for this publication. We feel extremely fortunate that a professional so skilled as he will be leading us with respect to the technical dimensions of our "Tools" project.

Finally, I wish to offer a special word of thanks to all of you who have been supporters of NELC through contributions to one or more of its funds. In reading the contents of this publication there is reason for considerable pride in the remarkable achievements of the faculty, staff and students in NELC over the past year, and for unusually high expectation about what lies ahead. I hope you share that sense because you are reading about things that you have had a huge share in making possible. I might also mention that many of you will be receiving or may already have received a letter from the University regarding its Annual Fund campaign. I just want you to know that you may participate through that campaign and still designate "Near Eastern Languages & Civilization" or one or more of our specific funds, as the target(s) of your donation. Or of course you may use the form at the end of this newsletter for this purpose. In any event, the partnership of each and every one of you is sincerely appreciated, and continues to make an enormous difference.

Michael A. Williams

The Near East Reports...

News from the Faculty	3
From our Students	7
Departmental Events	8
Student Organizations	8
Public Lectures	13
Gifts to Department	13



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.
Sokoloff, Naomi B., Ph.D., 1980, Princeton; Hebrew language and literature.
Williams, Michael A., Ph.D., 1977, Harvard; Early Christianity and religions of antiquity; Coptic language.
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.

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; Arabic; 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

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 1998-99

- Arabic: **Ahmed Souaiaia**
Mostafa Elostaz
Amara Simons
 Hebrew: **Magid Shihade**
Roei Gonzarski

- Persian: **Fevziye Barlas**
 Turkish: **Kagan Arik**
Erdag Goknar
 Uzbek: **Dilbarkhon Akmedova**
Hamit Zakir
 Kirghiz: **Elmira Kochumkulova**

Introduction to Hebrew Bible: **Karen Winslow**

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

During the academic year 1998-1999 Ilse Cirtautas developed and offered four new courses: "Central Asian Turkic Literature in Translation" (for the Honors Program), "Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan in Transition," "Stalin's Purges of Writers and Intellectuals in Central Asia," and a course on "Central Asia Through the Eyes of Western Travelers of the 19th Century." In addition to developing new course materials, she devoted most of her time to graduate students, two of whom, Hamit Zakir (Asian L & L) and Kagan Arik (Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies) defended their Ph.D. dissertations in spring 1999. She continued to serve as Faculty Advisor for the Central Asian Studies Group which met Thursdays and Fridays, and herself contributed three lectures for the group in Winter 1999: "The Kazakh Intellectuals Axmet Baytursinuli (1872-1937) and Mirjaqip Dulatuli (1885-1935)"; "Anti-Stalinism in the Works of Chingiz Aitmatov"; and "Stalin's

Kirghizstan who visited in autumn 1998. She also continues to serve as Vice President of the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City, and in May 1999, she was honored by being elected a member of the International Chingiz Aitmatov Academy, Bishkek, Kirghizstan, the major institution in Central Asia for the study and promotion of Kirghiz oral and written literature. She also was also invited to deliver a keynote address at the Permanent International Altaic Conference, in Prague, August 1999. She is currently working on two important book manuscripts. One of these, a *Historical Dictionary of Kirghizstan*, is near completion and the other is a translation of Uzbek short stories.

Terri DeYoung was on sabbatical in autumn 1998 and spring 1999, working on a new book-length project exploring the stereotypical images the West and the Arab world have had of each other through history, as represented in their respective literary works. She has

also recently completed articles on: "Love, Death

Essays in Modern Arabic Literature, ed. Wael Hallaq and Kamal Abdel Malik (summer 2000); "T.S. Eliot in Arabic: A Bibliographical Essay," in *The Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*, ed. Salih J. Altoma (summer 1999); and "Rhetoric, Tradition and Power in the Poetry of Ma'ruf al-Rusafi," in *Modern Iraqi Literature: A Collection of Critical Essays*, ed. Saadi Simawe (autumn 2000). She is also currently at work on an entry about Najib Mahfuz's *Midaqq Alley for the encyclopedia African Literature and Its Times*. In January her monograph *Placing the Poet: Badr Shakir al-Sayyab and Postcolonial Iraq* won one of the 35th annual *Choice* awards as an "Outstanding Academic Book of 1998," a distinction given to less than 3% of the titles submitted for review by *Choice*. The review praised the book as "a much-needed, revisionist, fresh look at the history of modern Arabic literature," which "should be required reading for all students of the literature, culture, and history of the modern Arab world." After another sabbatical quarter in autumn 1999, she returns to teach advanced Arabic, and two literature courses: "Survey of Classical Arabic Literature," covering a number of important works in pre-

Islamic poetry, religion, court poetry and prose, and the *Thousand and One Nights*; and "The Crusades in a Cross-Cultural Perspective," comparing representations of the Crusades in literary and historical works of Byzantine, Muslim and Western European writers. In August 1999, she and Ahmed Souaiaia (NELC's new Arabic lecturer) were in Bozeman, MT, to train the TAs employed by the Arabic language distance learning project. She also traveled to Ifrane, Morocco in July to assist in setting up the program at al-Akhawayn for students who completed the first year of distance learning course. This year she begins a three-year term as Director of the Middle East Center in the Jackson School of International Studies.

program at al-Akhawayn for students who completed the first year of distance learning course. This year she begins a three-year term as Director of the Middle East Center in the Jackson School of International Studies.

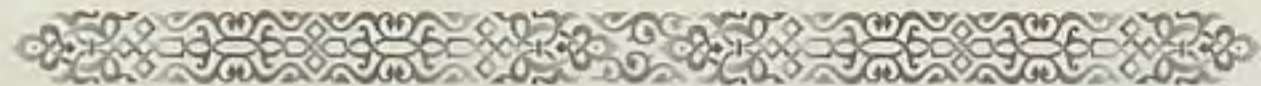


Al-Akhawayn University campus.
Photos by Terri De Young

Policies of Terror in Central Asia." She also organized and funded receptions for various dignitaries from Central Asia, such as the Ambassadors to the United States of the Republics of Uzbekistan and

and the Ghost of al-Khansa: the Female Poetic Voice in Fadwa Tuqan's Elegies for Her Brother Ibrâhîm," to appear in *Literary Creativity and Social Change*:

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY



Among publications by **Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak** appearing during 1998-99 was a special double issue of *Iranian Studies* of which he was the invited guest editor. The volume features a representative sample of Iran's literature in the last two decades, and contains an introductory essay by Ahmad in which he presents a theoretical framework for viewing topical literature as a distinct literary genre, one that highlights the texts relevance to the sociopolitical events of its immediate context. He has also contributed over ten works of his own to this issue. In addition, he published several articles last year, including "Exile and Imagination: Three Poetic Response to the Iranian Diaspora" (*CIRA Bulletin*, the official journal of the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis), articles on Farrokhi-Yazdi, an early twentieth century Iranian poet, and Masud Farzad, a prominent Iranian scholar, for the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, and, for the fourth consecutive year, the entry on "Persian Literature" for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* yearbook. He currently is finishing an edited volume about the Iranian poet Nima Yushij, and continues work on his monograph "Censorship and Literature in Iran," with help from a small research grant from UW's Center for the Humanities. He had a heavy teaching year in 1998-99, offering Elementary and Intermediate Persian and two advanced undergraduate courses in Persian literature, contributing to the year-long Comparative Islamic Studies seminar, teaching in and coordinating NELC's contribution to the Honors Program series of world civilization courses. He also organized a highly successful series of classes on Rumi and on contemporary Iranian literature for the Iranian communities in northern California, and has been invited by the Sacramento Public Library to repeat the series next year. He was invited again by the Society for Iranian Studies and the American Association of Iranian Studies to chair the program committee for the Third Biennial Conference on Iranian studies in Washington, D. C.,

in May 2000. He presented papers at MESA and at the Second Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, and he was invited to present lectures at Indiana and the Ohio State Universities.

In 1998-1999 **Scott Noegel** was the recipient of a number of honors and awards. He received an Undergraduate Research Fellowship Assistant from the University of Washington to hire an undergraduate research assistant to help in the creation of online resources in Biblical and Near Eastern Studies. Scott also received grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for his cable arts series OffLine. Additionally, he was appointed by Mayor Paul Schell to the Mayor's Arts Task Force, and more recently to the Seattle Arts Commission. In 1999 Scott became Associate General Editor of the *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* and delivered many lectures for the University of Washington, Temple Beth 'Am, Temple B'nai Berith, and the Seattle Art Museum. His lectures covered a variety of topics including Jewish magic, electronic resources for Biblical and ancient Near Eastern Studies, and ancient Egyptian writing, dream theory, and Afrocentrism in Egyptology. Several of Scott's articles have appeared this year in *Jewish Bible Quarterly*, *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, and in the volume *The World of Genesis: Persons, Places, Perspectives* (JSOTSup, 223; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998). Scott currently is editing the collection of essays *Puns and Pundits: Wordplay in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Literature* (Bethesda, MD: CDL Press) due to appear this autumn.

Naomi Sokoloff has been promoted to Full Professor, effective September 1999. She will continue to serve as chair of the Jewish Studies Program through spring 2000. In other service to the profession this year she chaired the Fifth Annual Conference of the Western

Jewish Studies Association, hosted by the University of Washington in March 1999. She is Vice President for Membership of the Association for Jewish Studies and a member of the Board of Directors of the Western Jewish Studies Association. As Book Review Editor of *Prooftexts* she has responsibility for the area of modern literature, and she has recently joined the Editorial Board of *Hebrew Studies*. In spring 1999 she taught a new course for the Honors Program: "Modern Hebrew Literature: One Hundred Years of Jewish Cultural Revival." Her recent scholarly work includes an entry on David Grossman that appeared in *Encyclopedia of the Novel* (Fitzroy-Dearborn, 1999). She also prepared a paper on Agnon's "The Sense of Smell" for an international workshop, "Reading Israel in America," held at Brandeis University.

Brannon Wheeler coordinated in 1998-99 the special three-quarter seminar in Comparative Islamic Studies, organized a new committee in Comparative Islamic Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies, and drafted the curriculum proposal for a new concentration in CIS within the NELC major. His articles "Moses or Eastern Studies" and "The Jewish Origins of Q 18:65-82? A Reevaluation of A.J. Wensincki's Theory" appeared in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. He also completed the article "The Prophet Muhammad Dhu al-Qarnayn: Early Islamic Exegesis of Q 17:1" to be published in *Byzantino-Rossica: The Journal of the Oriental Society of St. Petersburg*. Brannon was invited to contribute the article "The Land in which You Have Lived: Inheritance of the Promised Land in Classical Islamic Exegesis" forthcoming in *Visions of Israel*, ed. Leonard Greenspoon. He also completed several entries for the *Encyclopaedia of the Quran*, and for the forthcoming volume entitled *The Ancient World*. He will be giving papers on the "Transmission of Muslim Knowledge: Past Traditions and New Technologies" at the Islamic Information Sources Symposium in Riyadh and on "The Islamic Utopia: From Dar al-

Hijrah to Dar al-Islam" at the Kyoto International Symposium in Japan on Islamic Civilization in October 1999. Also completed this year were the manuscripts for the edited volume on *Teaching Islam as a Religion* (Scholars Press), and Brannon's book-length treatment of Moses narratives in the Quran and later Islamic exegesis, viewed in comparative perspective. He led a group of UW graduate students in a panel on the History of Religions at the Pacific NW Regional meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, May 7-9, Tacoma, WA. And he continues to serve as the Islam editor for *Religious Studies Review*, and as editor of the new Comparative

Islamic Studies series for Cassell/Continuum. Somehow he still finds time to spend with his three boys, coach soccer and T-ball, and ride his bike.

Michael Williams continues to serve as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. He was invited to deliver a paper on the topic of "Was There a Gnostic Religion?" at the international meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature held in Helsinki, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia, July 16-25. His recent book pertaining to this topic, *Rethinking "Gnosticism": An Argument for Dismantling a Dubious Category* (Princeton, 1996) appeared in a paperback edition in June, 1999. Among his research and publication projects for the year were the completion of an article on the "Nag Hammadi Codices and Related Texts" to appear in new *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*; an essay "Secrecy, Revelation, and Late Antique Demiurgical Myths," in *Rending the Veil: Concealment and Secrecy in the History of Religions*, ed. Elliot R. Wolfson (Chappaqua, NY: Seven Bridges Press, 1998), pp. 31-58, and a review of Majella Franzmann, *Jesus in the Nag Hammadi Writings* for *The Journal of Religion* 78 (1998): 431-32. In the local community, he delivered two lectures in May at Bellevue First Congregational Church on "Ancient Christians and Their Books: Mysteries Surrounding Two Libraries."

Professor Emeritus Farhat J. Ziadeh continued to sit on graduate-student committees and to informally advise graduate students. He sat on one session of the Law School Moot Court in the field of international law. In the spring quarter he traveled to Jordan and Palestine and consulted with professors at Bir Zeit University and the University of Jordan. At the American Embassy in Amman he visited three former students of the Department: Marc Luce, English teacher at the Embassy's American Language School; Ingrid Tangborn, Political Officer (but now moving to the American Embassy in Azerbaijan); and Susan Ziadeh, Cultural Attache (now transferred to be Public Affairs Officer in the Embassy in Kuwait). Professor Ziadeh reviewed two books on Islamic studies, evaluated several manuscripts for academic journals and book publishers, and spoke at several churches and civic clubs on the Middle East.

In autumn 1998 **Jere L. Bacharach** was elected President-elect, Middle East Studies Association, the most important international organization for the study of the Middle East. His term as President will be effective November 1999 for one year although he will serve on the Board of Directors three years. Jere continues to serve as President, Middle East Medievalists, and, President, Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs. In addition to traveling to numerous meetings, Jere was in Oman and the United Arab Emirates in February. He gave a presentation in the latter at the new all-female, Muslim Ziyad University of Dubai on "Teaching Islamic Studies in the United States." On campus, both the Jackson School and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Near & Middle East Studies have been subject to external review. Both have been time consuming activities as have been plans to celebrate the 90th anniversary



A major conference on "Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World" will be held on the UW campus March 3-5, 2000. NELC is one of the sponsors of the event and its key organizers are Scott Noegel, Brannon Wheeler and Joel Walker. A desire to tap into the divine (or demonic) powers of the cosmos, especially those powers linked to the heavens, pervades the history of religion in the ancient and late antique world. This symposium examines the manifold techniques and traditions — both sanctioned and unsanctioned, individual and communal — by which men and women in the ancient and late antique world sought to gain access to that power. The expertise of the invited speakers ranges from ancient Mesopotamian astronomy and astrology to the Christian magical papyri of early Islamic Egypt. Details on the conference can be found at the web site <http://faculty.washington.edu/snoegel/stars.html>. To contact the organizers or to send abstracts (up to 750 words) please write: Scott Noegel (snoegel@u.washington.edu), Joel Walker (jwalker@u.washington.edu). Please send any inquiries via regular US mail to: Professor Noegel at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, Box 353120, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.



of "oriental" studies at the UW in May. This summer Jere plans to return to editing a volume on archaeological finds from medieval Cairo.

Martin Jaffee spent the year on academic leave. With the help of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, he is working on a study of oral tradition in ancient Judaism entitled: "Torah in the Mouth: Orality and Early Rabbinic Literary Culture". In February he offered the Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities on this topic. In autumn quarter he will be visiting the College of William and Mary for two weeks as the Bronfman Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies. During the current year he was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and continues to serve on the board of directors of the Association of Jewish Studies. This year he has published articles on this topic in *The Talmud Yerushalmi in Graeco-Roman Culture* (ed. P. Schaefer), *Teaching Oral Tradition* (ed. J.M. Foley), and *Religious Studies Review*.

Joel Walker joined the UW faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History in September 1997, after his graduate training in the field of Late Antiquity at Princeton University. In the last two years, Joel has become an active, adjunct member of the NELC faculty, working closely with NELC faculty on projects such as the Comparative Islamic Studies seminar, the upcoming symposium on "Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World" and the Comparative Religion lecture series on "Jerusalem in the Western Religious Tradition." He regularly teaches courses in ancient, late Roman, and Byzantine history, and participates in the UW Turkish studies colloquium. His primary research focuses on the cultural history of Christianity in the pre-Islamic Near East, concentrating on the Nestorian community of northern

Iraq. He is also the field director for an archaeological survey in central Turkey that is exploring the material cultural of rural Anatolia in the Roman and Byzantine periods.

During the spring quarter, **Mamoun Sakkal** gave a new course, Geometry and Islamic Architecture, in the Department of Architecture. Among the more interesting projects by his students in this course were two computer programs to design Islamic star patterns. These may now be seen and used on the Internet at <http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/csk/tile/graphics/islam/> and at <http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/daniel/islamic-interlace>. An article about his use of computers to produce artwork based on Arabic calligraphy titled "Calligraphy Via Computer: Artist Mamoun Sakkal Adapts Tradition to Electronic Age" appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of *Aljadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts of Los Angeles*. Mamoun's web site on Arabic calligraphy is used extensively by universities and educational institutions. It was chosen as a Distinguished Arab Site by Internet World Magazine, and Awarded Top 5% Certificate of Achievement for design excellence on the WWW by Alphabyt (<http://www.sakkal.com>). He designed two new Arabic fonts for Adobe PageMaker Middle East edition, as well as several covers and logos that incorporate Arabic calligraphy, including ones for Edebiyat, Tahrir, Arab Festival, and Arabic titles for animation in the film *Copper City*. Mamoun will enter the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies in autumn 1999, and has accepted the position of Graduate Staff Associate to anchor NELC's Tools for Transformation project in technologically based pedagogy.

Monica Devens has been awarded an NEH Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars, 1999-2000, beginning in September 1999. Monica is also an expert on the Ethiopic language, and the twelve month NEH award will enable her to complete a concor-

dance to the Ethiopic Book of Psalms.

Topping the list of labors this year for Deborah Wheeler was the birth of Franklin Theodore, who joined the Wheeler team with a surprise arrival, five weeks ahead of schedule, on August 30, 1998. (The Wheelers thank all those who chipped in to diaper Franklin during his first 4 months!) Deborah was one of four NELC faculty members who were core participants and organizers of the Comparative Islamic Studies Seminar, and led in designing the spring term's theme "New Communications Technology and Political Change in Muslim Societies." She published two pieces from her 1997 Fulbright Research in Kuwait, and is presently finishing a book manuscript called "Islam in the Internet Age: Culture, Communication and Change in Contemporary Kuwait," invited for submission to University of Indiana Press. She also has a forthcoming essay on Women and the Internet in Kuwait, to appear in the volume *Cultural Attitudes Towards Technology and Communication* (SUNY). She presented lectures on transnationalization of the media and the Islamic World (at the University of Chicago), on globalization and the Middle East (Spring Regional Conference of the Pacific Northwest Junior State), and on "Islam and the Challenges of Cyberspace" (University of Wisconsin; conference proceedings to appear in a volume edited by Michael Chamberlain), and participated in a panel called "Language, the Internet and the State" at the International Communications Association annual meeting in San Francisco. In December, 1999, she will be giving a lecture at Duke University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for the new "Muslim Networks" seminar run by Bruce Lawrence and Miriam Cook. This summer, in addition to her annual month of camping with the boys, Deborah plans to finish a book on media relations in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Jocelyn Hendrickson graduated with departmental honors as a double major in NELC and Comparative Religion, and she was awarded a Center for Arabic Studies Abroad fellowship to study Arabic at the American University in Cairo (AUC) during 1999-2000. Also graduating with departmental honors was **Ruth Krakauer**, who was also commissioned June 11 as an officer in the Air Force, and this autumn enters medical school in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. **Esther Fine** is another NELC graduate beginning a medical career, having been admitted into the UW's School of Medicine. **Nadia Nijim** who is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in NELC, has received a Fulbright-Hayes grant of \$2275 from the Yarmouk University-University of Virginia Arabic summer program to defray her expenses in taking the course. Recent NELC alumnus **Dustin Langan** ('98) has also received a Fulbright-Hayes to go to Senegal to work on a project related to the preservation Islamic legal manuscripts. **Jipar N. Duyshembiyeva**, exchange student since 1998 from Biskek's University of the Humanities, Kirghizstan, has received a \$500 Student Employee Scholarship, as the result of a contest among student employees in Suzzallo Library involving composition of a fictitious letter to an incoming UW student describing the benefits of the library.

M.A. student **Tolga Esmer** studied Modern Turkish and Ottoman Turkish at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul during 1998-99, as well as Ottoman and Balkan history. Working independently with Dr. Zafer Toprak, Tolga wrote a paper on "Ottoman Philately and Legitimacy: The Committee of Union and Progress' Efforts In Managing and Imaging their Image," which he will deliver at the 1999 meeting of MESA in Washington, D.C. **David Hunsicker** studied during summer 1999 at the Ottoman Language Summer School in Cunda (Alibey), on the island of Ayvalik, and is

spending 1999-2000 in Uzbekistan. He will be associated with Tashkent State University and the Institute of Manuscripts at the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, where he will be doing research on Central Asian Turkic commentaries on the Qur'an. He is being supported by several sources, including FLAS and Schwartz fellowships and a grant from the American Council on Education in Education and Language Study. With help from a Schwartz fellowship, **Talgat Imangaliev** spent two months in Kazakhstan during summer 1999 producing video and audio recordings of elderly native Kazakhs on topics of their culture

and history. Because of the non-Russianized form of Kazakh preserved on these recordings, they will constitute an important and unique element in our resources for training in Kazakh language and culture. Incoming M.A. student **Diana Klatte** served as assistant to the Team Leader for Arabic language in the Seattle School District's foreign language summer camp. **Ronni Wolfe** has accepted a teaching position with the Community High School of Jewish Studies, to teach a course on "Jewish Jewelry," from traditions about the priestly breastplate in Hebrew scripture to the culture of the diamond district.

Student Fellowships and Assistantships:

Incoming M.A. student Maureen Jackson was awarded a NELC Departmental Graduate Fellowship for 1999-2000.

Incoming M.A. student Aaron Fields was awarded a Nicholas Poppe Fellowship for 1999-2000

The following M.A. and Ph.D. students were awarded Maurice D. and Lois Schwartz Fellowships for 1999-2000: Tolga Esmer, Talgat Imangaliev, Fevziye Barlas, David Hunsicker, Elmira Kochumkulova.

Talgat Imangaliev has been reappointed as the Graduate Student Associate with the Language Learning Center.

The following students have been appointed as teaching assistants for 1999-2000:

Arabic:	Amara Simons, Mostafa Elostaz.
Hebrew:	Magid Shihade, Alon Fridenson
Persian:	Fevziye Barlas, Mahmoud Riahi
Turkish:	Tolga Esmer

The following students have been awarded research assistantships during 1999-2000 in connection with the Department's "Tools for Transformation" project: Diane Klatte, Jeff McCarter, Rachael Robbins, and Hande Solakoglu.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

FROM OUR STUDENTS

Among the news items available from students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies: **Fevziye Barlas** pursued research at Munich University in summer 1999 on her dissertation topic "Women, Love and Sexuality in Persian Epics." **Maha El-Taji** has taken a wide variety of substantive courses and has made substantial progress in her second language, Hebrew. She was awarded a FLAS for 1999-2000 and a \$1,000 Dorot Fellowship to study Hebrew in Israel. She also taught an independent course in Everett Community College, which was "taxing but rewarding." Returning from research in summer 1998 in Turkey, **Hürriyet Gökdayi** resumed his dissertation writing, and offered a course in spring 1999 on "Language Policy in the Modern Middle East," examining the symbolic function of language in the creation of ethnic and national identities, and another new course in summer 1999 on informal Middle East speech patterns. **Erdag Goknar** has been chosen to translate into English the recent novel *Benim Adim Kırmızı* (My Name is Crimson) by Orhan Pamuk. **Elmira Kochumkulova** taught intensive Kirghiz in summer 1999, and then spent several weeks in Kirghizstan, recording Kirghiz proverbs as a part of her continuing research for her Ph.D. dissertation on Kazakh and Kirghiz wisdom poetry. Elmira has been translating a collection of Kirghiz proverbs for eventual publication. **Jennifer Petzen** received a summer 1999 FLAS fellowship to study Arabic in Syria or Jordan. **Ahmed Souaiaia** has accepted an appointment in NELC for 1999-2000 as Pre-doctoral Lecturer in Arabic language, and will also take over the position as coordinating lecturer for the distance learning project in Arabic language. **Nicole Watts** was awarded a FLAS fellowship for 1999-2000. She designed and taught a course during spring 1999 on "People and Power in the Middle East," examining how groups of people from all walks of life—not just elites—interact with state organizations to shape local and national policies, influence political discourse, and form and pursue political goals. **Patricia Woods** presented papers on "New Constituencies, Independent Judiciaries: The Women's Movement and the Religious Law Debates" (Association for Israel Studies, June 1998), "Specifying Standpoint: Coalition, Difference and Conflict in the Israeli Women's Movement" (MESA, December 1998), and "Operationalizing Influence: The Women's Movement and the High Court in Israel" (Western Political Science Association, March 1999). She also designed a new course that she offered during summer quarter, on "Introduction to the Modern Middle East," and served on the organizing committee member for a conference on "Boundaries and Belonging" (July 1999) cosponsored by the Jackson School. She received a Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship for research in Israel (1999-2000), a Dorot Foundation travel grant for research in Israel (1999), and in July was a fellow at an SSRC dissertation workshop on States and Societies in the Middle East, in Marrakech.

We welcome back NELC M.A. alums **Amara Simons** and **Ozlem Sensoy**, who have entered the UW's interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. Amara accepted an TAsip in Arabic during summer 1999 and will continue in this role during 1999-2000. Ozlem was awarded a Graduate School research assistantship for 1999-2000.

Congratulations to both **Dr. Kagan Arik** and **Dr. William Clark** on the completion of their Ph.D. degree programs in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. Also completing his Ph.D. degree in 1999 (in Asian Languages and Literature) was **Dr. Hamit Zakir**, who served NELC for many years as TA in Uzbek language during his doctoral program.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

As has been the tradition, the 1998-1999 program of the **Central Asian Studies Group** started with a reception on October 8, 1998 for students and faculty interested in Central Asia. The twice-weekly lecture program on Thursdays and Fridays offered in autumn 1998 reports by our students returning from the Central Asian republics, Kirghizstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and two lectures by Dr. Ablet Kamalov, Fulbright scholar from the Oriental Institute of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences, on "The Uighur Community in Kazakhstan" and on "The Eastern Turkestan Republic (1944-1949)." The autumn program also included two panel discussions on "A Critical Look at the Educational System (Kindergarten to University) in the Central Asian Republics Before and After Independence" and "In search of Central Asian Women Writers." The Program in winter 1999 offered a presentation by Cheryl Wickman, Ph.D. Student, UW Department of Economics on "Local Initiatives in Health Reform in Kazakhstan" and Meena P. Pallipamu, UW Law School, talked about her Peace Corps experiences in Turkmenistan." The other lectures and presentations, topically coordinated with Professor Cirtautas' course on "Stalin's Purges of Writers and Intellectuals in Central Asia," included a panel discussion organized by our students from Central Asia on "What Young Kirghiz and Kazakhs Remember or Were Told about Stalin's Oppression?" The spring quarter featured two visiting scholars from Tashkent's University of Economics discussing economic issues of Uzbekistan and a presentation on "Political Parties in Kirghizstan" by two of our exchange students from Kirghizstan. Other activities of the Central Asian Languages group

included a reception on November 14, 1998 to welcome His Excellency Babtybek Abdrisayev, Ambassador of Kirghizstan to the U.S. and Canada, and His Excellency Sadyq Safayev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.S. In June-July 1999, Dr. Yedege Magauin from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Prague, was a visiting scholar in the Department. His one-month stay had been arranged by Dr. Charles Carlson, Head of the Kazakh & Kirghiz Services RFE/RL, who visited the Department in March 1998 and suggested a cooperation between the Department and RFE/RL that would bring young journalists from the Central Asian Republics working at the Radios for a short period to the UW for an exposure to American academia while at the same time assisting the Department's Central Asian Program in developing advanced teaching materials. Dr. Magauin, a specialist on Kazakh oral literature, has been attending classes on journalism, e.g., on media and law, as well as contributing to the discussions in Professor

ing examples of Kazakh oral literature.

The **Persian Circle** sponsored or cosponsored a chain of outstanding cultural events as part of its activities in 1998-99. In the fall, seven regular weekly meetings were held where various topics, ranging from music education in Iran to Persian calligraphy and Iranian films, were discussed by a small but intensely interested group of student members. The special event of the quarter, a concert of Persian classical and folk music, was held at the University of Washington's Ethnic Cultural Center on November 21, 1998 brought and together a housefull of audiences, both students and members of the community. Center activities for the winter quarter included cosponsorship, with NELC, of the first annual Afrassiabi Memorial lecture (see article below) on February 12, and a concert a week later by two well-known Iranian musicians, Ali-Akbar Moradi and Pejman Haddadi. In the regular

weekly meetings, members heard from each other as well as from prominent community members about various aspects of the native Iranian culture as well as that of the Iranians in the diaspora. One lecture, by Dr. Mahmoud Sarram on "The Religious Education of the Future Generations of Muslims in America," deserves particular mention as it provoked much spirited discussion.

In spring, Professor Moahamad-Ali Homayoun-Katouzian of Oxford and Exeter Universities in the United Kingdom, was the special feature presenter. In a wide-ranging and profoundly

illuminating lecture, Professor Katouzian spoke to about 80 students and community members on the topic of "The Cultural Roots of Authoritarianism and the Problem of Democracy in Iran." In addition to presentations by members, regular spring quarter activities included a lecture and poetry recitation by Iranian poet Iraj Khademi, a new addition to the Iranian literary community in the Puget Sound area. This year, Persian Circle activities stretched into the summer months with a presentation on June 27, 1999 of a Persian play entitled "Adam and Eve." Written and directed by veteran director and actor Masoud Assadollahi, this delightfully entertaining situation comedy featured outstanding performances by two actresses in the Iranian exile community, Eileen Vigen and Mimi Karimi.

The **Turkish Studies group**, chaired this year by Hüriyet Gökdayi, hosted a talk given by Sirri Uyanik, Deputy Governor of Adiyaman region in Turkey. He was at the UW as a Herbert Humphery Fellow in the Graduate School of Public Administration. His talk was on the Southeastern Anatolian Project (GAP in Turkish initials). The Turkish Studies group also initiated the invitation to campus of Dr. Ismail Hakki Aksoyak, researcher at Gazi University, Ankara. A specialist in Ottoman literature, Dr. Aksoyak was invited as visiting scholar in summer-autumn 1999.

PILOT ARABIC DISTANCE LEARNING PROJECT BEGINS SECOND YEAR

The federally funded distance learning project in Arabic, coordinated by Montana State University in Bozeman and reaching seven campuses in four different states, continues to flourish after a very successful first year. NELC's Terri DeYoung, now also Director of the Middle East Center, notes that evaluations by and of the students involved in the first year of the course show levels of



Ambassador Abdrisayev (seated left), Professor Cirtautas, and Ambassador Safayev, with students (standing) Mar Topyev, Jipar Duyshembiyeva, Elmira Kochumkulova, Talgat Imangaliev, and Dilbar Akmedova.

Cirtautas' class on "Central Asian Turkic Literature in Translation," offered during A Term, summer 1999. He has also been working with Professor Cirtautas on record-

language learning compatible with traditional Arabic courses. In 1999-2000 the project will be sending its first cohort of fifteen students for an intensive second year of Arabic study in Morocco at al-Akhawayn University. At the same time, a second group of first-year students at the various participating schools will begin Arabic, with primary instruction broadcast from facilities at UW, and supporting instruction provided by TAs at the individual sites. NELC lecturer Ahmed Souaiaia will be taking over the job of the primary instructor, held in 1998-99 by Nadia Yaqub. Recently, Washington State University joined the consortium of partners, thus creating one of the first collaborations between universities in the state of Washington for synchronous distance education.

YEAR-LONG SEMINAR ON COMPARATIVE ISLAMIC STUDIES

With a generous grant from the Walter Chapin Simpson Center the Humanities, several NELC faculty were able to offer a year-long seminar in 1998-99 on Comparative Islamic Studies. The seminar, coordinated by Brannon Wheeler, built upon the success of the international workshop held at UW in March 1998 on "Integrating Islamic Studies into Liberal Arts Curricula." An anticipated outgrowth will be an edited volume on Islamic Studies. In autumn 1998 the seminar dealt with pre-professional issues for graduates and advanced undergraduates. Speakers included: Paul Holmes-Eber (Anthropology), Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Deborah Wheeler, Ilse Cirtautus, Frank Conlon (History), Brannon Wheeler, and Daniel Lev (Political Science). In winter and spring 1999 the focus was on thematic topics: Text, Authority and Tradition in Islam; and New Communications Technology and Political Change in Islam. Among the

prominent guest speakers participating during the year were Richard Eaton (Brown and Arizona), Arthur Buehler (Louisiana State University), Dick Davis (Ohio State), Said Arjomand (SUNY), Jonathan Lipman (Mount Holyoke), Mariann Kamp (Whitman), Jonathan Alterman (U.S. Institute for Peace), Sy Goodman (Arizona and Stanford). CIS was also pleased to help in the sponsorship of Professor Suzanne Stetkevych (Indiana) the Solomon Katz Professor in the Humanities, and Professor Jaroslav Stetkevych (University of Chicago, Emeritus). A few of these guests also participated in a year-long

Humanities Faculty Forum on "Local Islams" exploring the distance separating a more universal, ideal notion of Islam and the more local, lived "Islams" of historical and ethnographic research. Among the immediate benefits from these very successful initiatives has been the development of a new CIS concentration option within the NELC undergraduate major, proposed to begin in winter quarter 2000 as well as a minor in CIS in the Jackson School of International Studies.

FIRST ANNUAL AFRASSIABI MEMORIAL LECTURE HELD

On February 12, 1999 NELC celebrated the memory of the late Hooshang Afrassiabi, a longtime supporter of NELC's Persian Program and a prominent member of the Iranian community in the Puget Sound area. The memorial event brought together about 200 faculty, students and community members and featured a lecture by Professor Dick Davis of Ohio State University. Following acknowledgments and introductory remarks by NELC Chair Professor Michael Williams and the UW's Divisional Dean for the Arts and Humanities, Dr. Michael Halleran, Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Director of NELC's Persian Program, introduced Professor Davis, who presented a fascinating lecture on the topic: "Translating Persian Literature: the Challenge and the Promise." During the reception that followed in the Walker-Ames Room, several interested individuals pledged their contributions to the Afrassiabi memorial fund, set up by Dr. Ali Afrassiabi in memory of his father's lifelong love for Persian poetry and his support of the Persian program at NELC. The Department is deeply grateful to Dr. Afrassiabi and other members of his family and to friends of this fund, for their crucial continuing support of Persian studies at UW.

NEW CURRICULUM IN BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

The addition in 1998 of a new faculty member, Scott Noegel, as a joint appointment in the Jewish Studies Program and in NELC has made possible a significant expansion in permanent curricular options for both programs, as well as for the Comparative Religion Program. Some twenty-two new and/or reactivated courses are involved, including offerings in biblical Hebrew language, Akkadian, Hieroglyphic Egyptian, and a variety of courses on Hebrew biblical literature and related cultural and historical subjects. In addition, a new concentration option has been developed within the NELC undergraduate major, in Biblical and Ancient Near East Studies, proposed to begin in winter quarter 2000.

AFRASSIABI STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE AWARDED

NELC is pleased to announce that Dean Stevens is the winner of the first Afrassiabi Essay Award. The award, which includes a citation and a prize of \$500, is designed to encourage the study of Iran and Iranate cultures at the University of Washington. It is made possible by donations in memory of the late Hooshang Afrassiabi, a longtime supporter of the Persian Program at NELC, and is given once a year to the best undergraduate essay written on any topic related to Persian language and literature and/or Iranian culture and civilization, most broadly defined. Dean Stevens' essay was submitted as the term paper for Professor Karimi-Hakkak's "Literature and Society in Contemporary Iran," offered as part of NELC's Honors courses every other year. Titled "Final Moments: Death and Dying in Contemporary Iranian Literature," the paper presents a

penetrating glance into the rituals surrounding death in Iranian culture as gleaned through its contemporary literature. Congratulations to Dean for a superb job! For further details about the Afrassiabi Essay Award, please contact Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (karimi@u.washington.edu).

Jewish Studies and the Historians" featured Professors William Jordan (Princeton), David Berger (Brooklyn College) and Robert Stacey (UW). With Comparative Islamic Studies committee and the Simpson Center for the Humanities, NELC made possible a special workshop on the



Michael Williams (right) introduces Dr. Ali Afrassiabi.

WJSA CONFERENCE HELD MARCH 14-16, 1999

NELC was among the co-sponsors of the Fifth Annual Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, March 14-16, hosted on campus by the Jewish Studies Program, and coordinated by NELC Professor Naomi Sokoloff. The conference was very well-attended, with more than 60 speakers and 150 registrants from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Israel. Sessions covered a wide range of topics; areas of special interest included Sephardic Studies, Canadian Jewish Studies, Jews of the American West, and pedagogy in Jewish Studies. Professor Lucette Valensi (Ecole des hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) delivered the keynote address, "The Experience of Sephardi Jews: Identity and Discontinuity," and a plenary session entitled "Medieval

program called "Interchange and Exchange Between Islamic Studies and Judaic Studies." Featured speakers for this session were Steve Wasserstrom (Reed), Fred Astren (U. of San Francisco), Gordon Newby (Emory), and Michael Cook (Princeton), with Brannon Wheeler moderating.

COMPARATIVE RELIGION PROGRAM 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

The year 2000 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Jackson School's Comparative Religion Program (CRP). To commemorate the anniversary the CRP will host a six-part lecture series delivered by UW faculty, including several NELC faculty, on the theme of "Jerusalem in the Western Reli-

gious Tradition." These lectures will explore from various angles the ways in which Jerusalem has become a symbolic center for the three largest religious traditions of Western civilization. The topic of the series is as timely as it is informative, for the year 2000 marks the 3000th anniversary of Jerusalem. A reception will follow some of the lectures in the Walker Ames Room. The scheduled speakers and their tentative titles include: Nov. 3: Scott Noegel, "Your Father was an Amorite, your Mother was a Hittite: The Cultural Roots of Monarchic Jerusalem"; Nov. 17: Michael Williams, "The Place of Jerusalem in Early Christian Tradition"; Dec. 15: Martin Jaffee, "Early Jewish Jerusalem"; Jan. 12: Joel Walker, "Pilgrim-

age, Patronage, and the Emergence of a Christian Holy Land in Late Antiquity"; Jan. 26: Brannon Wheeler, "The Desert Zion: Jerusalem in Classical Islamic Tradition"; Fe. 23: Robert Stacey, Chair, Department of History, "Jerusalem under Crusader Rule." For more information contact Scott Noegel (snoegel@u.washington.edu).

AL-ANDALUS LECTURE SERIES

NELC sponsored a special series of lectures on May 21, 1999 organized by Professor Terri DeYoung, on the theme "New

Explorations of Al-Andalus in the Arabic Literary Tradition." The program included Dr. Nadia Yaqub, Lecturer in NELC, on the topic "And Some of Us Must Depart: Death in a Mountain Poem by Ibn Khafaja"; special guest speaker Professor James Monroe, U.C. Berkeley, on "Doubling and Duplicity in the Maqamat of al-Saraqusti"; and Terri DeYoung, on "Contested Terrain: The Image of Al-Andalus in Modern Arabic Literature and Criticism." The lectures were well-attended, with a lively question and answer session led by the UW's distinguished visiting Katz Professor, Suzanne Stetkevych and her husband, Emeritus Arabic Professor at the University of Chicago, Jaroslav Stetkevych. In fact, due to the length

NICHOLAS POPPE SYMPOSIUM ON INNER ASIAN/CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES

The 11th Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium, held on May 15, 1999, attracted not only students and faculty from the University of Washington but also graduate students from other universities. Chaired by Ph.D. student Elmira Kochumkulova, the proceedings began with a welcoming address on "Nicholas Poppe and the State of Central Asian Studies" by Professor Ilse Cirtautas. Recalling Nicholas Poppe's life-long efforts to establish a dialogue between scholars from Central Asia and the West, Professor Cirtautas stressed the continuing need for efforts to bring scholars from both world regions together in a meaningful discourse.

The morning session, on "Current Issues," included papers by Gerard Filitti (NYU), "The Political Economy of Water in Central Asia"; Kathryn McNiel (UW), "The Soviet Legacy on the Environment of Central Asia: The Aral Sea"; Fevziye Barlas (UW), "Women, Taliban and 'Gendercide' in Afghanistan." The papers in the afternoon session on "Culture and Society" ranged from "Kirghiz Mourning Songs" by Jipar Duyshembiyeva (exchange student from Bishkek) to "The 1923 Turkmen Script Reform" by Victoria Clement (Ohio State), and culminated with a paper by David Hunsicker (UW), "The Historical Significance of the Akhal-Teke Horse in Turkmen Identity." Like the Turkmen nomads themselves, whose numerous sayings illustrate their love for their horses (e.g., "When you wake up, greet your father, and then greet your horse"), the famous, long-necked Akhal-Teke horse suffered severely under the Soviets. Their policies had been to bring them into stud farms, crossbreeding them with larger Russian horses so that they could serve as "four-legged tanks," or slaughtering them outright for meat, until only eighteen pure-bred Akhal-Tekes remained, saved and hidden by the Turkmen. After independence in 1991, the Turkmen began to revive the breed, and it has become the most powerful symbol of Turkmen cultural revival.

The discussions during the second half of the afternoon shifted from the Turkmen in the west to the Uighurs in the east. Bill Clark (UW) spoke on "Uighur Marriage Strategies," based on his fieldwork in Xinjiang. Dr. Ablet Kamalov, Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakh Academy of Sciences, Almaty, discussed the involvement of the Uighurs in internal Chinese policies during the T'ang dynasty in his paper on "Uighurs and Turks During the Rebellion of An Lushan (755-763 AD)."

of the question sessions for the first two papers, Professor DeYoung had to postpone her lecture until a later date, probably autumn 1999.

GIFTS TO DEPARTMENT:

We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the following donors for their most generous support of NELC throughout the past year, by their contributions to one or more of its funds: Professor Ilse Cirtautas; Mr. Conrad Jacobsen and Ms. Judith Jacobsen; Ms. Shirin F. Tabibzadeh; Ms. Shireen Abed; Mr. and Mrs. George Salem; Ms. Emily M. Wilson; Dr. Ali Afrasiabi; Dr. Rahmat Afrasiabi

and Ms. Sima Afrasiabi; Dr. Farajollah Afrasiabi and Ms. Pauline Afrasiabi; Mr. Majid Vossoughi and Ms. Nahid Vossoughi. In addition, we are deeply indebted to Professor Emeritus Pierre MacKay who donated to the departmental library several hundred volumes, includes many rare and invaluable titles, from his personal research collection.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Beyond the various events mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, other public lectures sponsored or co-sponsored in 1998-99 by NELC included:

Dr. Sibel Erol, New York University: "The Intellectual and the Problematics of the Novel in Yakup Kadri's Work."

Dr. Ablet Kamalov, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences: "The Uighur Community in Kazakhstan."

Professor Jean-George Heintz, l'Université Marc Bloch de Strasbourg, l'École du Louvre: "Covenants in the Mari Texts, Syro-Mesopotamian Iconography, and the Hebrew Bible."



NELC HOSTS 1998-99 SOLOMON KATZ DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Professor Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych, Ruth N. Halls Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Culture and Adjunct Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University, Bloomington, was in residence at UW during spring quarter 1999 as the 1998-99 Solomon Katz Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, with NELC as the nominating and hosting department. During her residence she taught a NELC seminar on "Poetry and Society: The Arabic Ode in Comparative Contexts."

On May 13 she delivered the public Katz lecture in Kane Hall on the topic "Solomon and Mythic Kingship in the Arabo-Islamic Tradition," in which she explored the role of the Arabic Ode as a bearer of mythic and folkloric materials from the pre-Islamic into the Islamic era.

Her fascinating lecture discussed the poetic and rhetorical processes by which the pre-Islamic Arabic poet al-Nabigha al-Dhubyani established a "mythic concordance" between the prototypical ancient Near Eastern magician-king Solomon/Sulayman and the poet's own royal patron. She examined the manner in which the ode or qasida, as a documentary "ritual of allegiance," became the preeminent vehicle for encoding and transmitting the ideology of Islamic hegemony, and she explored the contrast between rhetorical strategies determining the condensed and non-narrative discourses of the Qur'an and qasida and the more expansive narrative forms of Qur'anic commentary and popular stories about the prophets.



Left to right: Professor Jaroslav Stetkevych, 1998 Katz Professor Suzanne Stetkevych, Professor Emeritus Farhat Ziadeh, and Professor Stephen Jaeger, Director of UW's Simpson Center for the Humanities.



IN MEMORIUM: MAURICE D. SCHWARTZ (1913-1999)

We are greatly saddened to note the death of philanthropist Maurice D. Schwartz on May 5, 1999. The Maurice D. and Lois Schwartz International Studies Endowment has made possible invaluable experience in international study and exchange for generations of UW students in NELC, the Jackson School, and the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. Maurice Schwartz received his BA at the UW in the 1930's from what was then the Department of Oriental Studies, the ancestor of the departments mentioned above. While at UW he began a longstanding friendship with fellow student (and later U.S. Senator from Washington State) Henry M. ("Scoop") Jackson. After graduation Maurice continued his studies at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute—in later years Maurice and Lois were to support numerous archeological digs undertaken by the Institute and by the UW.

In spite of his enthusiastic and abiding interest in languages and topics related to Asia and the Middle East, the course of events took Mr. Schwartz into a career in business. He and his father were managers of several West Coast operations for American Smelting and Refining Company and in 1943 purchased Pacific Smelting Company in Torrance, CA. Maurice was Chairman of the company until it was sold in the mid-1970s. He served for many years on the board of the National Association of Recycling Industries, and was elected President of the Association for a term. Honored in recognition of his lifetime achievements by the Association of Jewish War Veterans, he was also active in community causes such as the United Jewish Appeal. He is survived by his wife of over fifty years, Lois Schwartz. Their oldest son David graduated from the UW in 1961 with a degree in business administration, and is President of Island House Realtors on Lopez Island, WA, and another son, Ken, lives in Phoenix, AZ. The Schwartz Endowment, which has made such a remarkable difference in the lives of so many students at this institution, including many readers of this newsletter, is a powerful and enduring tribute to Schwartz family's generosity and dedication to the value of international studies.

The Near East Reports...

Editor: Michael A. Williams

Production: Elaine Franks

Graphics/Design: Mamoun Sakkal. www.sakkal.com





**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATION**

In order to maintain the teaching and research excellence of our Department, your charitable support is vital. As many of you know, state and national funding for student support and higher education comes nowhere near matching our needs. We need your help to continue the important research and academic activities you read about in this Newsletter.

You may make your gift in the form of cash, stock, or a credit card charge. If you send a check, please make it out to the University of Washington and designate one of the funds below on the memo line of your check. Send your donation (with this form) to: Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, Box 353120, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. If your employer will match your gift, please include the matching gift form. You may also benefit the Department through a planned gift of stock or real property in the form of a charitable remainder trust, pooled income gift, bequest, etc. If you have further questions, please call Richard Silverstein, Arts and Humanities major gifts officer at (206) 616-3506.

If you choose to respond to a UW direct mail appeal, please note that you may designate your gift to any of the funds below. Your help is needed to continue their activities (please indicate the fund(s) to which you wish your gift directed):

- DEPARTMENTAL FELLOWSHIP FUND - - to enable the Department to recruit and support outstanding graduate students.
- DEPARTMENTAL DISCRETIONARY FUND - - to be used wherever the need is greatest (ongoing lecture series, cultural programs, research, etc.).
- AFRASSIABI MEMORIAL FUND - - to support enhancements in the study of Persian culture (student essay awards, special lectures and programs in Persian studies, etc.)
- FARHAT ZIADEH FUND - - to support publications in Arabic and Islamic Studies.
- NICHOLAS POPPE MEMORIAL FUND - - to support graduate students in Central Asia (Altaic) Studies.
- KENNETH R. BOYLE FUND - - to support particular enhancement of Arabic and Islamic Studies (instructional technologies, special lectures or programs, etc.).
- EXCHANGE PROGRAM FUND - - to sustain the Department's exchanges with Middle Eastern and Central Asian institutions.

Yes, I'd like to help! Here's my donation of \$_____. My check is enclosed; or please charge my

Visa Mastercard Account # _____ exp. ____ / ____

Name(s): _____

(as it should appear for recognition purposes)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I wish to give in honor or in memory of the following person(s): _____

An acknowledgment of this gift should be sent to: _____

(I'd like information on how to make a tax-advantaged planned gift or bequest to the Department.)

Thank you for your support!

Gifts are tax-deductible in accordance with the law. Pursuant to RCW 10.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the WA Secretary of State, 1-800-332-4483.



64-1187



**Department of Near Eastern
Languages and Civilization**

229 Denny Hall,
University of Washington
Box 353120
Seattle, WA 98195-3120

*Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 62*



NELC RECEIVES TWO-YEAR "TOOLS" GRANT

NELC has been awarded a "Tools for Transformation" grant for 1999-2001 from the Office of the Provost, to undertake the creation and integration of a sustainable technological infrastructure designed to increase the capability of teaching less commonly taught languages and related courses such as those offered by NELC. The project will help position the University as a regional center for the development of innovative techniques and software related to such pedagogy. Award-winning architect and graphic designer Mamoun Sakkal, long an affiliate member of the NELC faculty and now entering the Ph.D. program at the UW in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, is being hired as Graduate Staff Associate to undertake the training of NELC faculty and staff in new technologies and to serve as principal technical consultant for developmental aspects of the project. The grant also provides funding for four graduate student research assistantships devoted to different dimensions of the project, and for several pieces of equipment. The development will link with and significantly expand existing NELC efforts in developing pedagogical technology for the Central Asian language program, the program in biblical Hebrew and ancient Near East, and Arabic instruction, including the recent initiative in distance learning. This project will integrate graduate students as researchers in the development of new language learning technologies including software creation and the development and utilization of web resources. Less commonly taught languages such as those offered through NELC do not typically enjoy the array of classroom aids available to teachers of the popular European languages. We anticipate the development of new resources, both in faculty skill and new pedagogical tools, which will have a significant transformative impact in the classroom. For more information contact the faculty coordinator of the project, Scott Noegel (snoegel@u.washington.edu).