



NELC UPDATE

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

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From the Chair



Professor Scott Noegel

It is such an exciting time to be involved with NELC. The demand for our courses in all of our program areas continues to surge and we continue to be impressed by the excellence of our many students. With the generous help of university, governmental, and especially private partnerships, we also have substantially increased the number of grants and awards we provide students and have expanded the number of our outreach activities. I also am especially proud of our faculty. Just this last year, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked NELC as third in the nation in faculty scholarly productivity. Moreover, NELC is just about to celebrate its 100th birthday! Yes, that's right, the year 2009-2010 will mark 100 years of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Washington. I invite you to start celebrating this accomplishment with us through our many public events.

NELC is truly an amazing department and I am proud to serve it. I invite you to read all about it in this issue. As you make your way through our *Update* you also will learn about our travel immersion awards for students studying abroad, digital initiatives in our language classes, exciting new courses on Islam in America and in China, next year's scheduled events, and more. After reading our *Update* I think you will agree that it is truly an exciting time to partner with NELC.

Student Group Launches at Washington Weekend



NELC Student Group members greet visitors.

The 2007-2008 school year marked the creation of a NELC Student Group at the University of Washington. The officers, Lesley Egbert, Aaron Haley, Heather Rastovac, Erin Solakas, and Ruben Shimonov, thank all who participated and served the department in its inaugural year. The highlight of the year was Washington Weekend, April 24-26, 2008. The Student Group hosted an open house

as part of the University-wide event for members of the University community and the public at large to learn about the department and the cultures NELC represents. Students of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, and Turkic languages decorated rooms in Denny Hall to present the respective languages and cultures. Walls were draped with textiles, blackboards were covered in Middle Eastern scripts, the scent of frankincense wafted through the halls, and Arabic pop music could be heard even in the Quad! Visitors and students discussed a broad range of topics including history, geography, current events, and language. Children and their parents loved having their names written in the various scripts. A photo contest gave students the opportunity to display photographs

from sites and experiences visited while studying abroad and guests were encouraged to vote for their favorite image (see back page for the winner!). With over one hundred visitors, the event was a great success, and the Student Group invites you to join them again next year.



Students demonstrate how to write visitors' names in NELC languages.



Staff News

NELC Welcomes

We warmly welcome our newly appointed Undergraduate Advisor **Amy Oates**, who for the past year fulfilled the roles of Program Assistant and Graduate Assistant, to the NELC family. New to Seattle, Amy comes to us from Baylor University in Texas, where she earned her B.A. in Studio Art. She has brought a great deal of professionalism and artistic creativity to her roles.

Amy is thrilled to be able to assist our undergraduates in pursuing their educational goals.



We would also like to sincerely welcome our new Program Assistant and Graduate Assistant **Valerie Brunetto** to NELC. Valerie grew up in San Ramon, California, but has lived in Seattle for over two years. She graduated from Whitman College in 2006 with a B.A. in Theatre and a minor in Education. She also teaches creative drama and acting classes at the Seattle Children's Theatre and loves to do fringe theatre. We are very pleased that she has joined our team.

A Special Thanks

We offer our gratitude and congratulations to our former Undergraduate Advisor, **Matt Erickson**. He recently accepted a position as an Undergraduate Advisor in the History Department. During Matt's time as the Undergraduate Advisor at NELC and as a NELC alumnus, Matt made a special connection with our students. He always advocated for them and was instrumental in getting the new NELC student group off the ground. We applaud his success and hope all the best for him in his new position.



Professors

- Andrews, Walter G.** (Research), Ph.D., 1970, Michigan; Turkish language and literature, Ottoman Turkish
Bacharach, Jere L. (Emeritus), Ph.D., 1967, Michigan; History of the Middle East, Islamic history
Cirtautas, Ilse D., Ph.D., 1958, Hamburg; Turkic languages and literature
Heer, Nicholas, L. (Emeritus), Ph.D., 1955, Princeton; Arabic language and literature, Islamic theology and philosophy
MacKay, Pierre A. (Emeritus), Ph.D., 1964, UC Berkley; Topography of the Near East, Ottoman Turkish and Classical Arabic literatures
Noegel, Scott (Chair), Ph.D., 1995, Cornell; Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures
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, UC Berkley; Arabic language and literature
Kuru, Selim, Ph.D., 2000, Harvard; Ottoman language and literature, modern Turkish

Assistant Professors

- Brown, Jonathan**, Ph.D., 2006, Chicago; Islamic thought; Early Islamic literature and history
Elkhafaifi, Hussein, Ph.D., 1985, Utah; Arabic language and literature
Papan-Matin, Firoozeh, Ph.D., 2003, UCLA; Persian language and literature, Iranian culture and Islamic texts

Adjunct and Affiliate Lecturers

- Clauss, Jim**, Ph.D., 1983, Berkeley; Hellenistic literature
Goldberg, Ellis, Ph.D., 1983, Berkeley; Political economy of the Middle East
Jaffee, Martin S., Ph.D., 1980, Brown; History of Judaism and Late Antiquity, Methods in study of religion
Kasaba, Resat (Adjunct), Ph.D., 1986 SUNY; Political economy of the world system, Middle East
Lopez, Shaun, Ph.D., 2004, U of Michigan; Modern Middle East, North Africa
Nickelsburg, George, Th.D., 1968, Harvard Divinity School; Early Judaism, Origins of Christianity
Osanloo, Arzoo, Ph.D., 2002, Stanford; Anthropology, Transnational law
Reid, Donald, Ph.D., 1969, Princeton; Middle East history
Schneider, Thomas, Ph.D., 1996, Basel; University of British Columbia; Egyptology
Schuyler, Phillip, Ph.D., 1979, UW; Music/Ethnomusicology; Middle East, Africa, Arab world
Schwarz, Florian, Ph.D., 1998, U of Tübingen; Pre-modern Middle East history, Islamic mysticism, Muslim culture in Central Asia
Walker, Joel, Ph.D., 1997, Princeton; History and archaeology of the Near East in Late Antiquity
Waters, Stacy, Ph.D., 1994, University of Edinburgh; Textual studies

Lecturers

- Benson, Susan**, M.A., 1983, Utah; Persian studies
Horovitz, Hadar, LL.M, 2007, UW
Jahshan, Maha, M.A., 2005, UW; Arabic studies
Martin, Gary, Ph.D., 2007, UW; Hebrew Bible, Biblical studies
Sobir, Bozor, M.A., 1962, U of Tajikistan; Tajik

Teaching Assistants

- Arabic:** Amal Egeiq, Najla Abdurrahman, Jason Andrus
Modern Hebrew: Or Rogovin
Biblical Hebrew: Karolien Vermeulen
Turkish: Murat Inan
Persian: James Gustafson
Introduction to Islamic Civilization: Gabriel Skoog

Staff

- Administrator:** Ourania Abell
Program Assistant: Valerie Brunetto
Undergraduate Advisor: Amy Oates

Advisory Board

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Waqih Abu-Rish | Rita Zawaideh | Robert Miller |
| Ali Afrassiabi | John Gokcen | Susie Naficy |
| Amir Afrassiabi | Pamela Miller | Kata Naficy |



Faculty News

During 2007-2008 Professor **Ilse Cirtautas** taught Elementary Uzbek, Introduction to Kyrgyz, as well as a course on "The Turkic Peoples of Central Asia." In Autumn 2007 Professor Cirtautas presented papers on the topic of "Central Asian Turkic Literature Since Independence" at two conferences in Uzbekistan. Two other papers on Uzbek literature have been contracted for publication, one in Uzbekistan and the other for a study of collected essays.

Professor **Scott Noegel** saw the publication of his monograph *Nocturnal Ciphers: The Language of Dreams in the Ancient Near East* released (American Oriental Society). His other publications include: "Dismemberment, Creation, and Ritual: Images of Divine Violence in the Ancient Near East," "Job iii 5 in the Light of Mesopotamian Demons of Time," "'Word Play' in the Ramesside Dream Manual," "Bodily Features as Literary Devices in the Hebrew Bible" (in Hebrew), "'Word Play' in Qoheleth," and "He of Two Horns and a Tail." Last year Professor Noegel became Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Religion: Compass*.

Professor **Naomi Sokoloff** is back with us after spending two years on leave. While on leave she completed and submitted *The Boundaries of Jewish Identity* to UW Press, a collection of essays co-edited with Susan Glenn, which also contains an essay by Professor Sokoloff on Hebrew fiction. She also continues to serve as a reviewer for several foundations and presses.

Professor **Michael Williams** chaired a high-profile panel in November 2007 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, involving ten authors who have published in the last couple of years on the newly published Codex *Tchacos* and its *Gospel of Judas*. He also was nominated for the Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award in 2007. Professor Williams will participate as a respondent to a group of papers at the SBL in Boston in November 2008. He has also been granted Sabbatical leave for Autumn 2008.

Associate Professor **Terri DeYoung** is currently working on a book entitled *Performing Modernity in 19th-Century Arabic Literature: Mahmoud Sami al-Barudi and the Invention of Early Modern Arabic Poetry*. In

Autumn 2007, she received a University of Washington Royalty Research Fund Scholar Award to complete this work. She is on leave until Winter 2009.

Associate Professor **Selim Kuru** edited the 2007 Proceedings volume for the 4th session of "Old Turkish Literature Studies," which he co-organizes with Turkish scholars in Istanbul on the subject of medieval Turkish literature. He also published three articles; the first in the aforementioned volume, the second in the inaugural volume of a Turkish literary journal, and the third in the *Journal of Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies*. Professor Kuru also co-organized and hosted the "Turkish Literature in Seattle Symposium" at UW in Spring 2008. He will deliver a lecture at Harvard University's Sexualities in the Middle East workshop in December 2008.

Assistant Professor **Jonathan Brown's** monograph *The Canonization of al-Bukhari and Muslim: The Formation and Function of the Sunni Hadith Canon* was published this year. He is now working on another monograph entitled *Hadith: Transmission, Use and Criticism of the Prophet's Legacy* for Oxford University Press. In addition, Professor Brown published two articles entitled "Critical Rigor vs. Juridical Pragmatism: How Legal Theorists and Hadith Scholars Approached the Backgrowth of *Isnads* in the Genre of *Illal al-hadith*" and "New Data on the Delateralization of *Dad* and its Merger with *Za* in Classical Arabic: Contributions from Old South Arabian and the Earliest Islamic Texts on *Da / Za* Minimal Pairs." In addition, Professor Brown is undertaking research on a third monograph provisionally entitled *Lying about the Prophet of God: A History of Hadith Forgery, Exploitation, and Unmasking*.

Professor **Walter Andrews** gave an informal talk at Seattle Central Library on the Turkish, Nobel Prize-winning author, Orhan Pamuk in January 2008. This talk is available by podcast and can be downloaded at <http://www.spl.org/Audio/WalterAndrews.mp3>. He was also a co-organizer and participant in the "Turkish Literature in Seattle Symposium" in February 2008.

Assistant Professor **Hussein Elkhafaifi** published an article entitled "An Exploration of Listening Strategies: A Descriptive Study of Arabic Learners" for a forthcoming issue of *al-'Arabiyya*. He is currently writing the entry "Libya" for the *Encyclopedia of The Modern*

World (Oxford University Press), as well as articles on "An Analysis of Swearing (Oath-Taking) Among Speakers of Libyan Arabic" and "Linguistic and Cultural Needs of Arabic Heritage Learners." Professor Elkhafaifi is very active on a number of national boards, groups, and committees and has just been elected as Arabic Sector Head of the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators of Language Programs (AAUSC). Last year Professor Elkhafaifi also organized a full-day workshop on pedagogy for teaching Middle Eastern languages, which included guest lecturers from the University of Texas.

Assistant Professor **Firoozeh Papan-Matin** is currently undertaking research for a monograph that investigates the teachings of the medieval Iranian Sufi mystic 'Ayn al-Qudat al-Hamadhani. Professor Papan-Matin received a research award from the American Institute of Indian Studies to conduct her research in India for this project. She also organized a two-day international conference on medieval Islamic mysticism and Indo-Iranian cultures in January 2008.

Adjunct Professor **Martin Jaffee** is on academic leave until Winter Quarter 2009. While on leave, the bulk of his time will be devoted to research for his new study of the techniques and ideologies of classical rabbinic oral tradition in Late Antiquity. He also is revising his popular course on Jewish Mystical Tradition as well as his widely used textbook, *Jews-Christians-Muslims: An Introduction to Monotheism* (Prentice Hall) for a second edition, due in Fall of 2010. Professor Jaffee continues his monthly column in Seattle's *JTNews* and in May of 2008 published an essay in the Seattle Times in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary.

Adjunct Professor **Joel Walker's** recent publications include an article on East-Syrian hagiography for a volume entitled "*Writing True Stories*": *Historians and Hagiographers in the Late Antique and Medieval Near East* (Brepols Press), and "Iran and its Neighbors: The Art of the Sasanian Empire, 224-642 C.E.," for the *American Journal of Archaeology*, in addition to several book reviews for *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval History*, *Hugoye: The Journal of Syriac Studies*, the *American Journal of Archaeology*, and the *Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing News*. Joel's current research focuses on the history of pearls in the arts, economy, and spirituality of the early medieval Middle East.

Biblical Hebrew & Ancient Near Eastern Studies

New Course on the Talmud



Professor Martin Jaffee will offer a new permanent course for HBANES entitled "Introduction to the Talmud." The course will be historical and literary in focus and will aim to situate the written version of the Talmud within its various historical, geographical, and cultural settings in the Roman and Sasanian Middle East of Late Antiquity and early Islamic times.

NELC Welcomes New Professor

This year, we welcome **Professor Thomas Schneider** of the University of British Columbia as an Affiliate Professor in NELC. Professor Schneider, a renowned Egyptologist, plans to offer a presentation for NELC on the subject of "Nazis and German Egyptology." Stay tuned to the NELC website for the date of this event.



A Special Thanks



This year **Hillel Gamoran** has announced his retirement from the University. For the last decade Hillel has taught a variety of courses on rabbinic subjects for NELC and the Jewish Studies Program. Though we will miss Hillel, we congratulate him and thank him for his many years of service.

UW Alumni Tour to Egypt

This year, **Professor Scott Noegel** shall again lead a tour of UW Alumni to Egypt. Among many other places, the trip shall feature visits to the Great Pyramids, Abu Simbel, the Valley of the Kings, and the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. The trip will take place January 25-February 10, 2009. Please contact the UW Alumni Office at 1.800.289.2586 for more information.



NELC Remembers Paul LeRoy

This year NELC lost one of its longtime friends and partners, Dr. Paul LeRoy. LeRoy, who had an amazing passion for education on ancient Egypt, was a Professor Emeritus of History at Central Washington University, as well as an expert in African history. Professor LeRoy was particularly delighted two years ago, when one of the tomb excavations he was funding in the Valley of the Kings unearthed the first tomb containing mummies to be found there since King Tutankhamun in 1922. We will miss Professor LeRoy and his deep appreciation for antiquities, and we will remember him through future students who receive the scholarship he established in his name. Those who would like to make a gift in his honor are kindly asked to address it to *The Paul LeRoy Scholarship for Excellence in Ancient Egyptian Studies*.



Photo reprinted courtesy of *The News Tribune*

New Graduate Student



Karolien Vermeulen studied classical philology and Biblical Hebrew at Ghent University in Belgium. Karolien joins our M.A. program this year as a joint graduate student with the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, in order to research the subject of wordplay in the Hebrew Bible and the *Versiones Antiquae*. Her interests include ancient languages (Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Gothic, Ugaritic, and Egyptian), the Hebrew Bible, classical antiquity, mythology, rabbinic scriptures, translation studies, hermeneutics, rhetoric, and structuralism. Karolien is a Teaching Assistant for our introductory sequence in Biblical Hebrew.





Arabic & Islamic Studies

Annual Farhat J. Ziadeh Lecture Series

The Sixth Annual Farhat J. Ziadeh Distinguished Lecture Series in Arab and Islamic Studies “*Shari`a* as Law and Legal System: Changing Perceptions” featured **Dr. Frank Vogel**. The talk examined how *Shari`a*, or “divine law,” is central to the faith and practice of the religion of Islam. Through the medium of scholarly jurisprudence or *fiqh*, *Shari`a* framed the legal system and much of the everyday law of innumerable Islamic states for a millennium. This lecture asked how one to two centuries after this transformation, the Muslim perception of - and the expectations for - *Shari`a* and *fiqh* may have shifted as a result, and what some of the possible consequences are of such a shift.



Dr. Frank Vogel, Professor Farhat Ziadeh, & Professor and Chair Scott Noegel



Professor Shibley Telhami

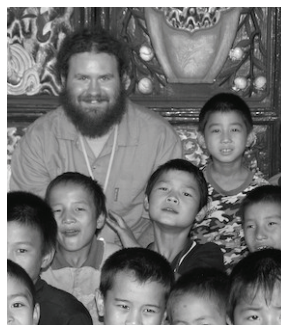
The 2009 Lecture Series will host Professor **Shibley Telhami**, who serves as the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland, College Park and as a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Professor Telhami is a distinguished author of several publications on international politics and Middle East affairs and has been very active in the foreign policy arena. Professor Telhami was appointed to the Board of the U.S. Institute of Peace by President Clinton, and he served as the advisor to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations during the Iraq-Kuwait crisis of the early 1990s. He has also been a member of the American delegation of the Trilateral American/Israeli/Palestinian Anti-Incitement Committee mandated by the Wye River Agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The 2010 Lecture will host Professor **Yvonne Haddad**, Professor of the History of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University.

New Courses

With increasing attention to Islam globally and domestically, a new course, **Muslims in America**, which was offered Spring 2008, was designed to explore the Muslim community in the United States. The class focused on Islam’s journey and settlement in the U.S., in addition to various Muslim communities. The course drew from fiction and non-fiction works and articles from various disciplines. The class also benefited from frequent guest speakers who shared from their personal and professional experiences.



Karam Dana encouraged his students to share and articulate their opinions by conducting the class largely through discussions. Students debated issues specific to Muslims living in the U.S. such as gender, compatibility between Islam and modernity, and discrimination in the years following September 11, 2001.



Kristian Petersen in China

The Dao of Islam: A History of Muslims in China is a new NELC course offered in Autumn 2008 that provides an advanced introduction to the history of Islam in China. **Kristian Petersen’s** course follows the transition of the foreign Arab, Persian, and Turkish Muslim communities into a local, hybrid Chinese Muslim identity. The class traces the political, social, and cultural factors that influenced and shaped the character of Islam in China throughout its history and will examine if these developments are unique or normative within the broader history of Islam. It explores issues such as historical reality versus mythic narratives and women’s roles in the Chinese Muslim community.

New Graduate Students



Najla Abdurrahman completed her undergraduate degree in cell and molecular biology at the University of Texas at Austin in 2004. She has since decided to focus her studies on Arabic language and Islamic studies, specifically methodologies contributing to Islamic law and thought, as well as the *Maghreb*-the Islamization and Arabization of North Africa. She has studied

Arabic and German, and was awarded a FLAS fellowship for Turkish study during the summer of 2008. She is serving as a Teaching Assistant for elementary Arabic.



Brittany Clark graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in History and Anthropology, and a minor in Middle East Studies. Her fascination with the Middle East dates back to her youth. She has studied both Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and plans to focus on Francophone North Africa and Egypt at the UW while she considers possible careers with NGOs or in governmental spheres.

Turkic & Central Asian Studies

New NELC Lecturer in Central Asian Languages



NELC is pleased to welcome **Dr. Talant Mawkanuli** as a new lecturer in Uighur language and culture. Dr. Mawkanuli comes to us from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he served as Associate Director of the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series. Dr. Mawkanuli received his M.A. in Turkic linguistics from Xinjiang University in Urumqi, China in 1988, and continued his post-graduate studies at the University of Southern California and at Indiana University Bloomington, where he earned a Ph.D. in Central Eurasian Studies in 1999 with a dissertation on Jungar Tuvan linguistics. In addition to his linguistic skills, he brings to NELC a great deal of technological experience; he has developed web-based materials for Central Asian Turkic languages (e.g., Kazakh and Uzbek) and has managed distance learning projects. We are delighted that he has joined our faculty.

New Course

Stefan Kamola, a NELC M.A. alumnus (2007) and a Ph.D. student in History, was given the unique opportunity to design and teach a new survey course on Central Asian history and literature Spring Quarter 2007. **Sources of History in Central Asia** covered the history of the region from the early centuries C.E. through the period of Russian and British colonialism and up to the Russian Revolution. Kamola has a rich background studying nomadic culture and oral literature. He received a NELC/ INSERTravel Award for the 2007 summer, which allowed him to travel, research, and develop the curriculum for his course. Rather than rely on modern secondary sources that echo the material of the region, he assigned only primary sources for class readings. This resulted in fascinating insights into textual references and themes. He hopes the outline that the course offers, paired with a taste of the literature of the region, will help engender a demand for more courses focusing on the stretch of land between Baghdad and Beijing.

New Graduate Student



Alva Robinson received his B.A. degree from the University of Houston in 2007 with a double major in Sociology and English Literature. Much of his undergraduate career centered around comparative literary analysis of the works of Turkmen National Poet, Magtymguly, including research completed while in Turkey, and on examining Central Asia through a sociological lens. He also has formally studied Arabic, French, German, and Latin, contributed time as a travelogue host through Ebru TV, and studied Turkish at Ankara University TOMER while living in Istanbul. Alva received a two-year Bank of America scholarship through the UW Graduate School's GO-MAP office. He will focus his graduate studies on Central Asian Literature and the indigenous literary traditions of Mexico.

Central Asian Literatures Database

In May 2008, Simon Wickham-Smith, Stefan Kamola, and Jonathan Way unveiled the **Center for Central Asian Literatures in Translation (CCALT)**, a database of texts designed to make information about Central Asia available through the region's literature. The content of the site is entirely contributor-determined: users may post translations of literature and create links between the translations and on-line resources explaining the material and cultures covered in the texts. To interface between texts and external resources, they created Wikistan, a partially-open-source encyclopedia-type database of entries on specific elements of Central Asian culture and history. Each entry will include a brief discussion of the topic and links to outside resources, and can be set to automatically link all references within the growing corpus of translation. They encourage all who are interested in contributing to visit the website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccalt/database>
or contact them via email:
ccalt@u.washington.edu



Stefan Kamola in Tuva





Turkish & Ottoman Studies

Graduate Student Presents Paper at Conference



Murat Inan (Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies) believes that presenting a paper at a conference is one of the key milestones in a graduate student's career. He credits the 23rd Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference at the University of Chicago as one of those milestones on his road to academic excellence. He delivered his study "The 'Orient Pearls' Revisited: A Comparative Approach to Unity," which addressed issues surrounding ghazal poetry. Murat was able to participate in this conference through funds made available by the Graduate School and by NELC.

Turkish and Ottoman Literature Scholar



Sevim Kebeli has been awarded this year's Turkish and Ottoman Literature Fellowship. Sevim, a student in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, is researching the Ottoman author Abdülhak Hamid Tarhan and his plays on British imperialism. She also has been undertaking work on the UW's Ottoman Texts Archive Project. Sevim plans to write her dissertation on the modernization of Ottoman literature.

Turkish Literature in Seattle

In February 2008, Professors Andrews, Kuru, and Mehmet Kalpakli (Bilkent U) organized a symposium entitled "Turkish Literature in Seattle," which focused on Turkish literature in translation. The event included poetry readings in Turkish and English by one of Turkey's greatest living poets, Ataol Behramoglu, and his translator, Walter Andrews. Scholars and translators participated in an informal workshop where they read and discussed Nobel Prize-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk's work in light of the greater context of Turkish literature and literary figures. Turkish *oud* virtuoso Munir Beken concluded the weekend with a musical performance. The symposium drew attention to the rich literary tradition found in Turkish literature and the event created a scholarly platform to discuss Turkish literature.



Professors Selim Kuru and Walter Andrews, Maureen Freely, Erdağ Göknaç, Aron Aji, & Mehmet Kalpakli

New Graduate Student



Capri Karaca graduated (*magna cum laude*) with a B.A. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from the University of Washington in 2001. During summer 2008, she will attend Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, having received a fellowship from the American Research Institute of Turkey (ARIT). She will return to Seattle in the fall to begin the M.A. program with a FLAS fellowship. Her primary area of concentration is Turkish studies. She is interested in exploring themes of migration, identity, and memory reflected in film, art, and literature at home and in the diaspora. She also will study Ottoman Turkish and Arabic. Capri plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies, teach Turkish, and work on literature translation and film projects.

Turkfest

Each year Professor Selim Kuru, head of the Turkish and Ottoman Studies Program, and NELC students promote interest for Turkish Studies at Seattle's Turkfest that is held in October at the Seattle Center. Pictured here are Murat Inan, Sevim Kebeli, Lee Beaudoen, Professor Kuru, and Maureen Jackson. Plan to stop by the NELC table at this coming year's Turkfest on October 18-19, 2008!



Modern Hebrew & Israel Studies

After two fairly quiet years, due to faculty leave, the Modern Hebrew Program is pleased to announce a number of new courses for 2008-2009. Naomi Sokoloff is returning and will offer "Hebrew Poems and Prayers," "Literature and the Holocaust," and "Literature of Emerging Nations: Modern Hebrew Literature and Jewish Nationalism." Hannah Pressman will teach "Modern Jewish Thought" Autumn Quarter. Scheduled again for Winter 2009 is the team-taught course "Israel: Dynamic Society and Global Flashpoint," which was taught for the first time Winter 2008. One of the unique features of the course in 2008 was the Hebrew language trailer taught by Teaching Assistant Hadar Horowitz, which allowed students to read texts in Hebrew and deal with other cultural materials related to the Israel course. This trailer course was made possible by federal funding from the Center for Global Studies.

Scholarship Recipients



Anne Levine is a NELC junior, concentrating on modern Hebrew. She received a travel grant through the Jewish Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies to study at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from August 2008 through January 2009. She will advance her expertise in Hebrew through the School's intensive Hebrew Ulpan, as well as many other classes within Jewish and Near Eastern studies.

Ruben Shimonov, a NELC senior, received the I. Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Scholarship in Jewish Studies for 2008-2009. As an undergraduate double-majoring in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and International Studies, Shimonov is interested in the experience of Bukharian Jews - Jews originally from the region of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan - who have immigrated to the U.S., primarily within the past two decades. Very little has been written in English about this group of people, and he will devote his efforts to studying how migration has affected the communal identity of this group.



NELC Welcome to a New Lecturer

We would like to welcome **Hadar K. Horovitz** as the Herbert I. Rosen Lecturer in Hebrew for 2008-2009. She is a Ph.D. student at the UW School of Law conducting comparative research on the United States and Israel's regulatory regimes governing biomedical research. She recently completed her LL.M (Master's) degree in Intellectual Property & Policy at the UW. She completed her LL.B degree *magna cum laude* from the Academic College of Law, Israel in 1999. Prior to entering the UW, Hadar worked in a law firm in Israel specializing in insurance and reinsurance law.



pleted her LL.M (Master's) degree in Intellectual Property & Policy at the UW. She completed her LL.B degree *magna cum laude* from the Academic College of Law, Israel in 1999. Prior to entering the UW, Hadar worked in a law firm in Israel specializing in insurance and reinsurance law.

A Special Thanks



The Modern Hebrew Program bids a fond farewell to Lecturer **Aliza Sandalon**, who joined NELC in 2003. In 2007-2008 she was appointed the first Herbert I. Rosen Lecturer in Modern Hebrew. She and her family will be moving to New York, and in the coming year she will be teaching Hebrew at Hofstra University and Adelphia University. During the past five years Aliza has taught Elementary Modern Hebrew, Intermediate Modern Hebrew, and Summer Intensive Hebrew courses at UW. She has been an outstanding instructor, generously devoting her energy, time, and talent to our language program. Her students and colleagues have greatly appreciated the dedication, warmth, and humor that she brought to the classroom.

Herbert I. Rosen Hebrew Lectureship

The Modern Hebrew and Israel Studies Program thanks Michele and Stan Rosen for funding the Herbert I. Rosen Hebrew Lectureship, which was established through the Jewish Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies, and Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Barbara Buchman for providing support for the Buchman Teaching Fund. These funds provide lectureship positions as well as give us the opportunity to offer Hebrew courses to more students as the program continues to grow.





Persian & Iranian Studies

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Infuses Program

NELC kindly extends thanks to the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their partnership with the Persian and Iranian Program. Their generous support enables a number of key opportunities. With the Institute's support, we have



Susan Benson

been able to provide an annual Graduate Fellowship and offer a number of public events, which included the symposium on "Medieval Islamic Mysticism and History in Indo-Persian Cultures" in January 2008. The Institute also allows us, with additional support from the Middle East Center at UW, to fund a fulltime lecturer position in Persian language, held by **Susan Benson**.

Hooshang Afrassiabi Lecture Reaches Milestone



This year, we proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture in Persian and Iranian Studies. Guests were treated to an excellent presentation by **Barbara Slavin** entitled "Missed Opportunities Between Iran and the United States and the Way Ahead." Slavin is the senior diplomatic correspondent for the *USA Today*. Her recent publication, *Bitter Friends, Bosom*

Enemies: Iran, the U.S. and the Twisted Path to Confrontation, has received considerable attention from critics.

Hooshang Afrassiabi Scholar

Stefan Kamola is honored to receive the 2008 Hooshang Afrassiabi award.

After receiving a B.A. degree in classical philology, he began research in nomadic cultural studies. He has since found that Persian literature offers an elegant bridge between the Turkic cultures of Central Asia and classical Mediterranean civilizations. He is currently working on translating passages from Wassaf's early 14th century history of the Mongols and looks forward to further exploring the world of Persian literature.



Honors Graduate



We commend 2008 graduate **Heather Rastovac** for the completion of her Honors Thesis, "Contending with Censorship: The Underground Music Scene in Urban Iran." Rastovac explored how censorship is implemented in Iran and how musicians of various styles have reacted to censorship. She found that since music is restricted in the public sphere in Iran, the Internet has become instrumental to the "underground" distribution of music. Although Heather has graduated, she is continuing this research, conducting interviews with recent immigrants who have participated in the Iranian music scene. Further research will be published in the McNair Scholars Journal this year. Heather will begin work towards a Ph.D. in Performance Arts in Autumn 2009.

New Roshan Scholar



The 2008-2009 Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies was awarded to **Kristian Petersen**. He is a doctoral student in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies researching the transmission and migration of Islamic knowledge from the Islamic heartlands to periphery areas, with a specific emphasis on Islam in China. The intent for his dissertation is to discover the interconnection between Persian and Chinese religious texts. The evidence will be derived from the *Han Kitab* (c. 1600-1750), a body of literature, written in Chinese but discussing Islam. The major works in the *Han Kitab* relied heavily on Persian treatises, many Sufi in nature, which formed the basis of the Chinese understanding of Islamic doctrine. Through the Roshan Fellowship this year, Kristian will work with Professor Papan-Matin and explore many Sufi literary traditions that had a tremendous impact on the *Han Kitab*.

New Naficy Scholar

Nasim Babazadeh is the Naficy Scholarship recipient for the 2008-2009 year.

She has studied Persian at the University of Washington for seven quarters now. After taking "Introduction to Persian Literature," Nasim decided to pursue NELC as second major along with Neurobiology. With the aid of the Naficy award, she will travel to Iran this summer to practice the language and to experience her heritage culture. She expressed her gratitude in receiving this scholarship as it will further contribute to her studies. Nasim hopes to attend medical school and work in health care overseas.



New Graduate Student

Aaron Haley recently completed his undergraduate degree in NELC at the University of Washington in 2008 and is continuing in the Master's program. His research focuses on modern Iranian history and literature from the Constitutional Revolutionary period to the present day. He is interested in Iranian artistic, religious, intellectual, and political reform movements and is studying the works of Ahmad Kasravi, Ali Shariati, and Sadeq Hedayat. Aaron's language experience includes Spanish, Persian, Arabic, French, and Tajik. He plans to pursue his Ph.D. in Persian Studies and eventually hopes to teach.



Student Travel Awards

We are especially excited when our students receive opportunities to study abroad and hone their linguistic and cultural skills. Below are just a few students who have received travel grants. Twenty-seven undergraduate and graduate students received support funds granted to us from the Institute of National Security Education and Research (INSER) at the University of Washington to travel between Summer 2007 and Autumn 2008. These students represent the gamut of intellectual, cultural, and geographic interests. The Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowship is designed to provide international travel funds to graduate and doctoral students during their degree programs.



Matthew Goldman spent his 2007 summer studying issues related to refugees and forced migration in the Middle East through on-site observation and research in Jordan and Turkey through a NELC/INSER Travel Award. He is seen here in Turkey enjoying the world-famous Turkish dish, "Iskender Kebap."

Jonathan Noble (not pictured) spent the 2007 summer in Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon through a NELC/INSER Travel Award. He used the time to research for his M.A. thesis on the creation and maintenance of sectarian elites in contemporary Lebanon. He spent a month studying Arabic intensively in Damascus before traveling to Beirut to conduct archival research on the Chehabist period of Lebanese history from 1958-1968. During his stay in Beirut, Jonathan accessed archives at *Al-Nahar* newspaper, the American University in Beirut, and the Lebanese National Archives. The regional expertise and language skills he acquired during his summer in the Middle East have since been invaluable as he now works with the Institute of International Education in Houston, dealing with scholarships for students in the Middle East who hope to study in the U.S.



Katie Nutsch traveled through much of the Near East in 2007 as part of her NELC/INSER Travel Award. She studied Modern Hebrew at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Katie also took with her a new understanding of the conflicts and tensions of living in Israel. On weekends and following her classes, she was also able to travel throughout Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt. Many of these places she has researched further since coming back for her senior year in NELC. She is pictured here in the ancient city of Petra in Jordan.

Nick Grossenbacher studied Arabic at the University of Damascus and traveled throughout Jordan and Egypt through the NELC/INSER Travel Award during the 2007 summer. Syria also gave him opportunities to visit communities and holy sites of Byzantine, Islamic, and modern Christian societies. In Jordan, Nick spent time with Arabic-speaking Greek Orthodox Christians in Madaba, one of the last living vestiges of Byzantium in Jordan. In Egypt, he stayed at the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint Catherine, where he spent days working in the monastery workshop learning how to bind manuscripts in the Byzantine style and he journeyed with Coptic Pilgrims to the Monastery of Saint Anthony in Egypt's Eastern Desert.





Emily Cimber stayed in Syria for a month and a half for the 2008 summer studying Modern Standard and colloquial Arabic at the University of Damascus through a NELC/INSER Travel Award. From there she traveled to Jerusalem to finish her last month of Arabic studies with a private tutor. After completing her studies, Emily traveled around Jordan and Egypt. After finishing her degree in NELC and Comparative Religion, this year, she plans to spend next summer with a team of excavators in Petra. Surprisingly eighty percent of the ancient city is still uncovered. She is excited to pursue this endeavor as well as to learn about the inhabitants in Petra, who were some of the first speakers of an ancient form of Arabic.

Jennifer Webster traveled to Tajikistan through a NELC/INSER Travel Award for the 2008 summer, where she studied Persian language. Some of the highlights of her trip included camping at Iskanderkul, a glacial lake in northern Tajikistan, taking traditional dance lessons with new friends, visiting an Afghan bazaar in Khorog, swimming in therapeutic springs, and trekking through the Pamir mountains. Her greatest experiences, amidst so many fascinating adventures, were the evenings spent sharing stories with her host family and eating lots of delicious watermelon!



Other students who were awarded NELC/INSER Travel Awards between summer 2007 and summer 2008 include:

2007

Jarrett Basedow	Tajikistan
Roxanne Brame	Morocco
Jessica Claycomb	Yemen
Matthew Erickson	Turkey, Egypt
Abel Kerevel	Tajikistan
Monica Meadows	Oman
Heather Rastovac	Tajikistan
Shauna Richmond	Egypt

Trevor Layman received a NELC/INSER Travel Award in 2007 to study Turkish at Istanbul's Bogazici University and to travel throughout other parts of Turkey including Izmir, Bodrum, and Antalya. In addition to mastering the language, he sought to gain a better understanding of how the modern Turkish Republic and its citizens perceive and reinterpret their history. Trevor interviewed both Turks and non-Turks to learn how Ancient Graeco-Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman legacies were appropriated and appreciated by the state, private interests, and popular culture. He also was able to meet with several scholars to discuss his research.



2008

Cade Cannon	Egypt
Stefan Kamola	Central Asia
Julia Khorsand	Iran
Stephanie Kinion	Morocco
Sarah Marks	Syria
Ryan Nichols	Morocco
Rosemary Santizo	Kuwait
Cameron Sparr	Morocco
Amy Ward	Jordan



Daniel Kosko-Karell studied in Egypt through a NELC/INSER Travel Award for the 2008 summer. He studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo and spent time exploring the diversity and depth of cultural history throughout Egypt as well. Cairo remained the true draw for Daniel as the city has a long history as the heart of Egyptian culture, learning, and government. Daniel will continue to build on his experience and study from Egypt through his dissertation, which focuses on ethnic-minority social movements in various Middle Eastern countries.



Anders Conway received a NELC/INSER Travel Award to spend Autumn 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is studying the Kyrgyz language and completing fieldwork for his graduate research on the bazaar.

2007-2008 NELC Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Language & Civilization

Hassan Abdi	Arabic
Mohammed Al-Ansi	Arabic
Hala Dillsi	Arabic
Farnoosh Faryabi	Persian
Aaron Franklin	Turkish
Aaron Haley	Persian
Tamson Ing	Arabic
Laura Marshall	Hebrew
Dilys Pau	Turkish
Heather Rastovac	Persian
Erin Salokas	Arabic
Emily Shaw	Arabic
Aren Sharp	Arabic
Fatih Thompson	Turkish

Hebrew Bible and Near Eastern Studies

Katherine Nutsch	Biblical Hebrew
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Culture & Civilization

Safa Shatnawi	Arabic
Lesley Egbert	Arabic
Renee Lewis	Arabic

Comparative Islamic Studies

Annemarie Klug	Persian
Jamie Whipple	Arabic

Congratulations!



Graduates at the NELC Convocation (L to R): Renee Lewis, Erin Salokas, Emily Shaw, Fatih Thompson, Dilys Pau, Katherine Nutsch, Heather Rastovac, Farnoosh Faryabi, Hala Dillsi, Lesley Egbert, Thomas Littleton, Tamson Ing, Aaron Haley, & Aaron Franklin





Where are they now? NELC Alumni Update

Didem Havioglu (2002, M.A.) was appointed as an Acting Assistant Professor at the University of Utah last year. Her position is split between the Middle East Center and the Languages and Literature Department. She is concurrently finishing work towards her Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at UW. Once she completes her Ph.D. in September she will be named an Assistant Professor at Utah.

Emine Hosoglu (2004, M.A.) is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Middle East Center at the University of Utah. She has taught for the program for three years and has participated in MESA, AATT, and MLA annual conferences. She has received a Graduate Research Fellowship and will spend the next year conducting archival research in Turkey.

Alex Jassen (2001, B.A.) completed his Ph.D. at New York University (2006). He has gone on to publish a book entitled *Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Judaism* (2007), teach at UW as a visiting lecturer (2007), and witness the birth of his daughter (2007). He is currently an Assistant Professor of Early Judaism at the University of Minnesota.

Elmira Kochumkulova (1996, B.A.; 1998, M.A.) recently returned to her home country of Kyrgyzstan after completing her Ph.D. at UW in Near and Middle Eastern Studies (2007). She now works as a Research Associate at the University of Central Asia (UCA), where she researches Central Asian culture and is helping develop the University's undergraduate and faculty development programs.

Nahzine Shakeri (2007, B.A.) is a medical student in the class of 2012 at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine. She hopes to practice medicine one day in the Middle East.

Ryan Shauers (2007, B.A.) serves as a staff assistant to Congressman Norm Dicks (WA-06) in Washington D.C.

Ozlem Sensoy, Ph.D. (1998, B.A.) currently holds an Assistant Professorship in Social Education at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Her research includes studies in multicultural education, cultural studies, visual research methods, and pop culture. She has published several articles and is currently co-authoring *Teaching Against Islamophobia* and co-editing *Muslim Voices in School: Narratives of Identity and Pluralism*.

Alumni, stay in touch with NELC! Please, fill out the online NELC Alumni Update to keep your address current with the Department and to inform us of where your studies have taken you in opportunities, achievements, travels, and so on. The web address is:

<https://catalysttools.washington.edu/webq/survey/eastlang/57421>

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

NELC PARTNERS

Private support creates educational opportunities for students, enhances faculty teaching and research, and allows us to expand our program offerings. We could not accomplish all we do in NELC without our many partnerships, and we are pleased to recognize the following contributors for their generous support over the 2007-2008 year.

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Farhat J. Ziadeh
Susan L. Ziadeh

If you are interested in becoming a partner with NELC to see our program grow even more, then please visit our website to learn about different partnership opportunities:

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

If you would like to discuss the many ways in which you might partner with NELC, please contact:

Mr. Christopher Landman
Director of Development for the Humanities
206.616.0632





NELC Partnerships

Please consider becoming a partner with NELC and contributing to the funds of your choice. The partnerships below allow us to support our excellent students, foster new programs, and create new opportunities in our research, teaching, and service to the community.

General Partnerships

Friends of NELC: This partnership represents the broadest possible support for NELC. The Friends of the NELC Fund allows us to enhance any of NELC's programs by way of speakers, special events, colloquia, and faculty and student projects.

NELC Graduate Fellowships: This general graduate fellowship fund allows NELC to support its graduate students in any of its major areas of study. The Dean of the College also has supported this fellowship with matching contributions.

Michael A. Williams Endowment for Excellence: To honor Michael Williams' incredible service and commitment as Chair of NELC (1997-2005), NELC Board Members Pamela and Robert Miller generously established this endowment to provide tuition support for NELC graduate and undergraduate students. The College has kindly agreed to match all contributions from faculty and staff made to this endowment.

Partnerships in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies

The Biblical and Ancient Near East Studies Fund: This fund continues to enrich our overall program in the relating fields by co-sponsoring speakers or events of interest to faculty, students, and the community.

The Paul LeRoy Scholarship for Ancient Egyptian Studies: This partnership enables an annual student competition for excellence in Ancient Egyptian Studies.

Partnerships in Turkish and Ottoman Studies

The Turkish Endowed Fund: Thanks to the enthusiastic support of so many of NELC's partners we are now able to sponsor speakers, special colloquium, or other initiatives that focus on Turkish culture and language.

The Turkish and Ottoman Literature Endowed Fellowship: The exceptional generosity of an anonymous donor, coupled with a significant match from the College, has made available a fully-endowed graduate fellowship plus tuition in Turkish and Ottoman Studies.

Partnerships in Arabic and Islamic Studies

The Bateh Fellowship Fund: This partnership allows us to award fellowships to students studying Arabic who not only have demonstrated academic merit, but also have experience, understanding of, and a deep commitment to the Arab world. This fund allows us to encourage students with outstanding potential to further pursue the study of Arabic.

The Farhat J. Ziadeh Endowment: The partners who have created this endowment make it possible for NELC to host the annual Farhat J. Ziadeh lecture series and publications.

Partnership in Turkic and Central Asian Studies

Nicholas Poppe Memorial Fellowship in Central Asian Studies: This fund is used to support outstanding students who are studying within the Central Asian Studies.

Partnerships in Persian and Iranian Studies

Friends of Persian Studies: This new general support fund will allow us to sponsor special events that enhance Persian Studies at the University of Washington.

The Afrassiabi Endowment in Persian Studies: This partnership with the Afrassiabi family makes possible our annual Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture, now in its eleventh year.

Cole and Firoozeh Papan-Matin Endowed Student Support: This partnership, made possible by the generosity of our own Professor Papan-Matin, offers support to graduate students engaged in Persian and/or Iranian studies.

The Naficy Family Scholarship in Persian Studies: Our partnership with the Naficy family allows us to offer an annual award that honors the excellence of our students pursuing work in Persian Studies.

The Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies: Through a wonderful endowment from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, NELC now offers a competitive annual award that provides a generous stipend and tuition waiver to UW students engaged in Persian and Iranian Studies.



Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

*Door from old Jewish quarter in the mountain town
of Manakha, Yemen.*
Photo by John Maxwell



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