

The Near East Reports...



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

Volume 13

Autumn, 2000

From the Chair:

Instruction at University of Washington in Near Eastern languages such as Persian, Arabic and Hebrew and their respective literatures began nearly a century ago in the era of Herbert A. Gowen, and the study of Turkic languages and cultures on this campus dates to the 1950's with the arrival of the eminent Altaic scholar Nicolas Poppe. However, the official organization of the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization (or "Languages and Literature" as it was then named) came in 1970, and that makes the year 2000 our 30th anniversary as a separate department. Certain aspects of the teaching of languages and literatures of Near Eastern heritage probably remain much the same as what one would have seen or heard in Herbert Gowen's classroom in 1909. But many other things have changed, and continue to evolve with the development of new methods and technologies for language teaching and the emergence of new areas and modes of inquiry in the study of cultures in the Near East and Central Asia.

Transformations in NELC over the past few years have been illustrative of such evolution. We are currently in the middle of our two-year "Tools for Transformation" grant project, under the general direction of Professor Scott Noegel. Newly hired for the Tools project, our Graduate Staff Associate Mamoun Sakkal, award-winning architect and graphic designer and

long an affiliate member of the NELC faculty, is providing technical supervision, instruction and coordination for the project. NELC faculty and students are involved in a variety of initiatives to develop more effective methods and tools for language training, taking advantage of the rapidly expanding capabilities of computer and web-based technologies. Among the projects that will be completed by next summer are a web-based instructional soft-



Mamoun Sakkal

ware program in biblical Hebrew; some extensive image databases pertaining to culture and civilization that are being developed in collaboration with the UW Libraries' digital initiative program; web-based materials for Arabic language instruction, including vocabulary audio files and graphic-based Arabic texts acces-

sible both to UW students and students in institutions participating in our distance learning project, and a comprehensive collection of authentic cultural materials (newspapers, Arabic email, magazines, TV & radio stations, songs etc.) to be used in conjunction with our language and civilization courses. NELC faculty have also been collaborating on software programs for enhancing instruction in modern Hebrew, Persian and Moroccan colloquial Arabic. I invite you to read and view more about some of these efforts by visiting our new web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/nelc>. By the way, you can also find there a somewhat longer online version of this newsletter, with more detailed news about faculty, students, and alumni. We plan to publish both a printed and an online edition of the newsletter in future years.

I want to express my deep appreciation to an extremely talented and dedicated faculty and staff for their remarkable accomplishments over the past year, only some of which are recounted in what follows. Among the things that will not show up in these reports is the fact that Y2K brought with it some transitions in our all-important office staff. In August our departmental secretary Elaine Franks moved on to another position, but I am most grateful for her enthusiastic service including her help again this year with the production of the newsletter. January saw the retirement of long-time NELC "family member"



From the Chair:

Jane Lund who had been our Administrative Assistant for eight years. But we have found ourselves in superb hands with her successor, Joan Bishop.

I mentioned the news about alums, which is a new feature with this issue and which we intend to be a regular section in future issues of this publication. We have included the items that were sent in time for this edition, but it is never too late to submit your news since we can post it in the online edition (and in longer form!) and in next year's printed newsletter. Please let us hear from you from time to time with updates about your whereabouts, achievements, transitions and experiences.

Finally, I invite not only alums but also other friends of NELC to take note that one of the ways we are celebrating the occasion of our 30th anniversary (and also the 25th anniversary of UW's Middle East Center) will be a reception on the evening of November 17 at the meetings of the Middle East Studies Association in Orlando (see notice on page 11). I do hope that many of you will be able to join us!

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.

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 Professor

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

Assistant Professors

Kuru, Selim (Acting) Ph.D., 2000, Harvard; Turkish language and literature; Ottoman Turkish.
Noegel, Scott, Ph.D., 1995, Cornell University; Hebrew Bible, ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures

Walker, Joel (Adjunct) Ph.D., 1997, MA, 1994 Princeton University, History and Archaeology of the Near East in late antiquity.

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

Souaiaia, Ahmed, Ph.D. candidate, University of Washington; Arabic language and Islamic law.

Visiting Lecturer

Akhmedov, Muhammad Ali, Kandidat Nauk, 1992, Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan; Intensive Intermediate Uzbek, Summer 2000.

Decter, Jonathan, Ph.D. candidate, Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Elementary Modern Hebrew, Summer 2000

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

Arik, Kagan, Ph.D., 1999, Washington; Turkish/Turkic languages, literature & culture; anthropology of Central Eurasia; Turkic religion

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

Teaching Assistants 1999-2000

Arabic: **Mukhtar Ali**
Mostafa Elostaz
Ibrahim Idkaidek

Amara Simons

Hebrew: **Alon Fridenson**

Magid Shihade

Persian: **Fevziye Barlas**

Turkish: **Tolga Esmer**

Uzbek: **Elmira Kochumkulova**

Introduction to Islam: **Mukhtar Ali**

Research Assistants

Diana Klatte

Jeffrey McCarter

Rachael Robbins

Hande Solakoglu

Graduate Staff Associate

Mamoun Sakkal

Graduate Student Associate, Language Learning Center

Talgat Imangaliev

(Note: our sincere apologies to **Margaret Hirsh**, whose name was accidentally omitted from the list of 1998-99 Arabic TAs in last year's newsletter.)

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

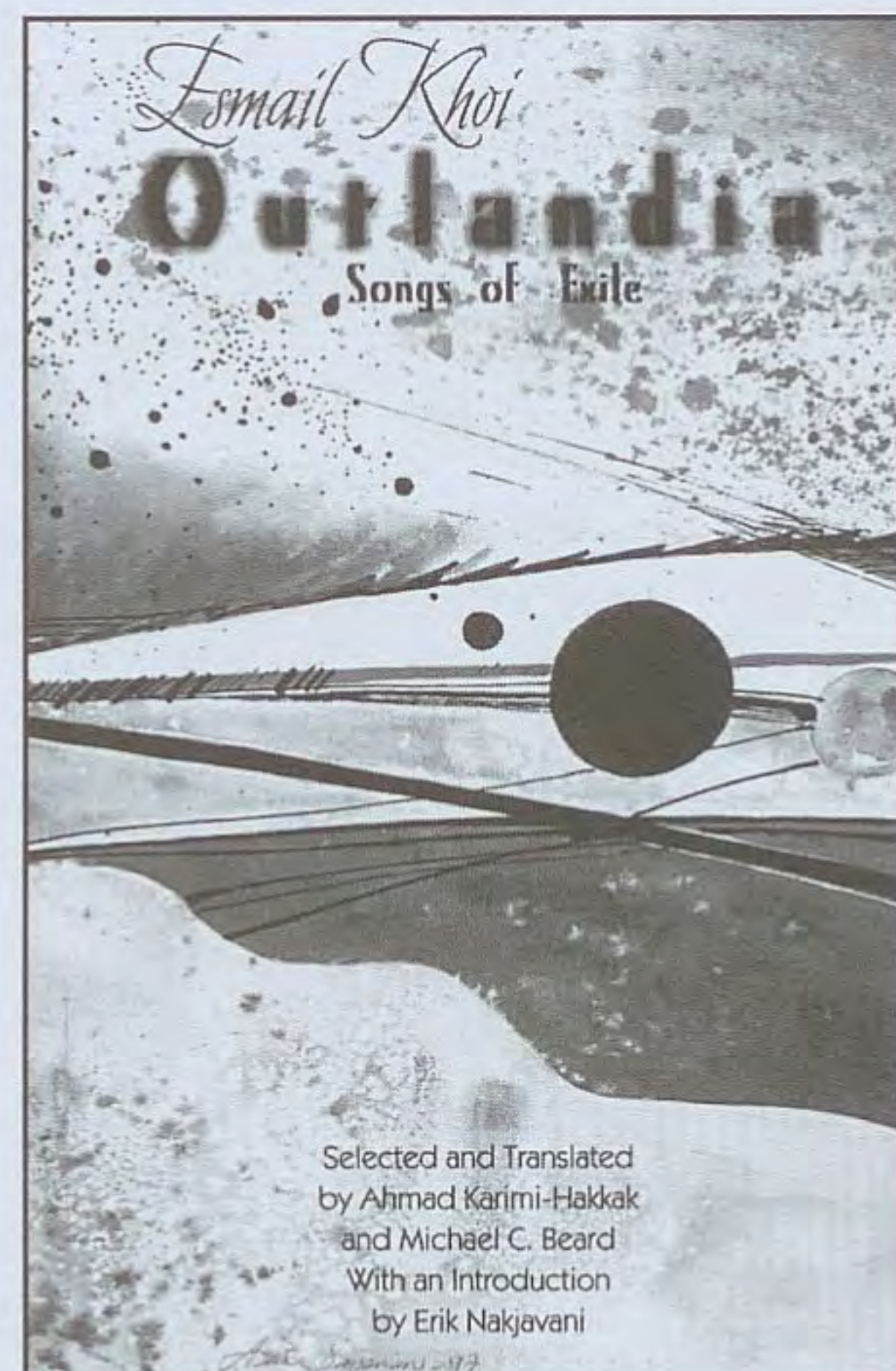
Ilse Cirtautas presented a paper on Nicholas Poppe's unpublished "Account of the Linguistic Conference in Samarkand, May 1929" for UW's Twelfth Annual Nicholas Poppe symposium on May 13. For the Central Asian Studies Group she also gave a presentation on "Uzbek Language Development Since Independence." In April she was a panel participant in the Western Consortium Multi-Language Workshop on developing cultural proficiency goals. Her teaching this year included a special course on "Country Profiles of Central Asia" in Winter 2000, and she also organized and headed the summer 2000 program in intensive Uzbek language and Central Asian studies, which once again was awarded Social Science Research Council funding. She is revising the manuscript of her new "Historical Dictionary of Kirghizstan," and continues work on an Uzbek grammar and "Uzbek-English Dictionary," eventually to be placed on the web for instructional use.

Terri DeYoung has been elected to the board of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic, and also to the editorial board of

literary phenomenon. She traveled in October and June-July to Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco, in connection with the Arabic Languages and Middle East/North African Cultural Studies Project, a pilot program for distance learning that she helps to oversee. Terri reported on this project in October at a conference on "Arabic as a Foreign Language in the New Millennium," at Wayne State University. In April 2000 she organized a workshop on Cultural Proficiency criteria (for the Western Consortium of Title VI Middle East Centers).

In recognition of **Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak** outstanding contributions to Iranian studies, he has been chosen to deliver the prestigious Yarshater lectures in April 2003 at UCLA. He served again as organizer for the Third Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, May 25-28, 2000, in Washington D. C., the largest conference on Iranian studies ever held in the U.S. His publications for this year included *Outlandia: Songs of Exile*, featuring poems by Iranian poet Esmail Khoi, translated in collaboration with Michael Beard with an introduction by Erik Nakjavani. Ahmad also

presented a paper in a panel on textual studies for MESA '99, and lectured at



NYU, Ohio State, University of Arizona and UCLA, among others.

In May 2000, **Selim Kuru** defended his Harvard dissertation entitled "A Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Scholar, Deli Birader, and His *Dafi'ü'l-gumûm ve Râfi'ü'l-humûm*" (advisor: Professor Sinasi Tekin). In October 1999, Selim contributed a presentation at a special UW forum discussing the implications of that summer's tragic earthquake in Turkey. He collaborated with Professors Resat Kasaba and Sarah Stein on planning a three quarter course series for 2000-2001 on "Envisioning Empires" that will include special attention to the Ottoman Empire. Selim's course, in Spring 2001, will address "The Ottoman Cultural Legacy," introducing the history of Ottoman poetry, architecture, calligraphy, miniature painting, and book making. In connection with a winter quarter 2000 course, Selim and student Ruya Barlas developed an excellent web site designed to enable researchers access to the resources for the history of modern Turkish literature (1923-) in English. (<http://courses.washington.edu/mtle/mtle2000.html>).



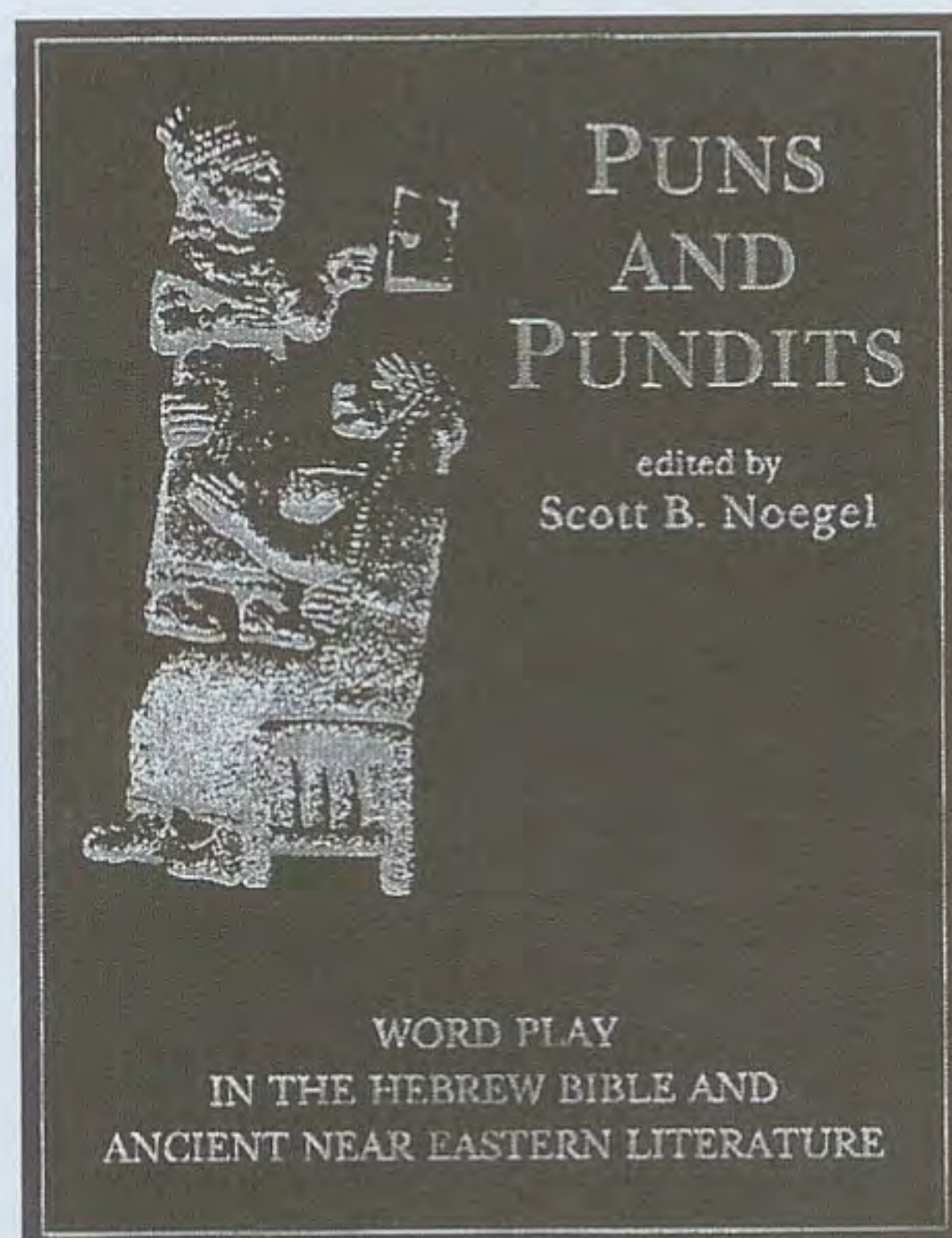
Terri DeYoung (second from left) meets with summer session students at Al-Akhawayn University, along with (at left) Muhammad al-Khalafi, Professor of Arabic

Langnet, a federally funded project to make foreign language teaching materials more widely available by utilizing new technologies. During her sabbatical quarter in autumn 1999 she worked on a book in which she explores the historical persistence of character stereotypes as a

wrote entries for *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and *Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year 1999*, and an article on "Edward G. Browne and the Issue of Historical Relevance in Scholarship" for *Iran Nameh* 17,3 [1999]: 489-502. He organized and pre-

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Scott Noegel was co-organizer of both the international conference on "Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient World," and the lecture series on "Jerusalem in the Western Religious Tradition," both at UW,



and he gave numerous community lectures on ancient Near Eastern topics. Among his several publications this year is an edited collection of essays titled *Puns and Pundits: Wordplay in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Literature* (CDL Press, 2000). Scott will co-author (with Brannon Wheeler) the *Historical Dictionary of Prophets in Islam and Judaism* (Scarecrow Press, 2001). Recently, Scott was awarded a multi-year grant from the New York State Council for the Arts for his national television arts screening *OffLine*. Locally, he serves as Vice-Chair of Art Support on the Seattle Arts Commission. He remains overall project director for NELC's "Tools for Transformation" grant, aimed at creating a technological infrastructure for teaching Near Eastern languages.

In 1999-2000 **Naomi Sokoloff** finished her term as Chair of the Jewish Studies Program. This year saw the establishment of a Sephardic Studies initiative, inaugurated with a film series and curriculum development. Naomi helped secure funding

from the Simpson Humanities Center for a 2001 symposium on "Ladino in Print," and also for a series of cultural events complementing the second successful year of the summer Yiddish program. Her publications include a co-edited sixth volume of *Books on Israel* (SUNY Press) and an essay for a festschrift in honor of Arnold Band of UCLA. She is currently developing, with Dr. Monica Devens, a CD-ROM based instruction in modern Hebrew. She continues to serve as Book Review Editor for *Prooftexts* and as VP for Membership of the Association for Jewish Studies. Her UW teaching included a newly developed course on "Women in Israeli Literature and Society."

Brannon Wheeler presented papers in 1999-2000 at conferences in Kyoto, Japan, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; at the third tri-annual international Islamic Law Conference at the Harvard Law School; and in a panel at MESA '99. Several of these conference papers are now being published in edited volumes, and several other articles by Brannon are due to appear this year in journals in Russia and Greece. He is finishing a book on Moses in the Qur'an and early Islamic exegesis, and another on the stories of the prophets in the Qur'an, and working with Scott Noegel on a *Historical Dictionary of Prophets in Islam and Judaism*. For spring and summer 2000, he was awarded an NEH grant and served as senior Islamicist-in-residence at the American Research Center in Egypt in Cairo, and also conducted research in Tunis and Qayrawan in June with a grant from the American Institute of Maghreb Studies.

In November, 1999 **Michael Williams** delivered a paper on "Design in Codex Composition: The Case of Bodmer P72," at the Consultation on Papyrology and Early Christian Studies, AAR/SBL in Boston, and gave a lecture at UW on "Pillars of Utopia: Jerusalem in Early Christian History and Imagination," for the Comparative Religion Program's 25th anniversary lecture

series; in March 2000 he was a respondent in the "Prayer, Magic and the Stars" conference. His publications in 2000 include "Nag Hammadi Codices and Related Texts" for the *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*; and "Negative Theologies and Demiurgical Myths in Late Antiquity," in *Gnosticism & Later Platonism: Themes, Figures, Texts*, ed. R. Majercik and J. D. Turner. His current research includes a chapter on the codicology and paleography of the Nag Hammadi codices, for the volume *Écrits gnostiques*, ed. P.-H. Poirier and J.-P. Mahé, for the series *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade* (Paris: Gallimard).

Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli presented joint papers at conferences on the gazel put on by the German Institutes for Oriental Studies in Istanbul and Beirut and subsequently prepared the papers for publication in conference volumes. Walter also presented a paper at MESA '99 on the decline of "beloved's culture" in the 17th century and gave two lectures at Yale University, one on the Ottoman "beloveds" of the sixteenth century with a comparison to the Venetian courtesans and the other on Ottoman poetry. Material from these papers will be included in a book in preparation on the Ottoman beloveds. He is editing a collection of essays in honor of James Stewart-Robinson that should appear sometime over the next year. The Turkish translation and new edition of *Poetry's Voice, Society's Song*, appeared in May, as did a translation of his *Yale Journal of Criticism* article, "Singing the Alienated I."

Pierre MacKay has been honored with appointment as Elizabeth A. Whitehead Visiting Professor at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens July 2001-June 2002. Pierre looks forward to the opportunity to engage in several research projects during this period and may offer a seminar while in residence. However, he notes that the wording after "Duties" in the de-



scription of the appointment is elegantly and wonderfully succinct: "None"!

Farhat J. Ziadeh continued his research activities in Islamic law by preparing an article on the harassment of recalcitrant debtors for the journal *Islamic Law and Society* (forthcoming). He reviewed *Arab and Islamic Studies in Honor of Marsden Jones* for the journal *Al-'Arabiyya*, Ron Shaham's work entitled *Family and the Courts in Modern Egypt* for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, and evaluated two other books for possible publication by academic publishers. In the Spring Quarter of 2000, he was called back from retirement to teach an advanced course in Islamic legal texts. In October 1999 he was among those honored with an Arabic Symposium Award at Wayne State University, recognizing his exceptional accomplishments in the field of Arabic studies.

Jere L. Bacharach completes his five-year term as Director, Jackson School of International Studies at the end of June. He will also conclude his participation on the Executive Committee, Washington Committee on International Trade, which hosted the infamous Seattle WTO meeting and the City of Seattle's Sister Cities Council. During this last academic year Jere gave presentations related to his research and Middle East Studies at Berkeley, Indiana U., Trinity College [CN], IMEMO [Institute for World Economy, Moscow], St. Petersburg State University, and an international conference on early Islamic archaeology in Copenhagen. Next fall he gives the presidential address for the Middle East Studies Association as he has served as the organizations president this year. He anticipates that he will travel from Cairo to the fall meeting, as he will be spending most of next year in Egypt on either a Fulbright Fellowship he has been awarded or sabbatical leave.

Martin Jaffee returned from his year as an NEH Fellow to the good news that the result of his

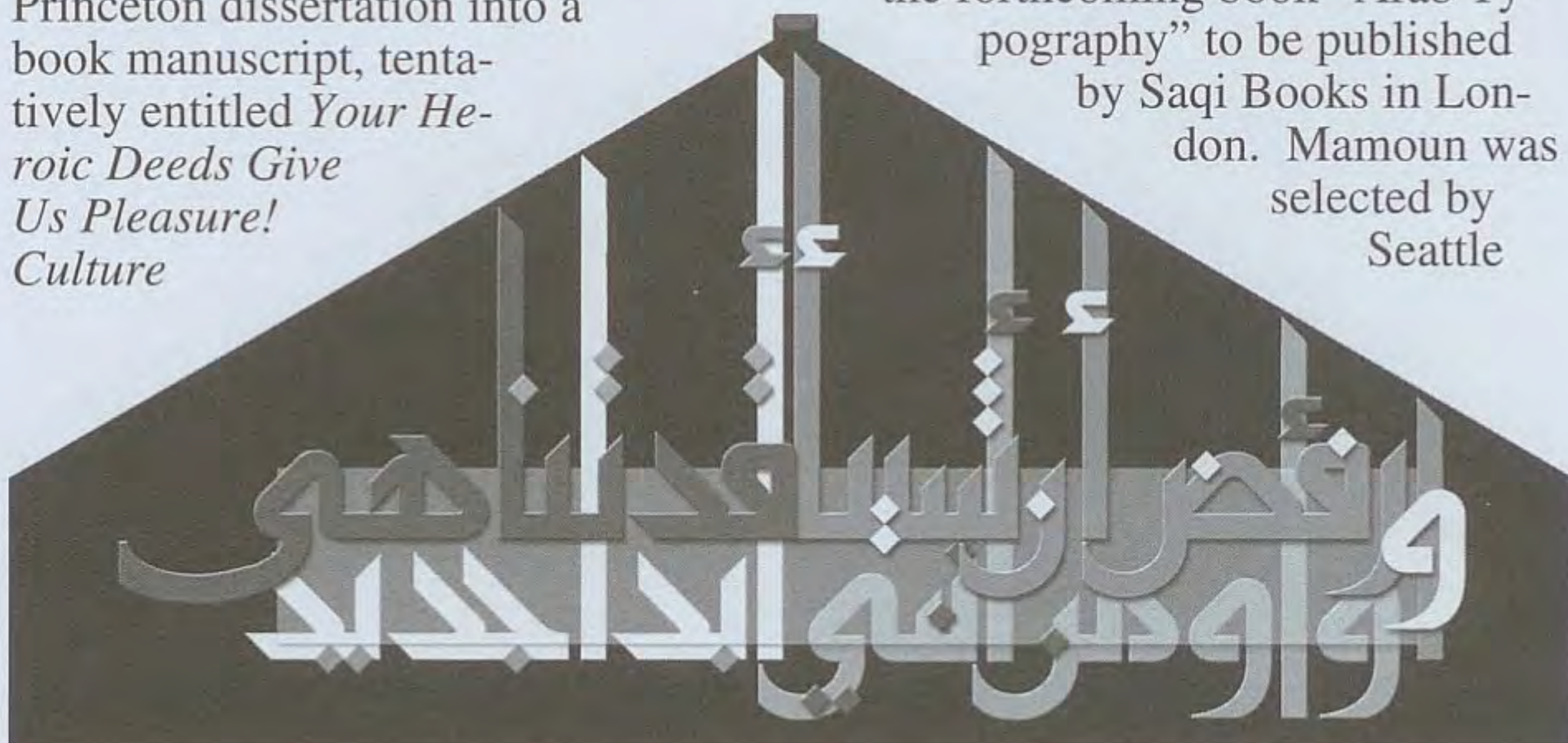
year's work has been accepted for publication with Oxford University Press under the title: *Torah in the Mouth: Written and Oral Tradition in Palestinian Judaism, ca. 200BCE*. He lectured at the College of William and Mary as Bronfman Visiting Lecturer in Jewish Studies; at the University of Heidelberg on "Comparing Monotheisms"; and at Washington University in St. Louis as the Cherrick Lecturer, presenting a chapter of his forthcoming book on oral tradition. In the Seattle community he gave talks and courses at the Melton Center for Adult Education, the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, the Chaya Mushka Jewish Public Library, and the Eastside Torah Center. During the 2000-01, he will serve as Acting Director of UW's Jackson School of International Studies and the Stanley S. Golub Professor of International Studies.

Joel Walker taught a lecture course on Jerusalem, a seminar based on his archaeological work in central Turkey, and a graduate seminar (with Michael Williams) on "Orthodoxy, Heresy, and Religious Coercion in Early Christianity." He lectured widely on campus, in Seattle, and beyond. He gave the First Annual Lecture in Classical Studies for the Seattle branch of the Archaeological Institute of America, and spoke at conferences in California, Illinois, Maryland, and North Carolina. He published several encyclopedia articles and book reviews, and is revising his 1998 Princeton dissertation into a book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Your Heroic Deeds Give Us Pleasure! Culture*

and *Society in the Martyr Legends of Late Antique Iraq*. In summer 2000 he divided his time this summer between writing and travel, including a short trip to Turkey in September in order to photograph and study ceramics and other artifacts now kept in the Ankara Museum.

Deborah L. Wheeler has been awarded a faculty fellow position at the new Center for Internet Studies in the Institute of International Policy Research, UW. She will help develop a research project on the Internet in Islamic Societies, assist in curricular development, and teach courses sponsored by the Center on aspects of the Internet as a force for global change. Deborah spent most of spring and summer 2000 in Cairo for fieldwork on the development and impact of the Internet in Egypt, and gave several public lectures on her research including a presentation at the Adham Center for Television Journalism. While still in Seattle she spoke at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from studios at UW via real-time video conferencing, on "Muslim Networks and the Politics of Cyberspace." She published six articles this year, including "The Internet and National Identity in Kuwait" for *Middle East Journal* (summer 2000).

Mamoun Sakkal's Arabic calligraphy artwork will be included in the forthcoming book "Islamic Art and Architecture" published by Koneman Publishers in Cologne, Germany. He will be also featured in the forthcoming book "Arab Typography" to be published by Saqi Books in London. Mamoun was selected by Seattle



Calligraphic artwork sculpture by Mamoun Sakkal, commissioned for Seattle Center

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Arts Commission to design a public piece of artwork for Seattle Millennium Artworks Project. His work, incorporating a poem by the Syrian poet Suliman al Isa, was installed in Seattle Center during the Winter of 1999 and Spring of 2000. His calligraphy and graphics included work for the Seattle Times, Cune Press, Iqra Magazine, Islamic Society of North America, Ridgeway Press, Arab American Community Center of Houston, and a residence in Spain, where he designed Kufi calligraphy inside two domes.

This autumn **Kagan Arik** moved from the Seattle area, accepting a three-year position beginning September 2000 as Lecturer in Uzbek language at the University of Chicago. Among his other activities in the immediate future, Kagan will also be contributing programming on a freelance basis for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Hadi Sultan-Qurraie has moved to Monterey, CA where he has an Assistant Professor position at the Defense Language Institute. He organized a panel for the biennial conference of Society for Iranian Studies conference in Bethesda, MD, May 26-28 2000, and presented a paper entitled "Turk/Fars Dichotomy in Iranian Memory and Its Modern Reflections In Shahriyar's Poetry."



MA student and Language Learning Center Student Associate Talgat Imangaliev volunteers some older technology for improvements to NELC TA office.

FROM OUR STUDENTS

Graduates of NELC 2000:

We extend our hearty congratulations to this year's graduates from NELC's BA program: **Nathan Adderson; Julie Coons; Jipar Duyshembiyeva; Jason Garcia; Alexandre Milkie; Siyavash Mohandessi; Soroush Mohandessi; Anila Payam; Amir Salehi;** and **Asif Samad;** and to NELC MA graduates **Tolga Esmer** and **Talgat Imangaliev.**

News from our Undergraduates:

Elliott Martin received a prestigious Mary Gates undergraduate fellowship in 1999-2000, to work with Scott Noegel and Sheila Colwell (Classics) researching Near East and Aegean inter-cultural contacts in early antiquity. Also appointed a Mary Gates Fellow for Spring and Autumn 2000 is NELC undergraduate **Clinton Moyer**, who will be working with Scott Noegel on a reverse index for the Ugaritic (ancient Canaanite language) grammar, as editorial assistant for the *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, and on tasks related to the UW Library's Content Online Project for digital images.

2000 BA graduate **Alexander Milkie** will be entering a graduate program at the University of Chicago in Autumn 2000 focusing on modern Arab history [especially Arab nationalism, its origins, and its implementation. His undergraduate thesis was on the Great Arab Revolt [1916-1918].

Due to his outstanding academic record, **Nick Toombs**

was among the finalists for the highly competitive Dean's Medal, awarded each year to only one student in each of the four divisions of the College—Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Science.

NELC minor **Maryah Nijim** helped organize a UW chapter of the Student Alliance for Arab-Israeli Coexistence, a student group promoting communication and better information and understanding, and in May Maryah and other delegates from the chapter attended a related policy conference in Washington D.C.

M.A. Degree Program

MA graduate **Tolga Ugur Esmer** has been accepted into a PhD program in Ottoman and Eastern European History at the University of Chicago, with a four-year full tuition plus stipend University Fellowship. He presented a paper at the 1999 MESA conference and will give another at the 2000 meetings on "The Visual Vocabulary of Late Ottoman Legitimation Crisis and the Bulgarian Response." He won a summer 2000 FLAS fellowship to study intensive intermediate Bulgarian in Sophia, Bulgaria.

David Hunsicker spent 1999-2000 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan doing language training and research through a program administered by the American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS). He studied manuscript holdings of the Abu Rayhon Beruni Oriental Studies Institute, and visited collections in libraries in Almaty, Bishkek and Ashgabat. He is researching manuscripts relating to members of Ahl-I Beyt (the family of the Prophet Muhammad) in the written and oral literatures of the Turkic peoples. After a summer of FLAS supported study of Intensive Elementary Turkmen at Indiana University, he will again be participating in ACCELS' Combined Language Training and Research Program in Tashkent during 2000-2001 with Title VIII funding from the US State Department.

FROM OUR STUDENTS

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies (IPNMES)

PhD student **Erdag M. Goknar** was awarded an academic-year FLAS grant for 1999-2000, successfully completed his general exams and was advanced to candidacy. He participated in the UW/Bogazici student exchange (winter and spring). He saw his English translation of Orhan Pamuk's "Famous People" story published in *Granta*, and is on the verge of completing a translation of Orhan Pamuk's latest novel *Crimson* (due to be published by Knopf in the late fall). Erdag interviewed for a position as an Assistant Professor in Turkish literature and culture at the University of Michigan. For 2000-2001 he has received a Fulbright-Hays doctoral research fellowship and a Humanities Dissertation Fellowship from UW Graduate School, to continue research in Istanbul on his dissertation treating the occupation of Istanbul after WWI as reflected through contemporary novels.

Maha El-Taji has been awarded a Social Science Research Council International Pre-dissertation Fellowship. She plans to spend July 2000-July 2001 at Haifa University in Israel where she will take Hebrew courses, study Israeli law, and do some preliminary research. Her preliminary research will explore how the various minority groups in Israel, including the Palestinian minority, use the Israeli legal system to achieve equal rights.

The Board of Directors for Trinity Lutheran College has approved a new four-year major in "Critical Thinking and Communication," drafted by **Elliott Ohannes**, who is employed there as Head Librarian. The new major draws on resources from the college's Biblical Studies and the Great Books programs and awaits the approval from the Northwest Regional Association of Colleges and Universities.

Hurriyet Gokdayi successfully defended his PhD dissertation in spring 2000: "Desire for Sohbet: An Ethnography of Communication in Turkey" (advisor Resat Kasaba) and received his doctorate in IPNMES. Dr. Gokdayi returned to Turkey where he will teach courses in Turkish language and linguistics at Mersin University.

Karen Strand Winslow presented the paper: "Ethnicity, Exogamy, and Zipporah" at the 2000 Regional American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature meetings in Spokane. She has been selected to be a candidate from the Pacific Northwest Region of the AAR/SBL for the 2001 Regional Scholar program of the SBL. Karen

taught a special course on "Women in the Bible" at UW during the summer.

Amara Simons, who has served as Arabic TA in NELC for several years, attended a UW workshop on "Teaching and Testing for Proficiency in World Languages" in August as the NELC representative.

Before an appreciative Denny Hall audience, **Fevziye Barlas** gave a reading in April of her poetry inspired by her experiences from many years as a journalist and from witnessing the plight of women in refugee camps in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Fevziye's human rights efforts in her career as a journalist had earned her an award from President Clinton.

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

We inaugurate this year a new section of the Newsletter devoted to news from alumni and alumnae of the department. Below are the entries received by "press time," and some had to be abridged for reasons of space, but you can read longer versions in the online edition on our new web site. If you didn't send in news this year, please do so for next year's edition! Send by email to neareast@u.washington.edu, or by FAX to 206-685-7936.

Brady R. Johnson (BA 1976 NELC—Hebrew) joined the Peace Corps after graduating from UW and spent close to three years in Senegal living in a remote village among Balant and Mandinka tribal people. The Mandinka teach their children from wooden tablets with Qur'anic verses written on them. Brady once surprised the Imam by being able to read the verses to the children. "I felt an unexpected breeze and looked up to see two small girls fanning me with palm fronds! Apparently, the Imam was so impressed to see a westerner reading Arabic and reciting from the Qur'an that he had called them over

to fan me." After the Peace Corps Brady studied history at UW, and then law at University of Puget Sound (since his father taught at UW's Law School), and has been practicing law since 1984 with a private practice in Seattle since 1992. He also sometimes sits as a pro tem judge in the Seattle Municipal Court and other local courts.

Fred Renfroe (BA 1979, MA 1981 NELC) went from UW to a PhD program at Yale (MPhil 1985; PhD 1989), where he did a dissertation on the lexical affinities between Ugaritic and Arabic (*Arabic-Ugaritic Lexical Studies*, *Abhandlungen zur Literatur Alt-Syrien-Palästinas*, Band 5 [Münster: UGARIT-Verlag, 1992]). While working on his dissertation he spent two years (1985-87) as a DAAD fellow at Münster and taught Syriac and other Aramaic dialects at Yale. After his PhD he worked for a time on the gargantuan project of cataloguing the entire holdings of the Yale Babylonian Collection, then studied again at Münster for two years as an Alexander von Humboldt fellow. When he returned he taught

for a couple of years at Columbia University and then for a year at Yale. A shift in his intellectual interests and personal aspirations caused him to decline the offer of a tenure-track position at Yale in favor of moving toward "something a little more hands-on." He moved to Whidbey Island in order to help his father build a house—an intended "few months" that stretched into three years. "While putting on the roof, I decided to go to law school. It seemed a good way to satisfy an increasing need to do politically active work, and I thought it would allow me to make productive use of the skills I'd acquired as a researcher, writer and teacher." Fred went to Berkeley for his law degree (JD 1999), during which time he became very involved in death penalty litigation. He is now a staff attorney at the Habeas Corpus Resource Center in San Francisco, an organization that represents inmates on death row before the California Supreme Court and in the federal courts. He "can't imagine any work more satisfying. It also requires constant and rigorous learning, requiring me to master all sorts of fascinating things, from neurophysiology to forensics to social history as well

as law. . . . I still fish out a Syriac or Arabic text from time to time to keep my hand in."

Emily M. Wilson (BA 1973 Pol. Sci.; BA 1996 [Honors] NELC and Comparative Religion—Islam) works as a professional Home and Office Organizer, i.e. her marketing ploy is Emily Unlimited: "Command your Clutter!" In addition, she escorts small group adventurous tours to Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. She loves to adventure all around the Middle East and North Africa, especially her time spent in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco with Berber families. When in Seattle, her husband Michael Rich and son (8 yrs old) Garret Richwilson, like to host the International Exchange students from American University in Cairo, and give home hospitality visits to the Evans School/Humphrey Fellow, and other North African/Middle East visiting students.

After a two-year Mellon postdoc at Williams College, **Keith D. Watenpaugh** (BA NELC/History 1989; honors) has been appointed Assistant Professor in the History Department at Le Moyne College, a

Jesuit liberal arts school in Syracuse, NY. Between fly-fishing and expeditions in the Adirondacks ("pale shadows of the Cascades") and the Finger Lakes, he is finishing a book manuscript on class and modernity in the late Ottoman and inter-war Middle East.

Diana McDermott (BA 1997 NELC) is currently in her second year of studies for a combined MD/MPH at Tulane School of Medicine and School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. On the side, Diana and her husband are in the process of restoring a 150-year-old Creole Cottage in New Orleans.

Alex Elinson (M.A. 1998 NELC) is continuing his graduate studies at Columbia University in medieval Arabic and Hebrew literature, specifically of Muslim Spain and North Africa. After spending the fall semester in New York completing his coursework, he will travel to Morocco for a period of seven or eight months to conduct dissertation research.

Dustin Langan (BA 1998 NELC) has been accepted into the PhD program in History at Northwestern University, and is a Northwestern Graduate Fellow.

Student Fellowships and Assistantships:

The Bateh Fellowship for 1999-2000 was awarded to **Natasha Younes**.

The following M.A. and Ph.D. students were awarded Maurice D. and Lois Schwartz Fellowships for 2000-2001: **Ozlem Sensoy, David Hunsicker, and Mark Reese**.

The following students have been appointed as teaching assistants for 2000-2001:

Arabic:	Muktar Ali
Hebrew:	Magid Shihade
Persian:	Fevziye Barlas
Turkish:	Didem Havlioglu

The following students have been awarded research assistantships during 2000-2001 in connection with the Department's "Tools for Transformation" project: **George Berg, Joseph DuWors, and Hande Solakoglu**.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Central Asian Studies Group experienced another very active year with regular meetings on Thursdays and Fridays, and a full program calendar including numerous films, student and faculty presentations, and talks by distinguished visitors. International guest speakers included Nazima Kamalova, head of the Non-Governmental Legal Advice Office for Women, Children and the Elderly, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Dr. Zhakshylyk Khuseinov, former Advisor on Economics to the Kazakh Parliament and President; and Dr. Yakubjon Abdukhalikov, head of the Humanities Department, Tajik Institute of Management, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The wide variety of other presentations included items ranging from a discussion of Kazakh oral histories, to Mongolian traditional wrestling, Kirghiz wedding traditions, health issues in Kazakhstan, humanitarian aid for orphanages in Uzbekistan, and many other topics.

The **Persian Circle** held its weekly meetings through the academic year. Student members made a particular effort to familiarize themselves and other UW students with the new Iranian cinema. Other noteworthy activities included a session on Bahariehs (Spring Poems), the poetry of Ms. Fevziye Barlas, and a meeting with Ms. Jill Miles of the SMiles Productions where the students were acquainted with "Persian Tutor," a new self-instructional CD for students of Persian, developed in collaboration with Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak. Several important events that the Circle brought to the community centered on Persian poetry and music. Two Iranian poets, M. A. Sepanlu and Esmail Khoi, read and discussed their work, respectively on October 15, 1999 and February 4, 2000. In addition, the Circle cooperated with a number of community organizations to stage an

event in memory of the late Iranian poet Nader Naderpur; the event was held on May 14, 2000. On May 7, Sima Bina, renowned Iranian singer of folk and regional songs, performed songs from various parts of Iran, particularly her native Khorasan for an enthusiastic Kane Hall audience of over 300, and on June 9, 2000 Maestro Hossein Omumi, internationally acclaimed composer and reed-flute player, was welcomed by about 200 appreciative fans at the Ethnic Cultural Theater. Both events were made possible with the assistance of the Persian Circle. Finally, on July 19, 2000, the Circle assisted members of the Iranian community in organizing an exhibition of paintings by a husband and wife team of Iranian artists exhibiting their work at the Odegaard Undergraduate Library.

WESTER CONSORTIUM WORKSHOP CULTURAL PROFICIENCY

Several NELC faculty were among the contributors at the Western Consortium Multi-Language Workshop held at UW April 1-2, devoted to the theme "Self, Identity and Communication: A

Workshop for Developing Cultural Proficiency Goals in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish." Workshop organizer Terri DeYoung noted that it has always been known that serious language learning must involve more than simply knowledge of grammar and vocabulary for reading, writing, listening and speaking. An essential "fifth skill" involves cultural understanding, but what are the most effective strategies for its development? Participants in the two-day workshop, held in the Walker-Ames Room, focused on lessons from past and current experience, and ways to promote and further develop collaboration between those involved in language instruction and those charged with creating literature and civilization courses at universities.

FUNDING RENEWED FOR PILOT ARABIC DISTANCE LEARNING PROJECT

The National Security Education Program has renewed for a second two years the funding for the Arabic Distance Learning Project, a joint effort involving the University of Washington, Montana State University-Bozeman, and several other participating educational institutions. Begun in

autumn of 1998, the project brings training in Arabic language to colleges, mostly in Northwestern states, that do not otherwise have Arabic programs. From studios on the UW campus, lecturer Ahmed Souaiaia provides instruction via interactive video to first-year students at the participating campuses,



Multi-Language Workshop participants Terri DeYoung, Abdellah Chekayri (Al-Akawayn University), Aman Attieh (U. of Texas), and Hussein Elkhafai (U. of Utah)



where the students also receive coaching from specially trained teaching assistants. In autumn of 2000, joining the participating institutions in Montana, Idaho, and North Dakota will be Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC, with on-site teaching assistant Fayrouz Attia. The second year of study for students in the project is conducted at al-Akawayn University in Morocco. UW Professor Terri DeYoung, Director of the project, notes that the assessment results for the first class of students to complete the two-year program were decidedly positive, showing skill levels equaling and in some cases even exceeding those of students completing two years of Arabic language study in conventional departmental programs.

NELC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Like to see fuller versions of some of the news in this newsletter? Please visit NELC's new departmental website, a step forward for which special thanks are due Mamoun Sakkal, Talgat Imangaliev, and Professor Scott Noegel. The address for the new site is:
<http://depts.washington.edu/nelc> and we hope you will visit it soon and revisit it often, both to keep in touch with what's going on in NELC as well as to take advantage of what we intend to be a large number of interesting resources. We expect the website to be growing rapidly over the coming months and years due to several initiatives now underway. And in the future we plan regularly to have both a printed and a somewhat larger online version of this newsletter. Let us know what you think!

SECOND ANNUAL AFRASSIABI MEMORIAL LECTURE HELD

On February 12, Peter Chelkowski, Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at New York University, delivered the 2000 Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture in Persian Studies. A decidedly appreciative Kane Hall audience heard Professor Chelkowski lecture on "Puccini's

Turandot Meets Nezami's Haft Paykar." The annual lectureship honors the memory of the late Hooshang Afrassiabi, who was a prominent member of the local Iranian community and a long-time friend of the University and especially its program in Persian studies. NELC Chair Professor Michael Williams welcomed the audience and Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Director of NELC's Persian Program, introduced Professor Chelkowski.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Beyond the various events mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, other public lectures sponsored or co-sponsored in 1999-2000 by NELC included:

Professor Bernard Weiss, University of Utah, "Islamic Law."

Kelly Pemberton, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, "Women, Ritual Life, and the Sufi Shrine in North India"

Professor Lance Laird, Evergreen College, "Khidr and Saint George: A Shard Saint and the Crossing of Boundaries in Contemporary Palestine."

Professor Peter Chelkowski, New York University, "Traveling Rituals: Shii Passion Plays from Iran via India to the Caribbean"



Following remarks of appreciation after the lecture by Mr. Afrassiabi's eldest son, anesthesiologist Dr. Ali Afrassiabi, the audience retired to the Walker-Ames Room and enjoyed a reception hosted by the Afrassiabi family. The Department once again expresses its gratitude to Dr. Afrassiabi and other members of the family and to the many friends of the Afrassiabi Endowment Fund, for their important outstanding support of Persian studies at UW.

AFRASSIABI STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE AWARDED

NELC is pleased to announce that Amir Hossein Salehi is the winner of the 2000 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 to the Hooshang Afrassiabi Endowment Fund, 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. Mr. Salehi's essay was written for an independent study project with Professor Brannon Wheeler, and treated parallels between themes in the poet-philosopher Jalaledine Rumi, certain motifs in the Qur'an, and the language of modern scientific cosmologies. Amir graduated from UW this year with a B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology and a B.A. from NELC. Our congratulations to Amir for his prize-winning essay and his successful completion of his undergraduate studies! For further details about the Afrassiabi Essay Award, please contact Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (karimi@u.washington.edu).

30th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION PLANNED FOR MESA MEETINGS

Alums and other friends of NELC and of UW's Middle East Center are cordially invited to a special reception at the Middle East Studies Association meetings in Orlando, November 16-19, 2000, on Friday evening, November 17, 8:00-10:00 pm in Yucatan 3 at the conference hotel, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Please join us to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the formal organization of the Department, as well as the 25th anniversary of the initial funding of the Center.

PRAYER, MAGIC AND THE STARS CONFERENCE HELD MARCH 3-5, 2000

Some two hundred persons attended a three-day NELC co-sponsored interdisciplinary symposium on "Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient & Late Antique World," organized by Scott Noegel, Joel Walker, and Brannon Wheeler. The immensely successful symposium

addressed the manifold techniques and traditions—both sanctioned and unsanctioned, individual and communal—by which men and women in the ancient, classical, and late antique Near East sought to gain access to that power. The conference began with a keynote address entitled "Here or There or Anywhere" by Jonathan Z. Smith of the University of Chicago, and included six sessions of papers and responses treating such topics as Mesopotamian divination, Egyptian dream interpretation, magic in late Sasanian Iraq, Coptic magical texts, Greek love spells, divination in Jewish tradition, among others. Details on the conference can be found at the symposium web site: <http://faculty.washington.edu/snoegel/stars.html>. Preparations are underway for the publication of the conference proceedings. A portion of Professor Smith's digitally taped keynote address will also be appearing soon in streamed video format on the new NELC website.



Organizers and speakers for UW's international symposium on "Prayer, Magic and the Stars"

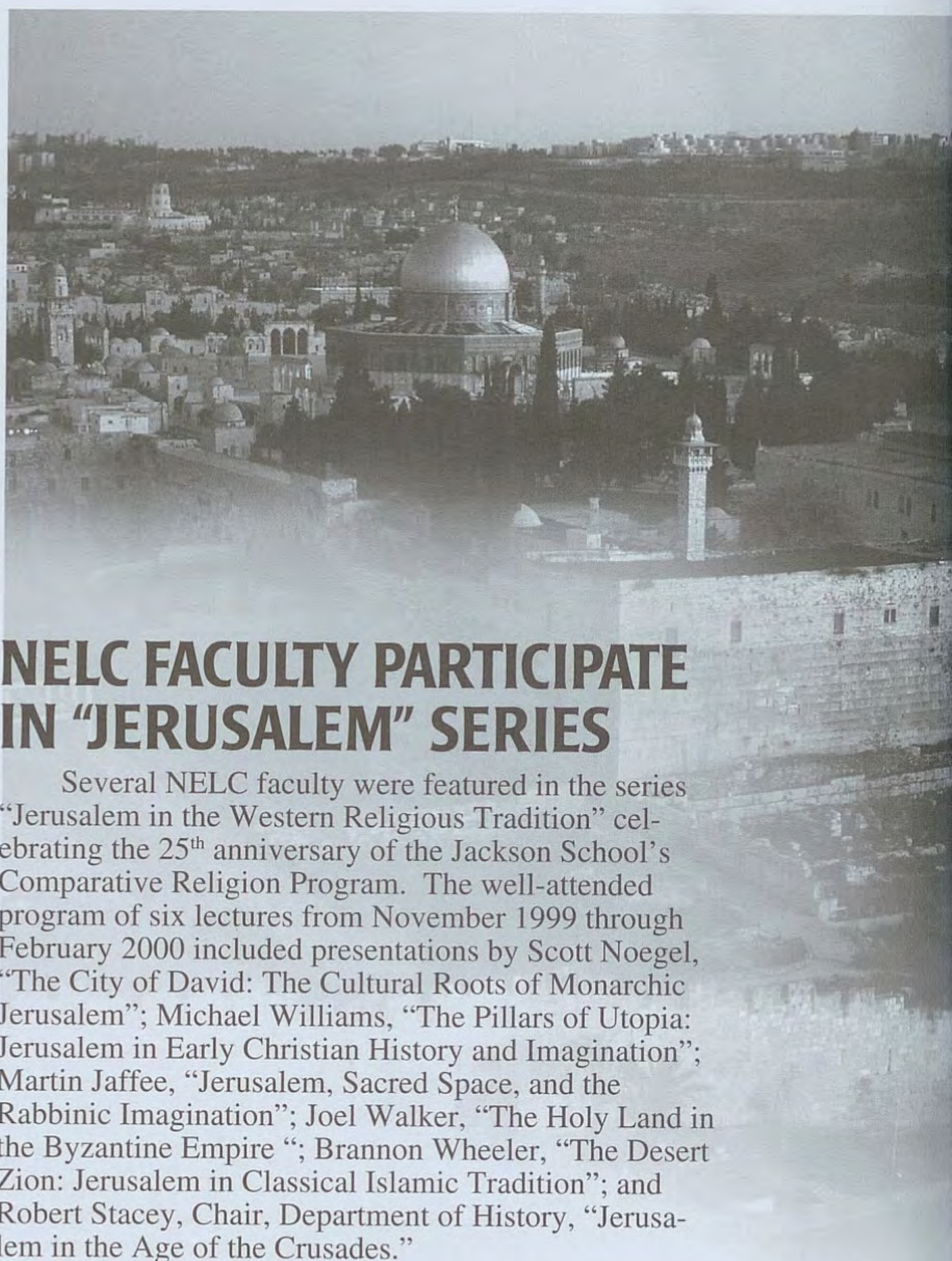
For an expanded version of this newsletter please visit our new web site at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/nelc>

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 Twelfth Annual Poppe Symposium was held on Saturday, May 13, 2000 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: "Mongol Military Tactics During Chingiz Khan's Empire" by Aaron Fields, Seattle, WA; "Nicholas Poppe's Account of the Linguistic Conference in Samarkand, May, 1929" by Prof. Ilse Cirtautas; "Alexander the Great in Central Asia" by Mark Reese, UW; "The Image of the Bride/Daughter-in-law in Finnish and Kirghiz Wedding Poetry" by Elmira Kochumkulova, UW; "Issues of Public Health in Central Asia" by Christine Szabo, UW; "Economic and Political Situation of the Caspian Sea Region" by Dr. Zhakshlyk Khuseinov, former advisor on economics to the President and Parliament of Kazakhstan; "Central Asian Oil: A Specious Prospect for Development" by Dr. Gerard Filitti, NYU; and "Stalin's Purges in Kazakhstan: Real Faces, Tragic Stories" by Talgat Imangaliev, UW.



NELC FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN "JERUSALEM" SERIES

Several NELC faculty were featured in the series "Jerusalem in the Western Religious Tradition" celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Jackson School's Comparative Religion Program. The well-attended program of six lectures from November 1999 through February 2000 included presentations by Scott Noegel, "The City of David: The Cultural Roots of Monarchic Jerusalem"; Michael Williams, "The Pillars of Utopia: Jerusalem in Early Christian History and Imagination"; Martin Jaffee, "Jerusalem, Sacred Space, and the Rabbinic Imagination"; Joel Walker, "The Holy Land in the Byzantine Empire"; Brannon Wheeler, "The Desert Zion: Jerusalem in Classical Islamic Tradition"; and Robert Stacey, Chair, Department of History, "Jerusalem in the Age of the Crusades."



Nicholas Poppe Symposium. From left: Aigul Khuseinova, Dr. Yakshilik Khuseinove, Christina Szabo, Sarah Trent (person in background not identified)

Distinguished Visitor from Uzbekistan

This year's Summer Program in Uzbek Language and Culture (June 19-August 18) again enjoyed the presence of the distinguished Uzbek poet, writer and historian Dr. Muhammad Ali Akhmedov, better known under his pen-name Muhammad Ali. He has been teaching Intensive Uzbek courses since the summer of 1993. Students from the University of Washington and other institutions around the country remember his cultivated speech, his extraordinary command of the rich Uzbek vocabulary and above all his care and concern for his students which extended far beyond the classroom, to Uzbekistan where he opened many doors for them, introducing them to scholars and writers who would guide them to important sources for their research.

In the tradition of Central Asia where literature is primarily understood as poetry, Muhammad Ali began his literary career by writing poetry at the young age of fifteen. In 1992, when he was fifty years old, his first prose work appeared: the historical novel in two volumes "Sarbadorlar," earning him immediate recognition as an accomplished prose writer and the prestigious title "Honored Writer of Uzbekistan". The novel depicts a unique episode in the history of Samarkand, when its citizens rose up against an oppressive local ruler and formed their own government (1365-1366).

Uprisings against unjust rulers and the struggle for independence had occupied Muhammad Ali already in his poetry, despite the fact that Soviet literary policies did not tolerate such topics. From 1969-1979 he worked on a dastan (epic poem) centered around a local leader of the Naqshibandiya Order, Dukchi Ishan, who in 1898 staged with his followers an uprising in Ferghana against the Russian colonizers. In this dastan, Muhammad Ali connects the events in Ferghana with the revolt of 1916, when not only Uzbeks but also Kazakhs, Kirghiz and Turkmens stood up against Russian oppression. To the author's great surprise, the dastan titled "Baqiy Dunyo" (Eternal World) passed soviet censorship. Its publication in 1980 established Muhammad Ali's reputation as an earnest and courageous man.

Sincerity and honesty is also the mark of Muhammad Ali's essays on history, language and the environment. His article "Let us Study Our Heritage and Learn Who We Really Are" (1988) won him an international recognition for his outspokenness. It was translated into English and published in France and the U.S. The latest edition is to be found in H. B. Paksoy, ed. *Central Asia Reader: Recovery of History* (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1994, pp.10-24).

Currently Muhammad Ali is working on his second historical novel, consisting of three volumes. The setting is again the fourteenth century and the events surround the life of Amir Temur (r.1370-1405), known in the West as Timur or Tamerlane. The first part of the novel will be published this year.



Uzbek Summer Program 2000. First row from left: Ilse Cirtautas, Christina Szabo. Second row from left: Joshua Walker, Dr. Akhmedov, Alireza Jabbarpour, Tim Miller.

SOLOMON KATZ LECTURE BY LENN GOODMAN

Dr. Lenn E. Goodman, Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University, was the Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecturer in the Humanities at UW for Autumn 1999. His November 16 lecture, "Crosspollinations: Philosophically Fruitful Interactions between Jewish and Islamic Philosophy," focused on three ideas that passed from Biblical and Qur'anic scripture and Greek philosophical dialogues, treatises, and commentaries to Muslim and Jewish philosophers: (1) that the seemingly ineffable content of religious experiences can be articulated through symbols and so made a social reality, as imagery, ritual, myth and law; (2) the idea that since man is made in the image of God, people can learn about God by studying humanity; (3) the belief that God executes justice in history by visiting upon us the consequences of our actions, individually and communally.

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:

Mr. Matt M. Aatai
Ms. Shireen Abed
Dr. Ali Afrassiabi
Mr. Ali Afrasiabi and Ms. F. Ghassemi-Bakhtiari
Dr. Faraj Afrasiabi and Ms. Pauline Afrasiabi
Dr. Rahmat Afrasiabi and Ms. Sima Afrasiabi
Ms. Deena Ziadeh Ayyub
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& The Boeing Company (matching gift)
Ms. Ladan A. Parandoosh
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Ms. Rhonda M. Ziadeh-Salem
Ms. Suad S. Ziadeh
Professor Michael Williams

(Note: Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of donors in the 1999 Newsletter. Our sincerest apologies to a most loyal and generous benefactor!)

The Near East Reports...

Editor: Michael A. Williams

Production: Elaine Franks

Graphics/Design: Mamoun Sakkal





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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 you 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.

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NELC BEGINS SECOND YEAR OF "TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION" GRANT

During the first year of the Tools for Transformation project the infrastructure was put in place, and many of the planned tasks accomplished. The purchase of necessary hardware and software is complete. We now have a functioning secure server and a powerful, state-of-the-art computer station for Near Eastern languages' desktop and internet publishing. This publishing station will serve both faculty and students' advanced language publishing needs for years to come. We also have printers, scanners, a digital video camera, and laptop computers for use by our faculty. The RA's involved in the major components of the Tools project solved the initial challenges in their areas and have acquired the skills necessary to perform their tasks and accomplish the project goals. There was progress in the Biblical Hebrew Software development, Arabic Distance Learning, Ancient Near East Image Database, and other Tools components.



The Department's new website has a fresh, attractive appearance, a functional, user-friendly interface, and contains useful information which will benefit faculty, students, and the general public. Please visit the site and tell us what you think. Training of the new technologies for faculty and staff is planned for late Summer. This training will cover web page creation, classroom digital presentations, and digitizing still and moving images.

This technological infrastructure is a sound foundation on which to build during the second year of the project, when full productivity and implementation are to begin.

<http://depts.washington.edu/nelc>