Friday, October 8th - Welcome to the Autumn Quarter Program!
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm
Announcements, exchange of information and ideas, sharing of topics of current research projects, and listening to the experiences of recent travelers from and to Central Asia; selection/election of new Chair; Vegetarian pizza lunch served.

Thursday, October 14th - “Impressions of Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz I: Kyrgyz Elders and the Youth”
Alva Robinson, M.A. Candidate, NELC, UW; Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan 2009-2010
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
Alva Robinson was engaged in many activities while in Kyrgyzstan, including teaching English to Kyrgyz students at the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University. He established close contacts with Kyrgyz writers, scholars and students. From them he learned about their aspirations, hopes and every-day struggles.

Friday, October 15th - “Impressions of Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz II: Kyrgyz Interpretations of the Ethnic Clashes in June 2010”
Alva Robinson, M.A. Candidate, NELC, UW; Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan 2009-2010
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
The presentation will rely mainly on newspaper articles, TV news and commentaries and discussions between the presenter and his Kyrgyz friends and acquaintances.
Thursday, October 21st - “Chinggis Khan (1162 ? - 1227): His Reign and Continued Presence in Central/Inner Asia”
Brad Weiger, Graduate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
This paper is based on the Honor Thesis Mr. Weiger submitted in June 2010 to the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization for his graduation. His thesis emphasizes that in Western and Russian (Soviet) scholarship the nomadic culture of the Mongols too often has been misinterpreted and the image of Chinggis Khan been distorted, despite the fact that even today he, or rather his spirit, is highly venerated by the Mongols and by those Turkic peoples who still honor their nomadic roots like the Kazakhs and the Kyrgyz.

Friday, October 22nd - “Chinggis Khan (Mong. Chinggis Haan) in Contemporary Mongolian Poetry”
Simon Wickham-Smith, Independent Ph. D. Program, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
Since the end of Soviet influence in 1990, Chinggis Haan has regained his preeminence in the Mongol psyche. Writers have gradually re-introduced both Chinggis and the “golden thread” of his lineage into poetry and fiction. This presentation will show how poets and writers such as Mend-ooyo, Buvudorj and Enhboldbaatar have drawn on earlier texts, such as the *Secret History* and the Poem of Advice attributed to Chinggis, to discuss his life and legacy, and the implications to the contemporary Mongol polity.

Thursday, October 28th - “Tatar Resistance to Russian Assimilation”
Masguda Shamsutdinova, Ph.D., Composer and Ethnomusicologist, Seattle
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
Dr. Masguda Shamsutdinova’s home country is Tatarstan-Bashkortostan, located at the crossroads of trade and culture between Asia and Europe. Dr. Shamsutdinova will discuss why the Russian/Soviet Empire failed to assimilate the Tatars. In the 1340’s the Tatar-Mongol Empire (Golden Horde) began to slowly fall apart, succumbing to extensive infighting. The remnants of the Golden Horde were disunited into 8 Khanates. Among them was the Khanate of Kazan (now: Republic of Tatarstan, Russia), which was destroyed by the Military might of an expanding Russian Empire in 1552. The Russians began to annex territories of the Golden Horde and set the stage for the former Russian/Soviet Empire. Russians could take the lands of the Tatars, but not their souls. The presentation will focus on the mechanism of resistance used by the Tatars for nearly half a millennium against Russian imperial assimilation.

Friday, October 29th – “The University of Washington’s Engagement in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 1961-2010”
Ilse Cirtautas, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizacion, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
The presentation will discuss the amazingly fruitful cooperation between the University of Washington and academic institutions in Uzbekistan. It all started in 1961 with Book Exchange Programs, involving first the Library of Tashkent University (now: National University of Uzbekistan), soon to be added the Library of the Academy of Sciences and
the National Alisher Nava’i Library. In turn, the Book Exchange Programs contributed to exchanges between individual scholars and finally, in 1972, to the unique Sister City relationship between Tashkent and Seattle! Other highlights of the “gown and town” relationship between Tashkent and Seattle will also be presented.

Thursday, November 4th - **“Libraries in Uzbekistan, the Former Soviet Union and in the US”**
Saodat Khakimova, M.A. Candidate, School of Social Work, UW  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

This presentation is based on the experiences of Saodat Khakimova, who came to the UW as an exchange student in 2008. She will describe her first impression of Suzzallo Library, where to her amazement she actually could go up to the book shelves, browse around, without having to fill out a request stating her name and the titles of the books she wants to read. This is still the practice in Uzbekistan as in all other regions of the former Soviet Union. When one enters there a library, one does not see any books because books are kept in dark and smelly basements! Saodat will explain the different systems of cataloguing books and will end with a plea to help to establish a “scholar to scholar” program for modernizing libraries in Uzbekistan.

Ilse Cirtautas, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

The author spent the period from October 2001 to May 2005 in Central Asia, working for the International Crisis Group, based initially in Osh, later in Bishkek. The book is extensively based on “thousands of interviews and conversations with persons who preferred to remain anonymous.” Nevertheless, the author presents some worthwhile observations, as, e.g., in his chapter on “The US in Central Asia”.

Friday, November 12th - No Program

Ilse Cirtautas, Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, UW  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

The Kazakh poet and educator Ibiray Altinsarin was one of the first Kazakh intellectuals who, after the Russian conquest of the Kazakh steppe, asked the question “What must we do in order to survive as Kazakhs”? Realizing that the answer lies in education, he opened in 1864 the first elementary school for Kazakh children, where the Kazakh, Russian and Tatar languages were taught and attention was paid to the development of human values and traditional Kazakh standards of behavior. Altinsarin’s **Anthology of Kazakh Literature** is an example of his educational goals.
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
The author, sister of the world-renowned Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aytmatov, remembers the life of her parents and especially the persecution and execution in 1938 of her father Törökül Aytmatov who had been accused of being an “enemy of the people”

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
Pirimqul Qodirov (1928) is the author of two historical novels on Babur, founder of the Moghul Empire in India, and his successors. His latest novel deals with the tragic fate of a Timurid Princess, Gavharshad Begim, wife of Amir Temur’s youngest son Shahrur (r.1407-1447) and mother of Ulughbeg (r.1447-1449), who was killed by his own son Abdu’l-Latif. In 1457 at the age of eighty, Gavharshad Begim was cruelly executed by order of Sultan Abu-Sa’id (r.1451-1494), accused of entertaining secret relations with one of Abu-Sa’id’s enemies.

Friday, December 3rd - Kazakh Movie: Köshpendiler (The Nomads)
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm
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