



# NELC UPDATE

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

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## From the Chair



*Prof. Scott Noegel* This is truly an exciting time of growth and change for NELC! Our language classes are filled to capacity and our enrollments in other courses are the highest ever. In an era of diminishing support from Washington State, this growth has created new challenges. But thanks to University partnerships, federal funding, and especially the support of private donors, we have created vital, but temporary, lectureship appointments in Arabic, Persian,

Modern Hebrew, and Biblical Studies. These positions allow us to expand our course offerings as the importance of learning about the Near East and Central Asia becomes increasingly evident. The size of our faculty has also grown. I especially note the addition of Profs. **Hussein Elkhafafi**, **Firoozeh Papan-Matin**, and **Jonathan Brown**. As the Director of our Arabic Language Program, Prof. Elkhafafi is among the vanguard of those changing the way Arabic is taught in the United States. Prof. Papan-Matin is a

specialist in classical Persian literature whose talents and energy have led to several highly successful community events. This year Prof. Jonathan Brown joins us as our expert in early Islamic literature and culture. With the addition of Jonathan, we now possess a formidable array of talent to cover all periods of Islamic language and literature. You can read more about these new faculty, and of course, our other permanent faculty in the *Update*. You also will read how our students have CONTINUED

## NELC Convocation Ceremony



*Profs. Naomi Sokoloff and Michael Williams*

On June 8, 2006 we held our formal departmental convocation. Graduating students, their families, faculty, staff and friends of the Department attended the ceremony to celebrate this important milestone in the lives of our rapidly increasing numbers of graduates. Each graduate was presented with a NELC certificate of achievement and a congratulatory handshake to the applause of excited family and friends. The ceremony provided an intimate environment for recognizing our graduates. After the official recognition ceremony everyone enjoyed the reception, which included Middle Eastern food.



*NELC 2005-2006 Graduates*

## FROM THE CHAIR

excelled and received honors and awards. Many have obtained grants and other scholarships that allow them to undertake research in the fascinating countries of the Near East and Central Asia. Nothing makes us more proud than the success of our students. Also in the *Update* you will find news about the creation of several new partnerships such as that with NELC Advisory Board members **Robert and Pamela Miller**, who generously created the Michael A. Williams Endowment for Excellence to provide tuition support for our students. Prof. Williams served as our esteemed Chair of NELC from 1997-2005. Other partnerships have resulted in endowments and funds that go toward program support or honor the excellence of our students and faculty. We list these partnerships and other NELC gift funds on pages 14-15 of the *Update*, and I encourage you to join us and support the initiative that is most meaningful to you. With such growth and momentum, I think you can see why we are so excited. NELC is poised for an eventful year and a future of expanding potential. The challenges we face because of reduced State funds also provide us with creative opportunities to engage our many communities, become conduits for education, and inspire a new generation of citizens. Please consult our new web site as we continue to announce these opportunities and list our events (<http://depts.washington.edu/nelc>). I look forward to seeing you during the upcoming academic year.

**Scott Noegel, Ph.D.**

### A Special Thank You

Several individuals deserve a special thank you from the NELC faculty. Foremost among them is Prof. **Michael Williams** who chaired NELC (1997-2005) with enormous dedication, integrity, and good humor. In the Spring of 2005, when Prof. Williams unexpectedly had to step down due to illness, Profs. **Jere Bacharach** and **Naomi Sokoloff**, kindly stepped in to chair the department. We are happy to report that Prof. Williams is now doing well, but the period was a challenging one for NELC, one that also would have been impossible to navigate without our dedicated staff, **Karen Hansen** and **Maria Yeager**, whose proactive natures and good cheer we also gratefully acknowledge. Additionally, we would like to thank **Naomi Sokoloff** (Editor), **Mamoun Sakkal** (Graphics), and **Maria Yeager** (Production) for their contributions to the NELC *Update*.

### 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 literatures  
**Goldberg, Ellis**, (Adjunct) Ph.D., 1983, UC Berkeley; Political economy of the Middle East  
**Heer, Nicholas, L.** (Emeritus), Ph.D., 1955, Princeton; Arabic language and literature, Islamic theology and philosophy  
**Jaffee, Martin S.** (Adjunct), 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 and the Middle East  
**MacKay, Pierre A.** (Emeritus), Ph.D., 1964, UC Berkeley; 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  
**Schuyler, Phillip** (Adjunct), Ph.D., 1979, UW; Music/Ethnomusicology; Middle East, Africa, Arab world  
**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 Berkeley; Arabic language and literature

### 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  
**Kuru, Selim**, Ph.D., 2000, Harvard; Ottoman language and literature and modern Turkish  
**Osanloo, Arzoo** (Adjunct), Ph.D., 2002, Stanford; Anthropology of law, transnational law, Islam in Pakistan and the U.S.; Islam and women studies  
**Papan-Matin, Firoozeh**, Ph.D., 2003, UCLA; Persian language and literature; Iranian culture and Islamic texts  
**Schwarz, Florian** (Adjunct), Ph.D., 1998, Univ. of Tübingen; Pre-modern Middle East History, Islamic mysticism, Muslim culture in Central Asia  
**Stilt, Kristen** (Adjunct), Ph.D., 2004, Harvard; Islamic law, international and comparative law  
**Walker, Joel** (Adjunct), Ph.D., 1997, Princeton; History and archaeology of the Near East in late antiquity

### Affiliate Lecturer

**Gamoran, Hillel**, D.H.L., 1966, Spertus College of Judaica; Talmud

### Visiting Instructional Faculty in Academic Year 2006-2007

**Benson, Susan** (Lecturer), M.A., 1983, University of Utah; Arabic and Persian studies  
**Hayes, Elizabeth** (Lecturer), Ph.D., 2006, Oxford University; Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies  
**Sandalon, Aliza** (Lecturer), B.A., 1990, TelAviv University; Modern Hebrew  
**Sobir, Bozor** (Lecturer), M.A., University of Tajikistan; Tajik  
**Zakir, Hamit** (Lecturer), Ph.D., 1999, University of Washington; Turkic languages

### Teaching Assistants Academic Year 2006-2007

**Arabic:** Miller Sherling, Amal Egeiq  
**Modern Hebrew:** Hadar Horowitz  
**Turkish:** Muge Salmaner  
**Persian:** James Gustafson  
**Introduction to Islamic Civilization:** Matthew Erickson  
**Biblical Hebrew:** Gary Martin  
**The Dead Sea Scrolls:** Rachael Morris  
**In her own Words: Women Writers of the Middle East:** Didem Havlioglu  
**Islam and Native Religion among Central Asian Nomadic Peoples:** Elmira Kochumkulova

### NELC Advisory Board

Ali Afrassiabi	Robert Miller
Amir Afrassiabi	Susie Naficy
Mandana Afrassiabi	Anthony Ravani
Conrad W. Jacobsen	Wes Uhlman
John Gokcen	Tolga Ural
Pamela Miller	Kimber Dodge

## NEW FACULTY in NELC



*Prof. Hussein Elkhafaifi*

**Hussein Elkhafaifi** joined the faculty of NELC in 2004 as Assistant Professor of

Arabic. Prof. Elkhafaifi brings to the position an extensive background in the teaching of Arabic. He has taught all levels of Arabic language, as well as Arabic linguistics at the University of Utah and the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include teaching Arabic as a foreign language, listening comprehension, learning strategies, and language policy and planning. He has conducted workshops on Arabic teaching skills and on testing oral proficiency in the United States and abroad. An active member of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic, now serving his second term on the Executive Board, and an ACTFL Arabic oral proficiency tester, he brings a comprehensive understanding of the strategies of proficiency-based language instruction and assessment.

**Firoozeh Papan-Matin,** Assistant Professor of Persian,



*Prof. Firoozeh Papan-Matin*

came to our faculty in 2005-2006 after teaching at UC Santa Barbara. She holds a M.A. in English Literature and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Iranian Studies from UCLA. Her wide range of interests include classical Persian and Arabic literature, literary theory, post-structural critical studies, and Iranian cinema. Her dissertation research focused on twelfth century Islamic mysticism in Iran. She is the author of *The Love Poems of Shamlu* (Ibex, 2005) and *The Unveiling of Secrets Kashf al-Asrar: the Visionary Autobiography of Ruzbihan Baqli* (Brill, 2006).

**Jonathan Brown,** Assistant Professor, joins us this year as our new appointment in Islam- ics. Prof. Brown recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago where his



*Prof. Jonathan Brown*

studies focused on the history of Islam, Islamic law, Qur'an and hadith, Islamic historiography, and hermeneutic traditions in Islam. His dissertation is entitled *The Canonization of al-Bukhari and Muslim: the Formation and Function of the Sunni Hadith Canon*. In the upcoming academic year Prof. Brown will offer a range of courses, including "Life of Prophet Muhammad," "Introduction to Islam," "Ritual and Legal Texts," "Trends in Contemporary Middle East," and "Historical Texts."

## New Staff in NELC



*Karen Hansen,  
Administrator*



*Tamara Sollinger,  
Undergraduate  
Advisor*



*Laura Dean,  
Program Assistant*



*Maria Yeager,  
Program Assistant*



*Roxanne Brame,  
Grant Coordinator*

## News from our Faculty

**Walter Andrews** has been selected by the University of Michigan as the first recipient of the Near Eastern Studies Lighthouse Award. This honor acknowledges alumni whose dedication to the field and whose original work has served as a beacon to the scholarly community in Near Eastern Studies.



Prof. Walter Andrews

**Jere Bacharach** spent Fall 2004 as the Samir Shamma Fellow in Islamic Numismatics and Epigraphy at Oxford university, working on a manuscript which will appear with the American University of Cairo Press as *Islamic History Through Coins: An Analysis and Catalogue of 10<sup>th</sup> Century Coins from Egypt and Palestine*. In 2005 he was Principle Investigator for a project sponsored by the American Research Center in Egypt, studying inscribed Islamic glass weights. In addition, he has traveled to Istanbul and to Thessaloniki to prepare programs for a Getty Foundation Summer 2006 Institute he co-directed.

**Jonathan Brown's** publications include "The Last Days of al-Ghazzali and the Tripartite Division of Sufi World," *The Muslim World* (2006); "Criticism of the Proto-Hadith Canon: al-Daraqutni's Adjustment of al-Bukhari and Muslim's Sahih," *Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies* 15 (2004); and "The Social Context of Pre-Islamic Poetry: Poetic Imagery and Social Reality in the Mucallaqat," *Arab Studies Quarterly* (2003).

**Terri DeYoung** has been utilizing online technology to make the most current research on Arabic literature available to a new generation of scholars. The publishers of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* have commissioned a series of four volumes on Arabic literature and cultural life from ca. 500 to 1950 that will be available on the web site of Literary Research Center produced by Gayle Publishers. Prof. DeYoung has contributed five articles—on the modern Arab poets Mahmud Sami al-Barudi, Khalil Mutran, Ma'ruf al-Rusafi, 'Abd al-Rahman Shukri, and 'Ali Mahmud Taha, and she serves as co-editor with Douglas Young of Stanford University of the volume that covers the period from 925-1350. In addition, Prof. DeYoung has published several articles in *Middle Eastern Literatures and Their Times*: on the *Qur'an*, on a number of modern authors, and on Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*.

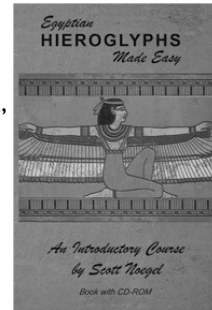
**Hussein Elkhafaifi** recently published "Professional Standards for Arabic Teachers" in *A Handbook for Arabic Language Teaching Professionals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* with Mahdi Alesh, and Salah Hammoud (2006); "The Effect of Prelistening Activities on Listening Comprehension in Arabic Learners," *Foreign Language Annals* 38 (2005); and "Listening Comprehension and Anxiety in the Arabic Language Classroom," *The Modern Language Journal* 89 (2005). He also has presented on proficiency teaching methodologies for the University of Washington Middle East Center, Middlebury College Arabic School, and at a teacher-training workshop for Arabic instructors in the One World Now Program in Seattle.

**Hillel Gamoran** recently completed a book entitled, *Jewish Law in Transition: How Economic Forces Overcame the Prohibition against Lending on Interest*. In February 2006 he lectured on the subject of usury at the Jewish Studies Colloquium at the UW.

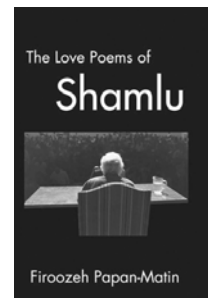
**Martin Jaffee's** *Early Judaism* (CDL Press of the Press of the University of Maryland) will appear this summer in its second, revised edition. Prof. Jaffee's new research, on the sublimation of violence in rabbinic spirituality, resulted in

the publication of “The Wars of Torah: On The Sublimation of Violence in Rabbinic Piety,” for the University of Oregon Humanities Center. Continuing this interest, Prof. Jaffee is currently revising his Founders Lecture on Religion in the Modern World— “Remember Amalek: The Eternal Antisemite and the Politics of Apocalypse in Contemporary Judaism” —for publication. In addition, his co-edited book with Prof. Charlotte Fonrobert, *The Cambridge Companion to Talmud and Rabbinic Literature*, is scheduled for publication in late Fall of 2006. Public speaking commitments took Prof. Jaffee to conferences and invited lectures at Indiana University, Reed College, and St. Martin’s University.

This year **Scott Noegel** published on Mesopotamian epic, the Phoenicians, the inscriptions from Ekron, Samaria, and Lachish; “On Puns and Divination: Egyptian Dream Exegesis from a Comparative Perspective,” “Dismemberment, Creation, and Ritual: Images of Divine Violence in the Ancient Near East,” “Geminate Ballast and Clustering: An Unrecognized Literary Feature in Ancient Semitic Poetry,” and “‘Word Play’ in the Ramesside Dream Manual.” In addition, this year saw the appearance of the enlarged second edition of his *Egyptian Hieroglyphs Made Easy* (Book and CD-ROM: Smiles). Prof. Noegel also concluded his term as the President of the American Research Center in Egypt’s (ARCE) Northwest Chapter, and the Vice President of the Chapter Council of the national ARCE. He continues to serve on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, and has just become the Ancient Near Eastern section editor for *Compass: Religion*, a new online journal published by Blackwell (London). Prof. Noegel is currently working on a monograph on the subject of *Word Play in Ancient Near Eastern Texts*. In 2006 he was promoted to Full Professor and became the Chair of NELC.



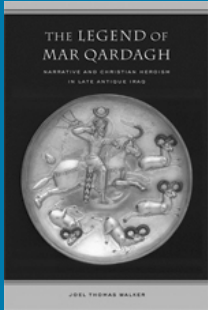
Two books by **Firoozeh Papan-Matin** appeared this last year: *The Love Poems of Shamlu* (Ibex, 2005) and *The Unveiling of Secrets Kashf al-Asrar: the Visionary Autobiography of Ruzbihan Baqli* (Brill, 2006). Prof. Papan-Matin also organized and spoke at a number of well-attended events coordinated by a series of partnerships she created between Persian and Iranian Studies at NELC and several local non-profit organizations: the Seattle Public Library, Seattle Arts & Lectures, Elliott Bay Book Company, and the Seattle Art Museum.



**Naomi Sokoloff** held the Samuel and Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies from 2003-2006. Her recent publications include, “Aharon Appelfeld and the Translingual Imagination,” in *The World of Aharon Appelfeld/ 'olamo shel Aharon Appelfeld*, Risa Domb, Ilana Rosen, Itzhak Ben-Mordechai, eds., (2005); “Children’s Literature and the Holocaust,” *Prooftexts* (2006); “Reading for the Plot? Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America*,” *AJS Review* (2007); and “Gila Almagor’s *Aviya: Remembering the Holocaust in Children’s Literature*,” to appear in Elizabeth Goodenough and Andrea Immel, eds., *Under Fire: Childhood in the Shadow of War*. In 2005 she presented lectures on Aharon Appelfeld at the University of Oregon and at Portland State University.

**Kristen Stilt** taught an advanced Arabic independent study in NELC based on readings of hadith and hadith commentary. Prof. Stilt also was awarded a Research Fellowship from the UW Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities for 2006-2007 to complete her book on the application of law by the market inspector (*muhtasib*) in Mamluk-era Cairo and Fustat. This year saw the appearance of two of her published works: “Recognizing the Individual: The *Muhtasibs* of Early Mamluk Cairo and Fustat,” *Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review* 7 (2006), and “Constitutional Authority and Subversion: Egypt’s New Presidential Election System,” *Indiana International and Comparative Law Review* 16 (2006).





This year saw the publication of **Joel Walker's** book, *The Legend of Mar Qardagh: Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq* (University of California Press, 2006). The book examines the history of Christianity in northern Iraq during the final century and a half preceding the Islamic conquest. Prof. Walker also spent six weeks in Uzbekistan participating in the Department of State Uzbekistan Educational Partnerships grant on Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies. With the help of the UW's center in Tashkent, he was able to travel widely throughout Uzbekistan, visiting its many museums, archaeological sites, and shrines. This year Prof. Walker also was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Recent articles by **Michael Williams** include: "Sethianism," in A. Marjanen, P. Luomanen, eds., *A Companion to Second-Century Christian "Heretics"* (2005); "Was there a Gnostic Religion? Strategies for a Clearer Analysis," in A. Marjanen, ed., *Was There a Gnostic Religion?* (2005); "Inside the Covers of Codex VI," co-author Lance Jenott, in L. Painchaud, P.-H. Poirier, eds., *Coptica, Gnostica, Manichaica* (2006); section on codicology and palaeography in the Nag Hammadi codices for P.-H. Poirier, J.-P. Mahé, eds., *Écrits gnostiques*, for the series *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade* (to appear in 2006).

## News from our Students

**Tim Cahill** graduated with majors in NELC and Comparative Religion and studied Arabic at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco in Summer 2006.

**Tanja Douay** graduated this spring, *magna cum laude*. She will attend UW Law School next Autumn, focusing on Middle Eastern and Islamic Law.

**Adam Hamilton** plans to study at the American University in Cairo next year.

**Tami Ing** will study Arabic at American University in Cairo in Autumn 2006.

**Hanady Kadar** received the Al Muammar Scholarship for Journalism (\$5000) from the Arab American Institute Foundation in Washington, DC.

**Rachel Orange**, a double major in NELC and Jewish Studies, will attend Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York this Fall to earn a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Jewish Studies.

**Heather Rastovac**, a double major in NELC and Anthropology, traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan in March 2006 with the human rights organization, Global Exchange, to visit Afghan women's organizations. Heather's travel blog can be viewed at <http://golistan.blogspot.com/>.

**Ryan Shauer**, a graduating senior, is traveling to Yemen to study at the Sana'a Institute for Arabic Language (SIAL).

**Jacob Smith** has been accepted into the NELC M.A. Program and has been awarded fellowships by ACCELS, Fulbright-Hays, and FLAS to study Uzbek, Persian, and Tajik. Jacob will travel to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2006-2007 to augment his language skills and to conduct linguistic field work in these countries.

This year three NELC seniors were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa: **Tanja Douay**, **Nahzine Shakeri**, and **Jacob Smith**.

**Summer Loomis (M.A. 2006)** spent 2003-2005 in Egypt studying at CASA and the Arabic language Institute. She held a FLAS award and received a Dorot Travel award to study at Haifa University in summer 2005.

**Muge Salmaner (M.A. 2006)** has been accepted into the Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at UW.

**Tamara Sollinger (M.A. 2006)** has been, and will continue to work after graduation, as the NELC Undergraduate Advisor. **Will Summits (M.A. 2006)** traveled to Central Asia this year on an ACCELS (American Council for Collaboration in Education and Language Study) fellowship to study Uzbek and Tajik and to conduct fieldwork in the music and cultures of these countries. **Sarah MacDonald, Sean Casella, and Deborah Rohan** completed their M.A.'s in NELC in spring 2006.

The **Maurice and Lois Schwartz Awards** provide much appreciated support for international travel and research. NELC has awarded the following students Schwartz funding for the upcoming year: NELC M.A. student **Stefan Kamola** will study traditional Tuvan "throat singing" and its roles in forging ethnic identities in the Tuva Republic; Ph.D. student **Senem Aslan** will research language and physical adornment policies as they serve to homogenize the populations of Morocco and Turkey. Ph.D. student **Karam Dana** will engage in research for his dissertation examining the social and political structure of Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s.



*Karam Dana*

## News from our Alumni

**Marian Broida**, who studied Modern Hebrew at UW, has completed her M.A. in Jewish Studies at Emory University. This Autumn she enters the Ph.D. Program there in religion, with an emphasis on ancient Israel.

**Alex Jassen** (NELC B.A. 2001) completed his Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University in May 2006. He currently is working on a collaborative re-edition of the Dead Sea Scroll manuscript 4Q160, an apocryphal text related to the prophet Samuel. In the Fall of 2006, he assumes the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Early Judaism in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota.

**Joel Kalvesmaki** (NELC B.A. 1999) completed his Ph.D. in early Christian Studies at The Catholic University. He now works as an assistant editor in the publications department of Harvard University's research institution in Dumbarton Oaks.

**Allyssa Lamb** (NELC B.A. 2004) completed a M.Phil. at Oxford where she has been a Rhodes Scholar since graduating from UW. In summer 2006 she enjoyed an internship in the Ancient Egypt and the Sudan Department of the British Museum, and this Fall she enters the Egyptology M.A./ Ph.D. program at UCLA.

**Clinton Moyer** (NELC B.A. 2000) is currently pursuing Ph.D. work in the field of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University.

**Jake Parslow** (NELC B.A. 2002) completed his M.A. in Biblical Studies at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. He begins Ph.D. studies in Northwest Semitic Philology and Comparative Semitics at the University of Chicago in Fall 2006.

## Ph.D. Program

NELC works closely with students in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. In 2006 two students completed their doctorates: **Mary St. Germain** (Dissertation: *Al-Azdi's Hikayat Abi al-Qasim al-Baghdadi: Placing an Anomalous Text within the Literary Developments of its Time*) and **Magid Shihade** (Dissertation: *Communal Violence Between Religious Groups Among Arabs in Israel: the History of an Incident and its Lessons*). Mary continues to serve as Near East Librarian for UW Libraries.



*Mary St. Germain with Mary Williams*

# Arabic Studies

Arabic at UW continues to expand as national trends have moved this language from the margins of the academic world to a mainstream subject, with substantially more than 10,000 students enrolled across the nation. At UW, first-year Arabic has grown from a single section in the early 1990s to three sections enrolling more than 70 students. NELC is working to add more courses to meet student demand, to make permanent a second section of Intermediate Arabic, and to make significant additions to its third- and fourth-year course offerings.

## Arabic Study Abroad

In 2006-2007, a number of UW students will study Arabic abroad, thanks in part to the efforts of Dr. **David Fenner** and his staff at the International Program and Exchanges Office, who procured additional funding for study at the Arabic Language Institute (ALI) at the American University in Cairo.

Two students—**Miller Sherling** and **Ali Jabbar**—will return from the prestigious Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Program to finish their degrees. Several other students will participate in programs located in Cairo, Jordan, Morocco, and Yemen.



*Al-Azhar mosque, Cairo*

## AFIC

In 2006, Prof. **Terri DeYoung** concluded work as Principal Investigator of the AFIC (Arabic For Interactive Communication) Project, a national effort to improve Arabic instruction at the Advanced to Superior levels of proficiency. This project brought more than \$500,000 to UW over the last three years, to support ongoing improvements in the teaching of Arabic. She and her colleagues on the Steering Committee of the Project (including Prof. **Hussein Elkhafaifi** of NELC, among others) produced guidelines for evaluating Arabic study abroad programs, financed a series of teacher training workshops in Damascus and Cairo, promoted the study of colloquial Arabic at the Advanced level, and developed protocols and lesson plans for teaching Arabic cultural proficiency at the university level.

## University Wide Activities

On April 18-23, 2006, NELC, the Department of Linguistics, and the Middle East Center, invited Prof. **Mohamed Benrabah** (Université Stendhal-Grenoble), to present three public talks: “Malaises identitaires chez les jeunes des deux bords de la Méditerrané (Algérie-France)” (Identity Problems of Youth from Two Sides of the Mediterranean [Algeria-France]), “Arabization in Algeria,” and “The Language Planning Situation in Algeria.” Prof. Benrabah also met with students and faculty during his visit.

## Arabic Language Testing

The Arabic program, under the direction of Prof. **Hussein Elkhafaifi**, has developed a series of standardized placement and evaluation instruments for testing both our own students and transfer students from other institutions in the United States and abroad.

## Annual Farhat J. Ziadeh Lecture Series

The fourth Farhat J. Ziadeh lecture was delivered in April 2006 by acclaimed Lebanese novelist **Elias Khoury**, author of *On the Relations of the Circle and Gate of the Sun*. Khoury spoke about “The Novel – the Novelist and War, the Lebanese Experience.” The fund which makes this lecture series possible was formally endowed in 2001 in recognition of the profound influence and the many contributions of Professor Emeritus **Farhat Ziadeh** to the fields of Arabic language and literature and Islamic law. The lectureship showcases excellence in Arab and



*Elias Khoury*

Islamic Studies. Previous speakers in the series have included Prof. **Irfan Shahid** of Georgetown University, Prof. **Roger Allen** of the University of Pennsylvania, and Prof. **Rashid Khalidi** of Columbia University.



# Biblical Hebrew & Ancient Near Eastern Studies

The Program in Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East continues to grow and attract students. Next year, the program will experience additional growth with the hiring of a full-time lecturer in Biblical Studies, **Elizabeth Hayes** (D. Phil. Oxford University). In addition to a slate of courses to be taught by Dr. Hayes, the Program will offer first-year Biblical Hebrew and a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Program also has been enhanced by a



*Moshe and Bathsheba Garsiel*

number of private donations to the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East Fund (H-BANES), which allows the Program to sponsor invited lecturers. This summer, the Program benefited from the presence of four specialists in the field of the Hebrew Bible who served as Visiting Scholars in NELC: **Moshe Garsiel** (Bar Ilan University), **Bathsheba Garsiel** (Bar Ilan University), **Yair Hoffman** (Tel Aviv University), and **George Nickelsburg** (University of Iowa).



*Elizabeth Hayes*

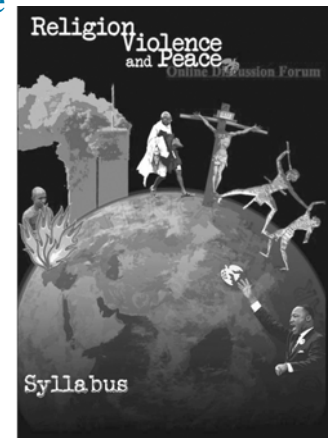
## New Web-Based Tools for Study of Biblical Hebrew



NELC is in the process of creating a new set of web-based tools for the instruction of first-year Biblical Hebrew. The tools will include: an explanation of the Hebrew Writing System, an animated alphabet writing and speaking tutor, animated textual readings with synchronized audio, and a new online environment for teaching, learning, and testing language skills. The new system, called "Moodle" (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment), represents the cutting edge of online language instructional tools. These new developments have been spearheaded by **Gary Martin** (Ph.D. candidate in Near and Middle Eastern Studies).

## NELC Course on Religion & Violence

This year Profs. **Scott Noegel** (NELC) and **James Wellman** (Comparative Religion) taught an exciting course on the topic of "Religion, Violence, and Peace: Patterns Across Time and Tradition." The course, which was one of the "University Courses" funded by the Office of Undergraduate Education, explored the complex relationship between religion, violence, and peace by examining cases studies from the ancient and modern worlds. Just some of the subjects covered included the Medieval Crusades, the biblical conquest of Canaan, the events of September 11, 2001, artistic depictions of holy war in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and American evangelicalism. One hundred and sixty students enrolled in the course.



## Dead Sea Scrolls Visit Seattle & Become Focus of a Course

From September 23, 2006-January 7, 2007, Seattle's Pacific Science Center (PSC) will place on exhibit a number of the famed Dead Sea Scrolls. The scrolls, which were discovered in 1947 at the site of Qumran, now in modern Israel, are the single most important texts for understanding the origins of ancient Judaism and Christianity. Consequently, they are the focus of international research and debate. **Scott Noegel**, who is working closely with the PSC, will teach an undergraduate course on the Dead Sea Scrolls this Autumn.



*Hosea Commentary from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Photo courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority*

## Modern Hebrew and Israel Studies

With the help of the Rosen Family Foundation, the UW Jewish Studies Program, and donors Gil and Miriam Roth, and others, NELC has been working to expand our offerings in Elementary Modern Hebrew. Lecturer **Aliza Sandalon** has joined the instructional team in our department, teaching in summers and opening an extra section of Hebrew during the academic year to meet rising student enrollments. Many thanks to Or Rogovin for serving as the Hebrew TA 2004-2006. See the new web site <http://depts.washington.edu/modheb/> for more information on the program, including syllabi, samples of outstanding student work, links to a variety of internet resources, policies regarding placement and credit transfer, and opportunities to contribute to fundraising efforts. Other additions to our curriculum include a variety of new courses designed by Prof. **Naomi Sokoloff**; among them are "Hebrew Poems and Prayers," "Israeli Identities," "Israeli Literature and Culture" (in the Honors Program), and "Hebrew in Song." "Hebrew in Song," taught for the first time in Autumn 2005, presents a brief cultural history of Israel through popular music. Thanks go to **Janet Heineck** of UW Libraries, who was instrumental in building a collection of CDs for this course, and to OUGL media specialist **Michael Milligan** for making the music available through electronic course reserve.

### Dorot Travel Grants

UW is once again the beneficiary of generous Travel Grants from the Dorot Foundation, which support summer study in Israel. Often students use these awards to study modern Hebrew in university ulpans. Others from UW have pursued projects in archaeology, linguistics, and medicine. Most have taken Hebrew classes in NELC and build on that foundation during their overseas study. Recipients for summer 2005 included **James Beebe, Jacob Brown, Summer Loomis, Jenna Nace, Marianna Shimonova, and Elizabet Wendt.** The summer 2006 recipients are **Caleb Barr, Rebecca Corman, Talya Gilman, Desiree Carlisle, Matt Goldman, Andrea Kravette, and Margalit Zabudowski.**

### Symposium on Jewish Identity

Prof. **Naomi Sokoloff** (NELC) and **Susan Glenn** (History) are organizing a symposium on "The Boundaries of Jewish Identity" to be held May 13-14, 2007 on the UW campus. This cross-disciplinary meeting will offer historical, contemporary, and comparative perspectives on what might best be described as the various Jewish epistemologies or ways of knowing who and what is "Jewish." Speakers from the fields of literature, art and visual representation, Jewish law, medical anthropology, the social sciences, and popular culture will address three areas of debate: definitions of Jewishness and authenticity of identity; images and self-representations of Jews; and Jews and non-Jews. Sponsors of this event include Jewish Studies, the Deans Office (Arts and Sciences), the Simpson Center for the Humanities, History, and NELC.



*Dorot Grant recipient, Caleb Barr (left), is pictured with Haifa University administrator Lisa Kama*

## Persian Studies

This year, Prof. **Firoozeh Papan-Matin** built new partnerships between NELC and several local nonprofit organizations including the Seattle Public Library, Seattle Arts & Lectures, Elliott Bay Book Company, and the Seattle Art Museum. The group joined together to cross-promote a rich series of activities focused on gender and human rights issues in contemporary Iran. The events included the 2006 **Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture in Persian Studies**, delivered by Prof. **Janet Afary** of Purdue University, and a presentation by Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Shirin Ebadi**. Prof. Papan-Matin gave an introductory lecture prior to a presentation for Seattle Arts & Lectures by **Azar Nafisi**,

author of *Reading Lolita in Teheran*. Prof. Papan-Matin and Prof. **Selim Kuru** gave lectures on Iran's 1979 Revolution, women in Islam, and graphic novels to complement the Seattle Public Library's presentation of **Marjane Satrapi**, author of *Persepolis*. Prof. Papan-Matin also introduced and discussed an exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum: The Tooba video installation by contemporary Iranian artist **Shirin Neshat**. The discussion on Tooba, an Islamic topos regarding the ideal life, will resume in the Fall with a focus on **Shahrnosh Parsipour**. Parsipour is a contemporary Iranian author whose novels and short stories are a major inspiration for Neshat. For a complete list of events in the area of Persian and Iranian Studies see the NELC web site.



*Shirin Ebadi meets UW faculty and attendees*

### Student Awards in Persian Studies

In the 2005-2006 academic year, several students have achieved remarkable success in their research and studies.

**Abel Kerevel** was the recipient of this year's **Afrassiabi Student Prize**. Abel's paper is entitled "The Imam of the Age is Within Each of Us: Jalal Al-e Ahmad and the Discourse of Modernity in Iran."

**Joseph Achman** received the **Naficy Award in Persian Studies**. His research paper was entitled "Zoroastrian Elements and Symbolism in the Shahnameh." NELC is profoundly grateful to



*James Gustafson*

our donors who make these awards possible and foster excellence in our students. Two Ph.D. students, **James Gustafson** and **Nimah Mazaheri**, won a competitive scholarship offered by the American Institute for Iranian Studies. The awards annually fund ten graduate applicants nationwide to study intensive Persian in Iran.



*Nimah Mazaheri*

### Roshan Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies

**Shuli Chen** is the 2006-2007 recipient of the Roshan Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies. The Fellowship is designed for advanced Ph.D. candidates whose dissertations focus on Iranian and Persian studies. Chen is a Ph.D. candidate in the Comparative Literature Department: Cinema



*Shuli Chen*

Studies. Chen's dissertation, entitled *Third World Film-making and the City: Spatiality in Contemporary Iranian, Taiwanese, and Mexican Urban Films*, is a cross-cultural study of Iranian cinema. Her research sheds light on a theme that has not been studied previously in the analysis of Iranian cinema. Chen's comparative and global analysis of the "city" challenges the perspective that evaluates world cinema as a divide between the First World and the Third World. The Roshan Graduate Fellowship has been made possible by a generous endowment from Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, a non-profit organization that promotes scholarship on Iranian culture and heritage. The application deadline for the 2007-2008 Award is December 15, 2006.

# Central Asian Studies

## Educational Exchange



*Dr. Qoriev and Prof. Abdurasulov tour Lakeside High School with David Beare*

NELC hosted a number of visitors from Tashkent in 2005-2006 as part of the “Uzbekistan Educational Partnership Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies,” including Dr. **Odil Qoriev** (Al-Beruni Institute of Islamic Studies, Uzbek Academy of Sciences) and **Shakhrukh Abdurasulov** (Al-Bukhari Institute of Islamic Studies). The exchange program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, has fostered extensive activities for the past three years. A number of UW faculty members, including Profs. **Ilse Cirtautas**, **Jere Bacharach**, **Scott Noegel**, and **Joel Walker**, have traveled to Uzbekistan to lecture and conduct research. Undergraduate **Jacob Smith** spent a year studying at the University in Tashkent.



*From Left to Right Prof. Ilse Cirtautas, Shakhrukh Abdurasulov, Jacob Smith, and Odil Zoriev*

## Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central Asian/Inner Asian Studies took place on May 6, 2006. Presentations included a round table discussion on “Fifteen Years of Independence” as well as talks by visiting scholars from Central Asia and by graduate students at UW. The symposium is also the forum for presenting the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Prize for the best student in first year Uzbek. This year two prizes were awarded; the recipients were **Faith Thompson** and **Nathan Hamm**.



*The Khoresmian fortress at Ayaz Kala in western Uzbekistan Photo courtesy of Joel Walker*



# Turkish Studies

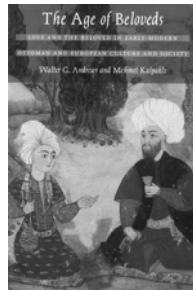
Under the direction of Prof. **Selim Kuru** the UW Turkish Program had the highest enrollments of any university in the United States. A number of students also have continued on to study in Turkey. **Brant R. Paulson**, **Matthew Erickson**, and **Aaron Franklin** attended the Turkish Summer Program at the Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. Aaron was awarded a fellowship from the American Research Institute in Turkey. **Didem Havlioglu** (NELC M.A. 2002; currently in the Interdisciplinary Near and Middle Eastern Ph.D. Program) has been awarded the Department's Turkish Ottoman Literature Endowed Fellowship for 2006-2007. In 2006 she passed her general exams and traveled to St. Petersburg to examine manuscripts for her research on Mihri Hatun, the first Ottoman woman poet.



*Intermediate Turkish Students with Prof. Kuru and TA, Muge Salmaner*

## Visiting Scholar in Turkish Studies

In 2006-2007 NELC will host as a scholar-in-residence Prof. **Mehmet Kalpaklı** of Bilkent University (Ankara). He is co-author, with Prof. **Walter G. Andrews**, of *The Age of Beloveds* (Duke, 2005), a comparative literary historical study of the culture of love and the beloved in the Ottoman Empire and Europe during the sixteenth century. He is also co-director of the Ottoman Texts Archive Project (OTAP), a cooperative endeavor of the UW (NELC and DXARTS/CARTAH) and the Halil Inalcik Center for Ottoman Studies at Bilkent. The OTAP project is engaged in developing and applying digital technology for the preservation, publication, and analysis of Ottoman texts and documents.



## Summer School in Turkey

In summer 2006 the UW and Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey offered an extraordinary opportunity to learn about the editing, transcription, and analysis of original Ottoman texts. An intensive workshop for professors and advanced



*Stacy Waters (center) with students*

graduate students was held at Bilkent, introducing the Ottoman Texts Archive Project (OTAP) initiated by Profs. **Walter Andrews** and **Mehmet Kalpaklı**. It included lectures by noted Turkish scholars and was taught by Stacy Waters from DXARTS and Didem Havlioglu, a UW graduate student. The workshop featured hands-on instruction covering web tools, computer technology, and theoretical issues surrounding the preservation, access, and study of Ottoman texts. Thirty three Turkish scholars participated enthusiastically in the workshop and plan to continue their work with OTAP.



*Mevlana Museum in Konya, Turkey. Photo courtesy of NELC graduate student Matt Erickson*



# 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 NELC partnership makes it possible for us to host our student convocation at the end of the year, where we acknowledge the excellence of our students, for their parents and friends. It also allows us to enhance any of NELC's programs by way of speakers, special events, colloquia, and faculty and student projects.

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.

NELC Graduate Fellowships: This general graduate fellowship fund allows NELC to support its graduate students in any of its major areas of study. It is important to stress that the Dean of the College has supported this fellowship with matching contributions. Recent NELC Graduate Fellows include Deborah Rohan, Elizabeth Lott, and Matthew Erickson.

## 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 significantly enhances our efforts to encourage students with outstanding potential to 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. Last year our distinguished speaker was Elias Khoury who spoke on "The Novelist and War, The Lebanese Experience." This annual event helps us to underscore the importance of Arabic and Islamic studies for the greater community.

## 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 these fields by co-sponsoring speakers or events of interest to faculty, students, and the community. Last year's events included presentations by Kara Cooney (Stanford University) "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs"; Benson Harer Jr. MD. (CSUS) "The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt"; and David Frankfurter (Princeton University) "The Vitality of Egyptian Images in Late Antique Christian Memory and Response."

The Paul Leroy Scholarship for Ancient Egyptian Studies: This partnership allows for an annual student competition for excellence in Ancient Egyptian Studies. Previous awardees include Allyssa Lamb and Lance Jenott.

### **Partnership in Central Asian Studies**

Nicholas Poppe Memorial Fellowship in Central Asian Studies: This fund is used to support outstanding students in Central Asian Studies.

### **Partnerships in Persian 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. We look forward to recognizing NELC's special partners who made this fund possible with new programs this year.

The Afrassiabi Endowment in Persian Studies: This partnership with the Afrassiabi family makes possible our Annual Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture, now in its ninth year. The previous two speakers were Terence Ward, author of *Searching for Hassan: A Journey to the Heart of Iran* and Prof. Janet Afary (Purdue University) who spoke on *Justice, Purity and Sexuality in Modern Iranian History*. Both events boasted record turnouts of more than 700 attendees. These events reflect the community's growing interest in Persian Studies at UW.

Cole and Firoozeh Papan-Matin Endowed Student Support: This partnership, made possible by the generosity of our own Prof. Papan-Matin, offers support to graduate students engaged in Persian and/or Iranian studies. This year this endowment will provide for graduate fellowships, student teaching, research, travel, and conference attendance and honoraria for community activities.

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 previous two recipients were Cyrus Philip Sharivar and Abel Kereval.

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 Ph.D. students at the advanced dissertation stage of their doctoral studies. Last year's fellow, featured separately in the *Update*, was Shuli Chen.

### **Partnerships in Turkish 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. Watch for future announcements concerning these events.

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

This growing list of endowments and funds represents the diversity, breadth, and uniqueness of NELC's faculty, students, and activities. Each partnership is vital to NELC's continued growth and success. We ask that you please consider becoming a partner with NELC by giving to the funds of your choice.



## 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 past year:

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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 at (206) 616-0632.

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