NELC’s future could not be brighter. Our faculty continues to gather national and international accolades, the demand for our courses in all of our program areas is at an all-time high, and our students continue to impress and amaze us with their excellence. We have expanded the number of outreach activities to the many diverse communities we serve and, with the generous help of university, governmental, and especially private partnerships, we have substantially increased the number of grants and awards we provide students. NELC truly is a department on a meteoric rise! Indeed, in this issue of the NELC Update you will read about our travel immersion awards for students studying abroad, digital initiatives in Arabic language learning, exciting co-taught courses, future speakers and events in Turkish and Ottoman Studies, an Iranian film series, developments in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, and the recently reconstituted Central Asian Studies Program. Such momentum makes it an especially exciting time to be involved with NELC, and there is no better way to get involved than by becoming a partner. Having said this, I invite you to peruse our list of partnership opportunities elsewhere in this issue and to partner with us as we transform education on the Near East and Central Asia.
**Staff News**

**NELC Welcomes**

We warmly welcome new Administrator Ourania Abell to the NELC family. Ourania comes to us from the Autism Center at UW, where she served as Program Operations Coordinator. She brings a great deal of experience, professionalism, and leadership skills to her role as NELC’s new administrator. Ourania has a B.A. in Education from Western Washington University and an M.A. in French Literature from the University of British Columbia. NELC also welcomes back Program Assistant Maria Yeager who will return to the department in June 2007. She spent the past academic year on a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship participating in the Higher Education Administration Program at the University of Hamburg in Hamburg, Germany.

**A Special Thank You and Farewell**

We would like to offer our gratitude and congratulations to our Administrator Karen Hansen. Karen recently accepted a position as Assistant Director of Finance & Administration in the Office of the President and the Office of External Affairs. In the five years that Karen worked in NELC she brought a great deal of laughter to the office and was the advocate of students and faculty alike. We applauded her success and hope all the best for her in her new position. Grant Coordinator Roxanne Brame also will leave NELC in June 2008 at the conclusion of the Uzbek Educational Partnership Grant. Roxanne plans to continue her Ph.D. in Anthropology where she studies North Africa and the Middle East. Additionally, Program Assistant Laura Dean will leave the department in August 2008. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for 2007-2008 to examine the cultural and political implications of sex trafficking and sex tourism in Latvia.
Faculty News

Professor Ilse Cirtautas awaits the publication of “Building Bridges to Uzbekistan” (in both Russian and Uzbek) in the Uzbek journal Bella Terra. In addition, she is preparing a volume entitled Uzbek Short Stories. The book will offer Uzbek short stories in English translation, along with an Introduction and biographies on the various authors. Prof. Cirtautas also is preparing for publication A Concise Uzbek Grammar. In addition, she is currently undertaking research on Central Asian Turkic autobiographies and memoirs of the soviet period.


Professor Michael Williams’ recent articles include four invited contributions. The first, “Le corpus de Nag Hammadi: Une collection de collections (Section on Codicology and Palaeography)” was written for the Introduction to the volume Écrits gnostiques, edited by Paul-Hubert Poirier and Jean-Pierre Mahé, for the series Bibliothèque de la Pléiade (Paris). The other three articles include “Gnosticism,” “Nag Hammadi Codices,” and “Apocryphon of John,” written for the Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity. Prof. Williams is now revising his article with Lester God: A History of Hadith Forgery, Exploitation, and Unmasking.

Associate Professor Terri DeYoung saw the appearance of five article-length entries for a volume entitled Arabic Literary Culture (Wiesbaden). Also appearing this year, was an English translation of Al-‘Iqd al-Farādī (The Unique Necklace), by Ibn ‘Abd Rabbih (co-written with Issa Boullata of McGill University). Prof. DeYoung currently is undertaking research for six other entries that will appear in another volume of Arabic Literary Culture. Prof. de Young has received a Royalty Research Fund Grant to pursue research during the Autumn 2007.

Associate Professor Selim Kuru completed his monograph Unruly Acts of Desire: Life and Works of the Sixteenth Century Poet Gazâlî and translation of his Book That Repels Sorrow and Removes Anxiety for the Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs Series, Prof. Kuru has finished editing a special issue of the Journal of Turkish Studies entitled In Memoriam: Şinasi Tekin. He also co-edited (with H. Aynur, M. Cakir, and H. Koncu) a volume of essays entitled Modernist Approaches to Old Turkish Literature. His article “Naming the Beloved in Ottoman Turkish Gazel: The Case of Ishak Çelebi (d. 1537/8),” in Ghazal as World Literature II. From a Literary Genre to a Great Tradition. The Ottoman Gazel in Context, also appeared this year. Currently, Prof. Kuru is writing an article on “16th Century Ottoman Turkish Literature” for the Cambridge History of Turkey as well as an article entitled “Beatrice of the City in Spring: Reading Meshesi’s Şehrnegiz.”


Assistant Professor Hussein Elkhafafi published an article entitled “Effective Listening Strategy Use by Arabic Learners” for a forthcoming al-‘Arabiyya Festschrift entitled Teachers and Contexts: Studies in Honor of Roger Allen on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday. His current research includes the entry “Libya” for the Encyclopedia of The Modern World (Oxford University Press); an article on “An Analysis of Swearing (Oath-Taking) Among Speakers of Libyan Arabic. The Pragmatic Function of Swearing or Oath-Taking (Libyans and other Arabs)”; and a third piece entitled “Linguistic and Cultural Needs of Arabic Heritage Learners.”

Assistant Professor Firoozeh Papan-Matin’s book Kash al-Asrar Visionary Autobiography of Ruzzihan al-Baqi’ was published by Brill in 2006. In addition, her article on “Reading and Misreading Lolita in Tehran,” is now in press in The Common Review. She is now undertaking research for another monograph entitled Beyond Death: Mystical Teachings of Ayn al-Qudat al-Hamadhani. Prof. Papan-Matin was awarded a research fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies to conduct primary research in India on her forthcoming book focusing on the work of a medieval Iranian Sufi mystic and his influence on Islam in India.
NELC is proud to announce that it has received funds from the Institute for National Security Education and Research (INSER) to develop online materials for the teaching of first-year Arabic. The development of the online materials will begin this summer and highlight texts and video materials. Prof. Hussein Elkhafaifi recently inaugurated a new Arabic Conversation Circle, which is open to all students of Arabic in the Arabic Program. He also plans to begin a lecture series in Arabic for students and faculty beginning in the Winter and Spring 2008. The lectures, entirely in Arabic, will be videotaped as part of an educational archive available to students and instructors of Arabic language and culture. In Winter 2008, with support from the Middle East Center, Mahmoud al-Batal and Kristen Brustad of the University of Texas (Austin) will come to UW to conduct workshops on teaching language skills in Arabic and other Near Eastern languages. Also of note, NELC Advisory Board member Rita Zawaideh was awarded the 2007 Farhat J. Ziadeh Leadership Award from the Arab American Board.

Annual Farhat J. Ziadeh Lecture Series

The Fifth Annual Farhat J. Ziadeh Distinguished Lecture Series in Arab and Islamic Studies “Making the City of Cairo through Motion” featured Irene Bierman-McKinney of UCLA. The talk examined the area of the Cairo from the mosque complex of Sultan al-Mu’ayyad Sheikh and Bab Zuwayla through Darb al Ahmar. Prof. Bierman-McKinney is Chair of the Art History Department and Islamic Studies Program at UCLA.

The 2008 Lecture Series will host Prof. Frank Vogel, founding Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Prof. Vogel founded the Islamic Legal Studies Program in 1991, the largest program for the study of Islamic law outside of the Islamic world. The 2009 lecture will feature Prof. Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of Islamic History at Harvard University. Prof. Mottahedeh is a distinguished historian of the Islamic Middle East. He is the author of The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran and Lessons in Islamic Jurisprudence.

Arabic Studies Student News

Hanady Kadar, B.A. NELC and Political Science 2007, will attend Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism in Chicago this fall to complete their one-year M.A. program in New Media.

Murat Inan, Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, was awarded the Kathryn Wasserman Dacis Scholarship to participate in Middlebury Arabic Program during the Summer 2007.

NELC Cultural Immersion Travel Awards were awarded to Roxanne Brame, Ph.D. Anthropology, Matthew Erickson, M.A. NELC, Matthew Goldman, Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Nicholas Grossenbacher, Ph.D. History, Monica Meadows, Ph.D. History, and Jonathan Noble, M.A. SISME. All students will travel to the Middle East or North Africa this summer to study Arabic and conduct independent research.

Josh Berer, B.A. NELC 2007, was awarded the Bateh Fellowship in Arabic and Islamic Studies for 2007.

Elizabeth Campbell, Ph.D. History, was awarded a Schwartz Fellowship to conduct dissertation research on the religious landscape of Syria during the early centuries of Islam.
Biblical Hebrew & Ancient Near Eastern Studies

The Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East Program continues to grow and excite our students so much so that we have found it necessary to add a few new courses to meet the demand. These include NEAR E 452, “Biblical Song of Songs,” NEAR E 230 “Themes in Near Eastern Literature,” and for graduate students and those who have had at least a year of biblical Hebrew, the “Ugaritic Language” of the Canaanites. In the Spring of 2008, Seattle will host the Annual American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Conference. The conference will welcome hundreds of Egyptologists and scholars of medieval and contemporary Egypt and will be organized by ARCE’s Northwest Chapter. Starting in 2007-2008, NELC also will institute an annual lecture series for those interested in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East.

This summer we welcome Prof. Alex Jassen, who will teach “The Jewish Mystical Tradition.” Prof. Jassen, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota, received his B.A. from the University of Washington and did his Ph.D. at New York University. He is the author of Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Judaism (Brill, in press).

George Nickelsburg Prof. Emeritus of the University of Iowa and now an Affiliate Professor in NELC, will offer a lecture in the Fall of 2007 entitled “Books that Didn’t Make it into the Bible.” He has been at the forefront of scholarship on Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity for more than thirty years.

Donald Malcom Reid also will give a lecture in the Autumn of 2007 on the topic of “Whose Pharaohs? Egyptian Archaeology in the Colonial Age and After.” Reid is Prof. Emeritus of History at Georgia State University and Affiliate Professor in NELC. He is the author of several books including Cairo University and the Making of Modern Egypt (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

New Graduate Students in NELC

We are proud to announce the arrival of two graduate students into the M.A. Program in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Both come to the department with a solid background. William Reed comes to us from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he obtained a degree in Religious Studies. William’s specific area of research interest is Coptic Egypt and Gnosticism. William has studied the Coptic, Arabic, Greek, and German.

Rebecca Spiller did her undergraduate degree at Western Washington University where she was a double major in Archaeology and Ancient Studies of the Mediterranean. Her research interests focus on the trade routes and the economies of the ancient Near East. She has experience in the Greek, Latin, Arabic, and Hebrew languages.

Congratulations to Dr. Gary Martin

We offer our congratulations to Gary Martin, who has just completed his Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. Gary’s dissertation, which is entitled Textual Histories of Early Jewish Writings: Multivalence vs. the Quest for the “Original,” argues that multiple readings of ancient texts are often intentionally embedded by an ancient author in the form of double entendres or “word plays,” and that multiple readings may sometimes reflect a principle of “variation within limits” that ancient readers and audiences found quite acceptable. The notion that a particular passage must have only one given meaning is a later historical development. The dissertation further demonstrates that since diversity is inherent in the textual tradition and testifies to a rich textual heritage, we should preserve rather than eliminate it, as is often practiced by textual critics.
Central Asian Studies

This year NELC partnered with the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies to constitute a new the Central Asian Studies Program (CASP). The idea was to make visible the true, depth, and importance of Central Asian Studies at UW. The CASP now proudly boasts more than 30 members on its roster who represent a wide variety of disciplines at UW. The CASP and the Ellison Center will host The Eighth Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society October 18-21, 2007. The subject matter of the conference will include all fields of social sciences and humanities. For the purposes of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, the geographical extent of Central Eurasia reaches from the Caucasus, Black Sea and Middle Volga in the west to Tibet, Western China and Mongolia in the east, and from Iran and Afghanistan in the south to regions of Siberia in the north.

NELC is currently working to maintain and expand the functions of its Great Silk Road Research Center in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Currently it provides a place for students and scholars interested in Central Asia to meet and exchange ideas. In the future, however, we intend to integrate summer Uzbek language and culture classes for UW students as well as a series of workshops on a diverse array of topics, from Uzbek literature to medicine in Central Asia. NELC also is in the process of working out an agreement of collaboration with Atyrau University in Atyrau, Kazakhstan. Once concluded, the partnership will make possible student and scholarly exchanges between Atyrau University and the UW as well as summer school programs.

This year NELC was happy to host Uzbek Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Sanobar Khotamova. She has an M.A. in English and German Philology from Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan. Before coming to the United States, Sanobar worked as an Educational Training Assistant for Peace Corps Volunteers in Tashkent and was the Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program Manager.

Central Asian Studies Student News

Stefan Kamola, M.A. NELC 2007, has received a course development award from the Institute for National Security Education and Research to develop a course on the history and literature of Central Asia. Stefan will enter the Ph.D. program in History where he will study Central Asian historiography. Stefan was also awarded a Foreign Language Area Scholarship in Persian for 2007-2008.

Jared Basedow, M.A. REECAS, was awarded a NELC Cultural Immersion Travel Grant to study in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He will conduct independent research on culture and politics, study the Tajik language and volunteer with a local non-governmental organization.
Under the leadership of Prof. Selim Kuru, interest in our Turkish and Ottoman Studies Program continues to grow. The Program boasts the highest enrollment numbers in Turkish in the nation and throughout the year, it features visiting specialists working on all aspects of Turkish language, history, and culture. The Program also enjoys close ties with a variety of Summer Language Programs in Turkey and has received the attention of a number of international organizations. Recently, for example, the Turkish Cultural Foundation offered to support a conference on Turkish culture and literature at UW in the Autumn of 2007. In addition, the Foundation invited NELC’s Chair Prof. Scott Noegel on a three-week tour of Northwest and Southeast Turkey.

Turkish Studies News

The University of Washington Libraries has accepted a gift collection of approximately 25,000 slides taken by Anthony N. Landreau. The slides comprise a survey of rug weaving in Turkey, village by village. Landreau is a former curator of the Textile Museum in Washington D.C., and also worked at the Carnegie Museum. The slides themselves will be stored in Special Collections. Dr. Mary St. Germain, Near East Librarian, will create a finding aid, arrange for gradual scanning of the slides, and create a content image database so that the slides can be viewed online. Prof. Walter Andrews’ translation of the poetry of Hilmi Yavuz appeared this winter from Syracuse University Press.

Turkish Studies Student News

Helena Dunsky, senior in Linguistics, received the James W. Redhouse Prize for Best Progress in Turkish Language, 2006. Didem Havlioglu, Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, 2007, M.A. NELC 2001, has been offered a tenure track position in NELC and Comparative Literature at the University of Utah. Trevor Layman, junior in Classics and History, was awarded a NELC Cultural Immersion Travel Grant to study Turkish at Bogazici University in Istanbul and plans to write his research paper on the Byzantine – Ottoman Transition.

Ali Tuna Kuyucu, Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, was awarded a Schwartz Fellowship for dissertation research in Turkey. His dissertation focuses on political and economic factors behind and the consequences of Istanbul’s recent urban renewal programs.

Turkish and Ottoman Literature Endowed Fellowship

The Turkish and Ottoman Literature Fellowship was awarded to Muge Salmaner, Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, M.A. NELC 2006. Salmaner’s dissertation will focus on modern Turkish literature and film after 1990s concerning minorities and nationalism in Turkey. She will examine Greek, Armenian, and Kurdish minorities and how they are represented in popular culture through the mediation of literature and film. Salmaner has worked as the Turkish Language Teaching Assistant in NELC for the last three years. She plans to take her qualifying exams in Spring 2008.
Modern Hebrew & Israel Studies

Profs. Naomi Sokolff, NELC, Gad Barzilai, Political Science, Joel Migdal, JSIS, and Noam Pianko, JSIS were awarded a course development grant from the International Studies Center for their jointly proposed course “Israel: Dynamic Society and Global Flashpoint.” The course will be offered Winter 2008 and cross listed with the Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS).

Former Hebrew Teaching Assistant Or Rogovin, Ph.D. Comparative Literature, will participate in a one-year M.A. program in Jewish Studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His focus will be Yiddish and Modern Hebrew literature and culture. He will return to UW in 2008-2009 to take his general examinations in Comparative Literature and write his dissertation in comparative Jewish literature.

Aliza Sandalon joined NELC in 2003 as a part-time Hebrew Lecturer. She was recently appointed for three years as a full-time lecturer in elementary and intermediate Modern Hebrew. Aliza has a B.A. in Educational Counseling from Tel Aviv University and studied child psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. In addition to her teaching responsibilities in NELC, she also teaches second and fifth grade Hebrew at the Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle. Her interests lie in the connection between Classical Hebrew and Modern Hebrew. This spring she attended an Intensive Workshop in “Classical Hebrew for Instructors of Modern Hebrew” at University of Texas-Austin. She sees the Hebrew language as a portal to Modern Israeli culture and tries to connect the language to the wider context of Judaism through her Hebrew classes. Before she came to NELC, Aliza taught Hebrew at State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Katherine Nutsch is a double major in Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East and Cellular, Molecular and Developmental Biology. This summer she will travel to Jerusalem on a Cultural Immersion Travel Award and Israel Travel Grant for a five-week intensive Modern Hebrew program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

After the program ends she will travel throughout Egypt for two and a half weeks, and visit Istanbul, before returning to the Units States. Her paper will compare the way news outlets in the United States and Middle East analyze various events that occur while she is abroad. According to Katherine, she looks forward to experiencing cultures different from the United States and comparing the portrayal of such cultures in our media to her experience of the society as a traveler in the country. Katherine plans to enroll in either second year Hebrew next year. She will graduate in Spring 2008.

Cultural Immersion Travel Award

Katherine Nutsch

Herbert I. Rosen Lecturer in Modern Hebrew

Aliza Sandalon joined NELC in 2003 as a part-time Hebrew Lecturer. She was recently appointed for three years as a full-time lecturer in elementary and intermediate Hebrew. Aliza has a B.A. in Educational Counseling from Tel Aviv University and studied child psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. In addition to her teaching responsibilities in NELC, she also teaches second and fifth grade Hebrew at the Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle.

Her interests lie in the connection between Classical Hebrew and Modern Hebrew. This spring she attended an Intensive Workshop in “Classical Hebrew for Instructors of Modern Hebrew” at University of Texas-Austin. She sees the Hebrew language as a portal to Modern Israeli culture and tries to connect the language to the wider context of Judaism through her Hebrew classes. Before she came to NELC, Aliza taught Hebrew at State University of New York at Stony Brook.
Persian & Iranian Studies

The Persian Studies program continues to expand by offering courses in Persian and Tajik, ranging from heritage and non-heritage language classes to advanced and graduate level courses on the literature and culture of Iran and the Middle East. This year we will invite renowned artists, scholars, and writers to deliver lectures for the UW community and the Seattle community at large. Thanks to the generosity of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, we were able to invite speakers and host the 2007 UW Iranian Film Series in Seattle. The overwhelming reception of the Film Series has convinced us to host the event again in February 2008. Next year we will invite other distinguished speakers to a conference organized on Persio-Indian studies. This symposium will examine the exchanges between the medieval Indian and Persian mystic scholars with a focus on literature and linguistics. We enthusiastically look forward to another rich and dynamic year.

NELC Persian Lecturer

Susan Benson joined NELC as a part-time Arabic lecturer in Fall 2005, taught Arabic and Persian in 2006, and was hired as a full-time lecturer for Persian in 2007. Susan completed her B.A. and M.A. in Middle East Studies – Persian and Arabic, at the University of Utah, where she also taught Arabic and Persian. In winter quarter, Susan organized the Persian Program’s participation in World Languages Day, hosting 35 local high school students in a Farsi mini-lesson, and welcoming visiting students and their teachers at the Culture Fair. This well-attended occasion will be an annual event for the Persian Program. Susan also coordinates the weekly Persian Conversation Circle, which is open to all students of Persian at UW. Susan’s academic interests include second language acquisition and assessment, and she is a member of the NELC/REECAS Language Proficiency Committee, studying evaluation methods for the languages she teaches.

Persian Student News

NELC Cultural Immersion Travel Awards were awarded to Abel Kerevel, M.A. SISME and Heather Rastovac, senior Anthropology and NELC, to study Persian in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Abel plans to research the civil war in Tajikistan. Heather will conduct ethnographic fieldwork with the Afsaneh Art and Culture Society’s Tajik Dance Initiative in the autonomous region of Badakhshan in southern Tajikistan. Her research paper will provide contemporary and historical perspectives on dance in Tajik society.

In June Anna Crowley, M.A. REECAS 2007, will begin work for International Research and Exchanges Board in Dushanbe, Tajikistan as Program Manager for their Civil Society Division. She plans to stay in Tajikistan for two years.

Behrooz Soleimani, senior Biochemistry, is the 2007-2008 recipient of the Naficy Scholarship in Persian and Iranian Studies. Behrooz joined the intermediate Persian language courses in 2005 and continued his studies in advanced language and literature courses. Behrooz plans to attend medical school. Behrooz sees his commitment to mastering Persian as an extension of his determination to appreciate his Iranian heritage and to understand better the Persian speaking persons whom he will consult as a physician.

James Gustafson, Ph.D. History and Abel Kerevel, M.A. SISME have been offering Persian courses at the Washington Academy of Languages.

NELC Cultural Immersion Travel Awards were awarded to Abel Kerevel, M.A. SISME and Heather Rastovac, senior Anthropology and NELC, to study Persian in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Abel plans to research the civil war in Tajikistan. Heather will conduct ethnographic fieldwork with the Afsaneh Art and Culture Society’s Tajik Dance Initiative in the autonomous region of Badakhshan in southern Tajikistan. Her research paper will provide contemporary and historical perspectives on dance in Tajik society.

In June Anna Crowley, M.A. REECAS 2007, will begin work for International Research and Exchanges Board in Dushanbe, Tajikistan as Program Manager for their Civil Society Division. She plans to stay in Tajikistan for two years.

Behrooz Soleimani, senior Biochemistry, is the 2007-2008 recipient of the Naficy Scholarship in Persian and Iranian Studies. Behrooz joined the intermediate Persian language courses in 2005 and continued his studies in advanced language and literature courses. Behrooz plans to attend medical school. Behrooz sees his commitment to mastering Persian as an extension of his determination to appreciate his Iranian heritage and to understand better the Persian speaking persons whom he will consult as a physician.

James Gustafson, Ph.D. History and Abel Kerevel, M.A. SISME have been offering Persian courses at the Washington Academy of Languages.
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.

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. The Dean of the College also has supported this fellowship with matching contributions.

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 and publication.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.
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:

Omran Abdurrahman
Shireen G. Abed
Faten Abu-Laila
Araf S. Abulhosn
Amir Afrassiabi
Mussa Mohamed Albulushi
Ayman M. Al-Dahleh
Al-Islam Center
A. M. Amr
Prof. Walter G. Andrews Jr.
Prof. Bilal M. Ayyub
Atef A. Azzam
Prof. Jere L. Bacharach
Zine A. Badissy
Mohamed Belali
Dr. Katayoon N. Beller
Dr. Stephen K. Benirschke
Alexander A. Bertulis
Anitra J Beruti
Levent Besik
Prof. Irene A. Bierman
Barbara Y. Bodden
The Boeing Company
Diane Boratyn
Prof. Robert Burrowes
Dennis F. Butler
Ilker Cengiz
Christian Community Foundation Inc.
Harry L. Cummings, Jr.
Mary Alice Davis
Fouad Dehlawi
Gulsen Demiroz
Lale R. Divringi
Luella E. DuRall
Paul W. Dwyer
D’Z Barber Shop
El Centro De La Raza
Prof. Hussein M. Elkhafafi and Susan Benson
Ahmed Elmetwally
Khojasteh Emadi
Tuna Ertemalp
Osman N. Ertugay
Violet J. Ewing
Timmie R. Faghan
Bahman Fakhimi
Ghobad Fakhimi
Dr. Yousif A. Farjo
Nuom Fariz
Hennie Farrow
Sheryl Laraine Feldman
Dr. Hillel Gamoran
Naser Ghaddah
Francis K. Gilliland
John Ufuk Gokcen
Prof. Ellis Goldberg
Dr. Amy Hafopian
Joan E. Hansen
Racha Barazi Haroun
HCR Seattle Inc.
Prof. Nicholas L. Heer
Nathan Herring
Dr. Jacob Hildebrandt
Douglas S. Honig
Barbara B. Huston
Conrad W. Jacobson
Ali Karimli
Khodadad Kaviani
KCTS Television
Ercenk Keresteci
Fawzi W. Khoury
Richard J. Kuhn
Abed Kouttainay
Eli Lahav
Paul I. Malakoff
Sima Rafii Malek
The Hon. James A. McDermott, M.D.
Katherine E. McDermott
Prof. Michael E. Meeker
Microsoft Corporation
Samia El-Moslimong
Prof. Scott B. Noegel and Laurie Ramacci Noegel
John E. Ohlson
Prof. Firoozeh Papan-Matin
Leslee Penning
Fred Pneuman
Mary J. Pneuman
Nancy Luft Rising
Dunya M. Riechelson
Harold R. Rooks, Sr.
Magdelano M. Rose-Avila
Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute
George R. Salem
Rhonda M. Ziaedi Salem
The Seattle Foundation
McDonald W. Sullivan
Soreff Law
Nagwa S. Tamimi
June Tarsha
F. Soner Terek
Naseem Tuffaha
Tolga U. Ural
The Turkish Cultural Foundation
Yanal Vwich
Prof. Richard White
Prof. Michael A. Williams
Dr. Amal Winter
Fred M. Wright
Rita Zawaideh
Prof. Farhat J. Ziadeh and Suad S. Ziadeh
Reema A. Ziadeh
Dr. Susan L. Ziadeh
Liya Zou

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.
# NELC Graduates 2006-2007

## Bachelor of Arts

**Language & Civilization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed Al-Ansi</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassan Abdi</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariam Abrahimi</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Bell</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia Benson</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Berer</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Cockrum</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nima Fazilat</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Javid</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Jones</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanady Kadar</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Lucier</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talal Mased</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosita Pour</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Schmidt</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nahzineh Shakeri</td>
<td>Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Skaff</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeleine Willemain</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comparative Islamic Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharla Halvorson</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajerah Mumtaz</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Shauers</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Shriver</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Culture & Civilization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nahzanin Imani</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Ladan</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramona Miller</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Master of Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Erickson</td>
<td>Modern Arabic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alireza Jabbarpour</td>
<td>Arabic and Persian Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Kamola</td>
<td>Central Asian Literature and History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies

- Gary Martin, *Textual Histories of Early Jewish Writings: Multivalences vs. the Quest for the “Original”*
- Elliott Ohanes, *William Mitchell Ramsay: An Intellectual Biography*