NELC continues to offer an intensive summer program in Near Eastern and Central Asian languages. Courses in Summer 1993 include elementary Arabic, elementary Hebrew, elementary and intermediate Kazakh, elementary Kirghiz, elementary Tajik, and elementary and intermediate Uzbek. Professor Bassam Frangieh and Professor Leonard Herzenberg return this year as visiting faculty for the summer program.

A special attraction of this summer’s offerings is a lecture series and 3-credit course, “Environmental Issues of Central Asia.” Coordinated by Professor Ise Cirtautas and Dr. Kurt Engelmann (Geography), this series features presentations by summer faculty and other distinguished visitors, including the Kirghiz Ambassador to the U.S. and Canada, H. E. Roza Otunbayeva; Tajik journalist and photographer, Mohyeddin Alempour; former First Deputy Minister of Higher Education of Uzbekistan, Ergash Fazilov; Uzbek writer, Muhammad Ali; collector and historian of Central Asian decorative art and textiles, Sayyora Maxkomova; and Visiting Lecturer from the Institute of Foreign Languages in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Svetlana Jamantayeva.

The summer program in Central Asian languages was partially funded by a grant from the Social Science Research Council and the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

SUMMER PROGRAM 1993

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229-B Denny Hall, DH-20
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

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From the Chair:

The past year has been a time of change and transformation for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

In January, 1993 Professor Ise Cirtautas stepped down as Chair. During her more than five years of service she worked tirelessly to increase undergraduate and graduate enrollments, to build up the Department’s Summer Intensive Language programs, to facilitate scholarly exchange programs with institutions in Central Asia and the Middle East, and to encourage the activities of student organizations. The Department extends to her our appreciation for all her efforts on behalf of NELC.

The long-awaited and joyfully anticipated establishment of a new Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies is now a reality. Three students entered the program in 1992-93, and four are entering in 1993-94 (for details, see story inside). NELC M.A. students now enjoy greatly enhanced opportunity to prepare for a doctoral degree at the University of Washington.

There also have been changes in faculty and curriculum this calendar year. The Department has appointed a new Assistant Professor of Turkish. Dr. Kemal Silay joins our faculty after completing a Ph.D. in the Department of Uralic and Altaic languages at Indiana University in 1993. Dr. Silay has published on Ottoman topics and on modern Turkish literature. His dissertation was on “The Dissonant Voice: Tarzi-ı Nedim and the Poetics of the Ottoman Court.” He will be teaching Turkish language and literature courses and in Winter 1994 will offer “An Introduction to Anatolian-Turkish Culture.” Professor Walter Andrews’ willingness to continue serving the Department on an affiliate basis is further cause for optimism with regard to Turkish studies. In Winter 1994 he will offer a seminar focusing on “Theory and Scholarly Practice in the Study of Near Eastern Literature” (NE 530, crosslisted with Comparative Literature 596).

Course offerings have also expanded in other areas. In 1993-94 “Colloquial Arabic” will be taught evenings through the Extension program. Rawa Johnson will be the instructor. In addition, a number of courses in English have been added to our offerings in order to reach more students throughout the University.

NELC thanks the following people for courses they taught this past year: Professor Emeritus Nicholas Heer taught “Advanced Arabic” and “Islamic Theology” in Autumn 1992 while Professor Aron Zysow was on leave. Peter Mentzel (Ph.C., History) taught “Introduction to Islamic Civilization,” and team-taught “Civilization of the Turkic Peoples” with Professor Ise Cirtautas. Jawed Zouari (Ph.C., History) taught “Islam” as an Evenning Division course.

Finally, NELC bids farewell to Dr. Michael Yoger who was responsible for elementary and intermediate Hebrew in 1992-93. He is joining the faculty of the English Department at the University of Haifa. We welcome a new lecturer, Ilan Rosenberg, starting in Autumn 1993.

Altogether, NELC is demonstrating renewed strengths in a number of areas. Nonetheless, at a time of very considerable state and federal budget reductions, the Department faces formidable obstacles including greatly reduced scholarship and fellowship support for our students. We very much appreciate gifts from private sources that help alleviate this problem. While the need for tuition support is obvious, even small gifts go a long way. For example, they may enable NELC student organizations to invite speakers to campus or help underwrite graduate student research as well as research assistantships that benefit both the students and the faculty with whom they work. If you are interested in making a contribution to the Department, please see the information provided on the last page of this newsletter.

We look forward to an exceptionally productive and challenging year in 1993-94.

Naomi B. Sokoloff
NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Charlotte Albright has edited a handbook for teaching about Iran at the secondary school level. Iran: A Precollegiate Handbook was published in 1992 by the Foundation for Iranian Studies. The Handbook is contained in a three-ring binder that holds individual units on geography, history, literature, calligraphy, arts, religion, cuisine, holidays, people, and music. In addition to the study units, the Handbook includes an extensive reference section listing best available books and films. Also included are a wall map of Iran, an audio cassette with readings of poetry and selections of music, and a set of 20 slides selected from the National Geographic Society collection. Individual articles were contributed by Iranian studies specialists from around the United States, among them Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak and Dr. Albright, herself. Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami of the Foundation for Iran Studies was the Project Director.

Copies of Iran: A Precollegiate Handbook may be ordered from the Foundation for Iranian Studies, 4343 Montgomery Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. The cost is $39.95. Checks should be made payable to the Foundation for Iran Studies.

Walter Andrews is working on several projects simultaneously. He is finishing preparation of an edition begun by the late Mehmed Cavusoglu of The Divan of Revdin in conjunction with Pierre MacKay, Mehmet Kalpakli, and Ali Tanyeri. A book of translations of Ottoman poetry jointly produced with Guhan Bates is well on its way. The initial part of a book on Ottoman Kaide and occasional poetry has been completed and one part was presented at the Middle East Literary Seminar at Washington University in St. Louis. Another abbreviated presentation will be made at the SOAS Qasidah Conference this summer and the material will be published with translations as part of a conference volume. He is also in the early stages of co-authoring a book of essays on literature and literary theory (tentatively entitled Istihsab) with Maria Rosa Menocal, the R. Selden Rose Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Yale. The Ottoman Text Edition/Divan Poetry Archive projects are proceeding with delays caused by the need to adapt new programs to replace some that have raised their prices beyond the means of scholars users. His article “Singing the Aligned 1: Guattari, Deleuze, and Lyric Decodings of the Subject in Ottoman Divan Poetry” will appear in the October 1993 issue (6.2) of the Yale Journal of Criticism.

Jere Bacharach, after completing his five year term as chair of the History Department, took his first year-long sabbatical since joining the University of Washington in 1967. He was funded in part with a Council of International Exchange of Scholars - J. William Fulbright Regional Grant and an American Research Center in Egypt Fellowship. Most of the year he was in Egypt although his research interests took him to Europe and Syria. London, Berlin, Aleppo, Damascus, and other important holdings of Islamic coins and Professor Bacharach was able to see public and often private collections in every city. The numismatic material is tied to political issues from the ninth and tenth centuries; and, it was great fun to handle actual artifacts from that period.

During the year Professor Bacharach submitted four articles for publication to journals in Jordan, Egypt, France, and the United States. His newest project is a study of the building activities of the Umayyads, the first Muslim dynasty, in Greater Syria and is a direct result of his visiting a number of the archaeological sites in Syria last September.

As a result of the October 12, 1992 major earthquake in Cairo, there has been a significant increase in interest from public and private collections in Egypt. Professor Bacharach responded by organizing an international conference held in Cairo in June, 1993. He found the problems of running such a conference in Cairo with scholars from eight different nations and funding agencies on three continents the most challenging and, at times, frustrating administrative job he can remember. In Winter 1994 Professor Bacharach will teach “Trends in the Contemporary Middle East.” Finally, Professor Bacharach notes that, living in Cairo for most of the year, it is easy to forget how green and quiet Seattle is.

Terror De Young has introduced a number of new course offerings in NELC. In Autumn Quarter 1992 she taught a course on traditional modern Arab women poets and in the Winter, a course on Abbasid poetry which focused upon the works of Abu Nuwas. Material from both of these courses will be incorporated into two new Arabic literature-in-translations classes next year. In Winter 1994 “Introduction to Classical Arabic Literature in Translation” will look at major “classics” of Arabic literature, beginning with pre-Islamic poetry and including Ibn al-Muqaffa’s fable collection, Kalila and Dimna, Arabic “courtly love” poetry, the Hispano-Arabic zajal and muwashshaha and _The Thousand and One Nights_. A spring course incorporating last year. At the same time he was published two essays in Mehrregan and one in Nimyee Digar and has been asked to guest-edit a special issue of Iran-Nameh on the theme “Literary Criticism in Iran.” He continues to write entries on modern Persian literature for the Encyclopaedia Iranica.

Last winter Professor Karimi taught the Honors course, “Modern Middle Eastern Literatures in Translation,” for which he has been selected by the University of Chicago, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak carried a full load of teaching last year. At the same time he was Back from a year of leave spent in Central Asia and at the University of Chicago, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak carried a full load of teaching last year. At the same time he was

Affiliates of the Institute:

Andrews, Walter G., Ph.D., 1970; Michigan; Turkish language and literature, Ottoman Turkish.

Affiliate Assistant Professors:

MacKay, Theodora, Ph.D., 1968, Bryn Mawr; Publications, ancient Anatolia.

Pyne, Nannette, Ph.D., 1982; Washington; Medieval Near Eastern history, geography and archaeology.

Affiliate Instructor

Sakkal, Manoun, M. Arch, 1982; Washington; History of Islamic art and architecture.

Teaching Assistants 1993-94

Arabic: Soad Abuhami
Persian: Hadi Soltanikareh
Turkish: Ozmuner Eren
Uzbek: Hamid Zakir

Akinat Ibrahim
NEWS FROM THE FACULTY
Board of Literary Research/Recherch e Litteraire. He has played host to a number of Middle Eastern and Central Asian writers and scholars, including Dr. Taraj Atabaki from the University of Utrecht, Iranian fiction writer Shahrnuush Parsipour, and poet Manuchehr Ateshi.

Professor Karimi’s immediate plans include two translation projects which introduce the poetry of Iranian poets Esmaeil Khoi and Manuchehr Ateshi, as well as two anthologies of modern Tajiki literature: one devoted to poetry, the other to short stories. He has been invited to two scholarly gatherings during the summer months; the first held in July at the University of Washington, D.C. and delivered a paper entitled “From Shir hashrim to Sir hashrim,” a review essay on Hebrew children’s literature and its critics (Prooftexts 12, 1992) and “Israel and America Imagining the Other: Natan Shaham’s The Salt of the Earth and Philip Rosén’s The Counterlife,” to appear in The Other in Jewish Thought and History edited by Laurence J. Silberman and Robert L. Cohn (NYU Press). In addition, Professor Sokoloff has edited an anthology of essays, Infant Tongues: The Voice of the Child in Literature, together with co-editors Professor Elizabeth Goodenough of Claremont McKenna College and Professor Mark A. Heberle of the University of Hawaii (Wayne State University Press, Foreword by Robert Coles). This project received a publications grant from the Graduate School of the University of Washington. Included in the volume is an essay by Professor Sokoloff, “Childhood Lost and Children’s Voices in Hokkaido Literature.” A portion of this work was presented at the 11th World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem (June, 1993).

Also in 1993, Professor Sokoloff interviewed Professor Anne Golomb Hoffmann of Fordham University on “Gender and Ideology in Israeli Writing,” for Cablearn TV (Channel 27), and she lectured for various community groups. In Spring 1994 she will teach “Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation.”

Don Stilo has recently been awarded a 29-month grant to produce Persian instructional materials (see separate entry) based upon the use of his elementary Persian language text, Spoken and Written Modern Persian, co-authored with Jerome W. Clinton at Princeton University. Negotiations for publishing the text are currently under way with the University of Washington Press.

In the past year Professor Stilo has attended conferences of the American Association of Teachers of Persian (AATP) in Philadelphia, Portland, and Seattle. He has co-authored a questionnaire for AATP members to gather material on Persian teaching in the United States for use at a summer workshop in Austin, Texas to devise guidelines for nationwide standardization of Persian teaching.

In 1992-93 Professor Stilo has continued his scholarly activities during the year. He was a guest lecturer in several courses in the department, and he lectured at Pacific Lutheran University and the University Women’s Club. For his service to the American Research Center in Egypt he received an award during the annual meeting of ARCE in Seattle. He was elected to the Board of the Arabic-Speaking Academic Immersion Program located at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan, and visited that Center and consulted with the Director and students of the program. He was also invited to serve on the Editorial Board of a new journal to be published by E. J. Brill of Leiden entitled Islamic Law and Society. As a service to the profession, he reviewed articles for publication in journals and evaluated scholarly works of young scholars up for promotion in this country and abroad. His writings included a chapter in Summing Up: Ten Scholars on the East Look Back, edited by Thomas Naff (to be published by SUNY Press in 1993), and three articles for the Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World.

Professor Don Stilo was the recipient of a grant from the American Institute for Yemeni Studies which enabled him to spend five weeks during November and December 1992 in Sanaa, Republic of Yemen. Professor Stilo’s research focused on Zaydi legal manuscripts in the extensive holdings of the Eastern Library of the Great Mosque of Sanaa. Through the kind offices of Deputy Minister of Justice Dr. Mohamed Jaffer Kassin, he was able to have a private interview with the Chief Justice of the Republic, Qadi Muhammad ibn Isma’il al-Hajji. Other high points of the trip included meetings with ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Maqalih, the well-known poet and President of the University of Sanaa and with ‘Abd Allah Muhammad al-Hibshi, the prominent bibliographer and editor of the Yemeni literary tradition. Professor Zysow’s stay in Yemen coincided with a visit to the country by Fawzi Khoury, Head of the Near East Section of Suzzallo Library as a guest of the Ministry of Information, and this provided an opportunity for Khoury and Zysow to acquire important Yemeni texts in a number of areas for the University collection. Professor Zysow continues to serve on the Faculty Council for Community Services and University Relations, and since his return from leave in Autumn quarter 1992 he has also been a member of the Use of University Facilities Committee.

Don Stilo photographed in the city of Cordoba by his wife, Linda. A ribbed star dome, Great Mosque of Cordoba’s expansion of 962-66 AC.
FROM OUR STUDENTS

Kagan Arik, Ali Igmen, Rawa Johnson, and Liya Zou have completed or are completing M.A. degrees in NELC in 1992-93. Kagan Arik, Ali Igmen, and Shawn Lyons have been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. All three are pursuing studies on Central Asian topics.

M.A. student Soad Abuhami served as a T.A. in Arabic in 1992-93.

Kagan Arik received a Chester William Fritz Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences for his Ph.D. work in 1993-94. He served as a T.A. for Turkish in 1992-93.

Dana Bates, a fifth year student, received the 1992 Columbia University Translation Center Merit Award for translations of Ottoman lyric poetry she completed with Professor Walter Andrews.

Nancy Dietrich, an M.A. student, was awarded FLAS/NRF fellowships for Summer 1993 and the 1993-94 academic year. The summer award supports attendance at the Arabic program at Middlebury College in Vermont, and the award for the academic year supports study at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo.

M.A. student Muazzez Eren served as a T.A. for Turkish in 1992-93.

Judy-Gail Houser, an M.A. student concentrating on Arabic and Turkish, was awarded a Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowship along with support from the Kenneth R. Boyle Fund in 1992-93. She also received a FLAS/NRF fellowship for summer study in Tajik.

Rawa Johnson served as a T.A. in Arabic in 1992-93.

M.A. student Cindy Kim will study Uzbek at Tashkent State University in Winter 1993 and Kazakh in Almaty at the Institute for Foreign Languages in Winter and Spring 1994.

M. A. student Theresa Truax spent 1992-93 studying at Tashkent State University. She has been awarded a FLAS/NRF Grant for the coming academic year.

THE KENNETH R. BOYLE FUND

The Kenneth R. Boyle Fund supports Arabic and Islamic studies in NELC. It was established in 1991 with a gift from Mr. Boyle, an alumnus of UW, in honor of Professor Emeritus Nicholas Heer. Funds will be used in a variety of ways to enhance the growth and quality of our program. They may enable financial aid to graduate students, purchasing of instructional materials, public programs, faculty research, publication subsidies, and other activities.

NEW PH.D. IN NEAR AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

A new Ph.D. program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies was established in 1992-93. The interdisciplinary program, housed in the Graduate School, will involve faculty from more than a dozen different Arts and Sciences departments. Core faculty are based in NELC and in the Jackson School of International Studies.

The Ph.D. program is designed for students wishing to pursue research with a comparative perspective in:

- Near Eastern languages and literature: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian (or Dari or Tajik), Turkish, and Central Asian Turkic
- Near Eastern linguistics
- Islamic topics, namely: Islamic law, history, institutions, theology, and mysticism
- Interdisciplinary investigations of modern topics using the social sciences.

Every student in the program must take courses in both the humanities and social sciences.

Currently enrolled students are investigating a range of topics including literature, history, and economics of Central Asia; North African Jewish identity; and medieval Arabic prose.

For further information and application materials, direct requests to:

Office of Student Services
Jackson School of International Studies
111 Thomson Hall, DR-05
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1. A “ândkî” is a Turkish folk ballad.
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

PUBLIC LECTURES

In 1992-93 the Department had another very active year in bringing a variety of scholars to the UW campus. Presenting public lectures co-sponsored by NELC were Michael Cuyt (UC Berkeley) speaking on "The Theme of Water in Turkish and Anatolian Culture;" John Crofoot (University of Minnesota) on "The Circulation of Cultural Knowledge in Narrative: Ahmet Mithar’s Model of Young Ottoman Economic Practice;" Ken Frieden (Emory University) on "Parody in Jewish Fiction and Film;" Anne Golomb Hoffman (Fordham University) on "The Politics of Gender in Recent Israeli Writing;" Fatemeh Keshavarz (Washington University, St. Louis) on "Much Have I Roamed Through the World: In Search of Sa’di’s Self-Image;" Vail Nair (University of San Diego) on "Religion, Ethnicity and State-Building in Central and Southwest Asia: Lessons of Pakistan;" Simona Sharroni (George Mason University) on "Is Sisterhood Global: Identity, Difference and the Politics of Feminism;" Lawrence Schiffman (NYU) on "Recent Developments in Dead Sea Scroll Research;" Kemal Silay (Indiana University) on "Oral Literature and the Earliest Ottoman Historical Accounts: A Study of the Chronicles of Ahmad and Askpasazade;" and Nayereh Tohidi (UCLA) on "Gender and Identity Politics in the Muslim Republics of the Former Soviet Union."

Many thanks to those who co-sponsored these events: The Graduate School Support Fund, Jewish Studies, The Middle East Center, South Asia Studies, and The Women Studies Department.

NELC COLLOQUIUM

In Spring 1993 NELC also initiated a departmental colloquium. The colloquium, to meet twice per quarter, is conceived as a forum in which faculty and graduate students may present their research to one another. The first speaker was Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, who presented a paper on "New Wine in Old Bottles: Classical Persian Verse Forms in the Modern Poetry of Iran."

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The NELC student organizations have maintained an impressive range of activities—too numerous to list here in full.

Meeting regularly on a weekly basis, the Student Association for Inner Asian Studies sponsored discussion groups, films, and public presentations, including one by Ilse Cirtautas and Hamit Zakir on "Uzbek Humor." A complete listing of departmental events and extracurricular activities is available from NELC. These included Alma Kunanbayeva (Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) speaking on "Kazakh Oral Epics and Music;" Nikli Ryble (Peace Corps) on "Turkmens;" and "Tuvian Singers: A Conversation with Three Singers from Tuva in Siberia;" discussions with Zhulaihan M. Ablidin (Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan), and Ilse Cirtautas on "A Report on Recent Visits to Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan and Uzbekistan."

This student association also organized the Fourth Annual Nicholas Poppe Student Symposium on Inner Asian Studies. That event was co-sponsored by NELC, Asian Languages and Literatures, The Jackson School of International Studies, The Chinese Studies Program, The Middle East Center, and The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program.

The Persian Circle co-sponsored slide shows, films, and lectures, including one by Gholem Vatanbakhsh (Shiraz University, Visiting Associate Professor of History, UW) on "Higher Education in Iran;" and two presentations by Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, who spoke on "Posters of the Islamic Republic of Iran" and "Nowruz Traditions."

The Turkish Circle and the Uzbek Circle also held discussion groups, films, and public presentations, including one by Ilse Cirtautas and Hamit Zakir on "Uzbek Humor." A complete listing of departmental events and extracurricular activities is available from NELC. These included: Askar Hakim, President of The Writers’ Union of Tajikistan; Dr. Djura Abdullah, Minister of Higher Education, Tashkent; Dr. Tulkin Bekmuratov, President, Karshi State University, Karshi; Dr. Erkin Khodjaev, President, Trade Cooperative Institute, Samarkand; and Dr. Akil Salimov, President, Tashkent State Technical University, Tashkent.

In the coming year NELC looks forward to welcoming Gulnara Jamasheva (Head, Department of Contrastive Linguistics; Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of Kirghizstan). She has received a Fulbright Grant, sponsored by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, to spend four months at the UW in Spring and Summer 1994. During that time she will pursue research on the Contrastive Study of English and Kirghiz.

A number of scholars supported by IREX will also be on campus this coming year. Professor Karljash Kazgbalyeva (Kazakh State University, Almaaty) will pursue research on sociolinguistic aspects of Kazakh and English. Professor

THE KAZAKH AND KIRGHIZ STUDY GROUP

The Kazakh and Kirghiz Study Group was established in September of 1992 by graduate students and faculty of NELC. The aims of the group include the compilation, translation and study of academic and other materials in Kazakh and Kirghiz; the dissemination of information concerning Kazakhstan and Kirghizistan, particularly with regards to language, culture, and current affairs; the sponsoring of visits and lectures by prominent Kazakh and Kirghiz figures; and, the bi-annual publication of the Kazakh and Kirghiz Studies Bulletin. The Bulletin consists of news updates; book, film, and publication reviews; letters and general data on Kazakhstan and Kirghizistan, as well as feature academic articles submitted by group members and interested outside parties. For further information please direct inquiries to Professor Ilse Cirtautas or to Kagan Arik, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Zeidulla Agayev (Institute of Foreign Languages, Baku) will pursue research on American and Azerbaijani literature. Another IREX scholar, Professor Balaslan Huseinov (Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute, Baku) studies methods of translation from Azerbaijani into English and from English into Azerbaijani. An exchange student from Kazakhstan, Aitkul Kalyayeva, will be studying English as a Second Language at UW in 1993-94.

The Bulletin consists of news updates; book, film, and publication reviews; letters and general data on Kazakhstan and Kirghizistan, as well as feature academic articles submitted by group members and interested outside parties. For further information please direct inquiries to Professor Ilse Cirtautas or to Kagan Arik, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Summer Program 1992
The Middle East Literary Seminar will be held on the University of Washington campus April 8-10, 1994. The conference has met annually since 1983 and has been hosted previously by, among others, Princeton University, Columbia University, the University of Texas, the University of Pennsylvania, and Washington University in St. Louis. This year’s topic will be “Poetics of Sexuality in Middle Eastern Literatures.”

The conference organizers, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Walter Andrews, and Terri De Young, expect 12-15 presentations. Conference papers will be published in Edebiyyat: A Journal of Middle Eastern and Comparative Literature. Support for the conference has been provided by NELC through the Maurice and Lois Schwartz Endowment, by the Middle East Center, by The Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington, and by The Jewish Studies Program.

MAJOR GRANT FOR PERSIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Professor Donald L. Stilo of NELC and Dr. Paul Aoki of the Language Learning Center have been awarded a 29-month grant (approximately $500,000), funded by the Critical Languages Institute of Florida A&M University to assist the federal government in the development of 600 hours of elementary language materials for use in government and first- and second-year university Persian classes. The materials will be based upon the use of Professor Stilo’s text, Spoken and Written Modern Persian, and will be a supplement to and continuation of his textbook. Drs. Stilo and Aoki plan to take advantage of the latest technological trends in language teaching by devising computer-generated learning activities, extensive listening comprehension materials, a newspaper/expository prose reader for first and second year Persian, a student workbook, a teacher’s manual, glossaries as well as extensive annotation of cultural features of these materials and, eventually, interactive video activities. Also working on the project will be Dr. Kimberly Brown, a specialist in Second Languages and Cultures Education, applied linguistics and teacher training, Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak of NELC and Hadi Sultani-Quraie, a T.A. in NELC.

Materials will be gathered from Iranian TV programs, both recorded in Iran and via SCOLA, emphasizing the current style of language in Iran. Original materials will also be audio- and videotaped with the help of the Iranian communities of Seattle and Portland.