

Middle East Studies at the University of Washington Celebrates Its Thirtieth Anniversary

THE UNIVERSITY OF Washington's Middle East program celebrated its thirty years of existence in a reception hosted by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and the Middle East Center at the autumn Middle East Studies Association Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Credit for establishing Middle East studies at the UW belongs to Professor Farhat Ziadeh, an eminent legal scholar and Arab grammarian, who joined the faculty of the university's Department of Classics in 1966. Only three years later, through his untiring energy and foresight, Professor Ziadeh founded the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature, recruiting

specialists in Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew to a growing department. In 1975, he applied for Title VI National Resource Center accreditation from the US Department of Education. His first application was successful, and has led to twenty-five years of continuous recognition as a Middle East National Resource Center.



Michael Williams, current Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, presents a plaque to Professor Farhat Ziadeh, founder of the Middle East program at the University of Washington.

At a special reception at

MESA, Professor Ziadeh was recognized for his leadership at the university, and his teaching and mentoring of generations of scholars of the Middle East.

MARY GATES ENDOWMENT 2001

Undergraduates with Interests in the Middle East Win Awards

IN 1995 Bill and Melinda Gates established the Mary Gates Endowment for Students to honor the memory of Bill Gates's mother Mary Maxwell Gates. The endowment focuses on undergraduate education at the University of Washington and offers leadership and research grants to outstanding students at the UW. This year three undergraduates interested in the Middle East were selected to receive Mary Gates awards. Maryah Nijim received

a Leadership Grant, recognizing her role as founder of the Student Alliance for Arab-Israeli Coexistence, an organization dedicated to the promotion of active and extensive communication and social relations between Jewish and Arab youth in Seattle and throughout the world. Ellis Goldberg, Director of the Middle East Center, was Nijim's faculty mentor.

Bryan Averbuch and Alex Jassen each won Mary Gates Re-



Maryah Nijim, recipient of a Mary Gates Leadership Grant.

Anniversary of Middle East Studies—Continued

(story continued on page 2)

Jere L. Bacharach, who followed Professor Ziadeh as the director of the Middle East Center, was also recognized for his contributions to the Middle East studies at the university.

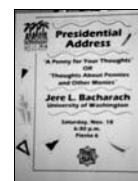


Jere Bacharach was recognized for his contributions to Middle East Studies at the UW.

The reception was attended by a wide variety of students, scholars, researchers, non-profit representatives, and business people, all of whom have been associated over the past thirty years with Middle East studies at the UW.

The Orlando MESA meeting was significant for the UW also in that Jere Bacharach, President of MESA, delivered the 2000 Presi-

dential Address titled “A Penny for Your Thoughts or Thoughts about Pennies and other Monies” to a capacity audience of over 300 members. Service to MESA has been a tradition among the scholars of the Middle East at the UW. In 1980-81, Professor Ziadeh was also the



Gates Scholarships—Continued

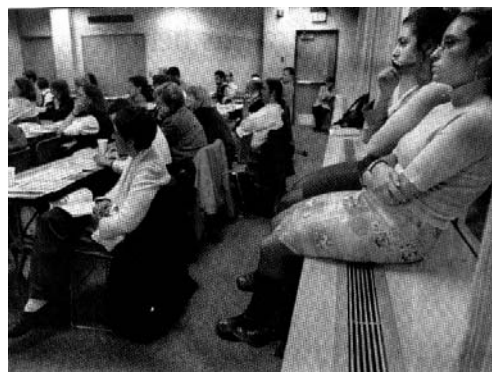
search Training *(continued on page 2)* Grants. Averbuch’s award supports his work to create an interactive archaeological map of the Sassanian world online that will be a resource for students, teachers, and the general public. It will present the hauntingly beautiful remains of a vanished world. Averbuch’s fac-

ulty mentor is Joel Walker, Assistant Professor of History. Alex Jassen also won a Mary Gates Training Grant. Jassen will be pursuing research in conjunction with his faculty mentor, Scott Noegel, Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, on the subject of Jewish magic. Jassen will create

UW FOREIGN STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES to Help K-12 Teachers Understand the Middle East

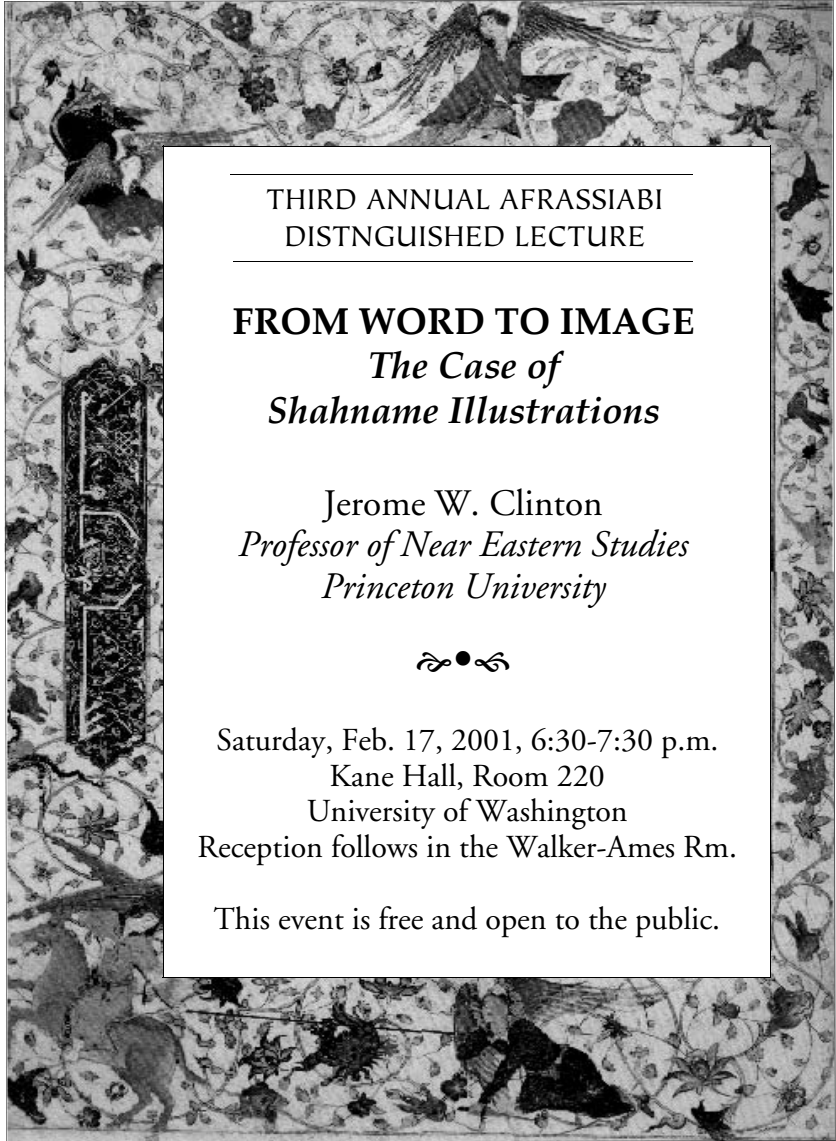
K-12 teachers from the Puget Sound region participated recently in a unique learning experience hosted by the Middle East Center, FIUTS-UW, and the World Affairs Council, Seattle, which highlighted a panel of foreign students from the Middle East. The students, who were from Egypt, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and Turkey, presented their personal perspectives on life in the Middle East and welcomed questions from the audience. The exchange brought the region to life for the audience and helped to dispel some of the common misperceptions Americans have about the Middle East.

In addition to the lively interaction between the students and teachers, the evening included a historical and cultural overview of the Middle East presented by Professor Paula Holmes-Eber, and a short presentation by Felicia Hecker of resources



The HUB was packed as UW foreign students from the Middle East shared their experiences with K-12 teach-

available at the Middle East Center for K-12 instructors. Each member of the audience received a complimentary packet of resource material on the Middle East. ☺



THIRD ANNUAL AFRASSIABI
DISTNGUISHED LECTURE

FROM WORD TO IMAGE
*The Case of
Shahname Illustrations*

Jerome W. Clinton
*Professor of Near Eastern Studies
Princeton University*



Saturday, Feb. 17, 2001, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Kane Hall, Room 220
University of Washington
Reception follows in the Walker-Ames Rm.

This event is free and open to the public.

Envisioning the Ottoman Empire Lecture Series

JANUARY 17, 2001

Adjudicating Family: Islamic Court and Disputes between Kin in Late Ottoman-Syria
Beshara B. Doumani, History, UC-Berkeley

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Religion, State, and Society during the Independence Struggle, 1918-23
Hasan Kayali, History, UC-San Diego

APRIL 18, 2001

Court and City: The Patronage of Culture in 18th-Century Istanbul
Shirine Hamadeh, ARIT

MAY 23, 2001

Visualizing Power: Illustrated Histories of the Ottoman Dynasty
Serpil Bagci, Art History, Hacettep University

All lectures are in Parrington Hall, The Commons, 1:30-3:20 p.m., University of Washington, and are free and open to the public.

**THE AFRASSIABI
ENDOWMENT**
*Encourages Persian
Studies at the UW*

THE Afrassiabi Endowment, which supports an annual memorial lecture and an essay prize for the best student paper related to an aspect of Persian and Iranian cultures, honors the memory of the late Hooshang Afrassiabi, a highly respected leader in the Iranian community in Seattle and a long-time friend of the University and especially its program in Persian studies. Mr. Afrassiabi received his Bachelor degree in Persian literature from Shiraz University, and in his lifetime put his literary talents to work both as journal editor and as author. But he also earned a degree in Administration from Tehran University, and his career included significant contributions in a distinguished career in government service. Hooshang Afrassiabi held important positions in the city of Shiraz, including the office of Mayor. After the revolution in 1979, he and his family moved to the U.S. and settled in Seattle, where all three of Hooshang Afrassiabi's sons became graduates of UW. When Mr. Afrassiabi died in February, 1998, his sons decided to spearhead the initiative to build an endowment for the enhancement of Persian Studies at UW. The annual lecture is an especially important occasion, which brings together UW scholars, students of Iran and the Persian-speaking world, and the sizeable Iranian and Persian-speaking community in the Puget Sound region. ❧

VIDEO REVIEW

The Bride Market of Imilchil

Paula Holmes-Eber

THIS visually beautiful film portrays the rapidly disappearing Berber tradition of the marriage market in Imilchil, Morocco. The unique festival, which is held for three days every September, provides an unusual forum for Berber men and women to meet and choose their own spouses: a tradition that stands in stark contrast to the typical Arab practice of arranged marriage in the region.

The movie offers some excellent cinematography and captures both the beauty of Berber culture and its harshness. The dialogue—in Arabic and Berber, with English subtitles—accentuates the exotic setting and the uniqueness of the culture. The film, however, provides little explanation or historical and cultural context for the unusual events and customs portrayed, except for a political commentary at the end criticizing the marketing of this event as a tourist attraction. The filmmakers also make no effort to distinguish between Arabic and

Berber speakers in the movie: a significant oversight that results in a fuzzy presentation amalgamating Arab and Berber attitudes to marriage in the region.

Despite these shortcomings, the movie is an excellent documentary of a disappearing tradition and cultural way of life. And, if presented by a speaker who can provide the missing background and context, the "Bride Market of Imilchil" offers much stimulating material for discussion. ❧



New Video Acquisitions Now Available in the Center's Resource Library

Resources may be borrowed from the Middle East Center free of charge by contacting the Middle East Center by telephone (206)543-4227 or by email to: <shecker@u.washington.edu>. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holdings, available free upon request, or view our webpage at <http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/index.html>

Islamic Conversation: Women and Islam. 30 min., 1994, Films for the Humanities. Leila Ahmed, professor of women's studies at Amherst, argues the case for revision of the widely-held views in the Islamic world about the role of women. She explains the origin of the veil, and discusses the issue of marriage and women's right within marriage.

Topkapi Palace: General Outlines. 40 min., 1991, MTV Istanbul. This film offers general information about the history of the Topkapi Palace, the various buildings and their functions; and explores the rituals and customs associated with these edifices. The filmmakers were given unprecedented access to the Palace and allowed to film areas normally closed.



**AWARDS FOR BEST BOOKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
*Announced at the Middle East Studies Association
Meeting in Orlando, Florida***

THE MIDDLE EAST OUTREACH COUNCIL (MEOC), a professional organization of teachers and Middle East specialists, inaugurated a new series of book awards to recognize excellence in publishing of material on the Middle East for grades K-12. The awards are in two divisions (1) best picture book for children and (2) best literature for young adults. Books are judged on the quality of the literature and the authenticity of the portrayal of a region of the Middle East, as well as on realistic characters, a good plot, and a satisfying reading experience for young people. Since this was the first time these awards have been offered, the judges considered works published over the last five years.

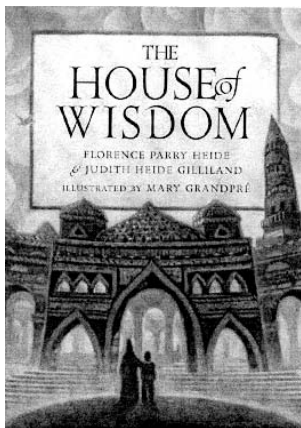
In the picture book category, this year's winner was *The House of Wisdom* by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland (New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 1999). This volume tells the story of a young boy in ninth-century Baghdad, who is inspired by his scholar father to go on a search for knowledge and wisdom. The book, brilliantly illustrated by Mary Grandpré, takes its readers on a journey through the sophisticated culture and society of the one of the

golden ages of Islamic civilization.

Receiving honorable mention in the category of picture book was *The Storytellers* by Ted Lewin (New York: HarperCollins Children's Books, 1998). This work explains the tradition of storytelling as it is passed down from grandfather to grandson in the marketplace of Fez, Morocco. The book, beautifully illustrated, serves also to introduce modern Morocco to young readers.

In the category of best literature for older readers, the winner was *Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye (New York: Simon & Schuster Children's, 1997). This book tells the story of 14-year-old Liyana who moves from Missouri to her father's hometown of Jerusalem. At first the transition is difficult for this American teenager and her family. Gradually, through new friends and relatives, she come to an understanding of her father's culture and finds her place in it. This well-written novel captures the reader's imagination while addressing the issues that confront Jews and Arabs in Israel and Palestine.

All three of these books are available for under \$20.00 through major bookstores.☞



Best picture book for younger readers (ages 5-8)



Honorable mention best picture book for younger readers (ages 5-8)



Best book for young adults readers

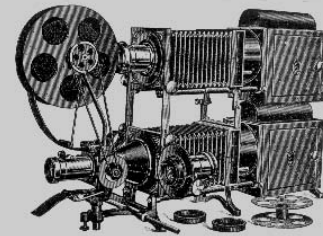
International Documentary Film: Effective Use in the Classroom

PARTICIPANTS in this workshop will learn how to assess documentary films for quality and suitability, and to identify biases and hidden messages. All films used in the workshop are selected from the video collections at the UW Media Center or at the outreach centers of the Jackson School of International Studies and are available for instructors to use in their own classrooms at little or no charge.

Workshop leaders are: Carol Hermer, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology and the Program on Africa, UW; and Mary Barber, local educator.

For more information contact: 206-543-6269 or email: <canada@u.washington.edu>

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2001
8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Thomson Hall, Room 235
University of Washington
Registration fee: \$40.00
8 clock hours for teachers



To register, send check for \$40.00 payable to: "University of Washington" to Canadian Studies Center, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3650.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

School/School District _____ Grade Level _____

Greater Pacific Northwest **REGIONAL MIDDLE EAST SEMINAR**

April 21, 2001, Portland State University



THE SIXTEENTH Annual Regional Middle East Seminar sponsored by the Middle East Center, Jackson School of International Studies, UW; and the Middle East Studies Center, Portland State University will be held in Portland, Oregon this year.

The Seminar is convened primarily

for faculty and instructors in the greater Pacific Northwest who teach about the Middle East or Central Asia at regional two- and four-year colleges and universities. Participants are provided an arena in which they can present new ideas and current research in a collegial atmosphere.

For further details, contact:

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Portland OR 97201
Email: CampbeJ@mail.pdx.edu
Tel: 503-725-8566
Fax: 503-725-5320

JACKSON SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL UPDATES SERIES

Time to Register for the 2001 Dinner-Lecture Series

IT is time to register for the annual "International Updates: Trends and Transitions in Your World" dinner-lecture series organized through the cooperative efforts of the Jackson School's outreach personnel. All lectures will be held in the Walker-Ames Room at Kane Hall, UW, Seattle campus beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Each dinner-lecture is \$22 per person. Individual lecture registration must be received one week in advance of the event. Washington State clock hours are available for K-12 teachers and community college instructors for no additional charge for those who sign up for *two or more lectures*.

Jan. 31: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
 "The Euro R.I.P.?" Robert C. Higgins, Professor, School of Business

Feb. 14: WESTERN EUROPE
 "Sexuality in Scandinavia—Myth and Reality: A Cultural Perspective," Ia Dubois, Lecturer, Scandinavian Studies

Feb. 28: MIDDLE EAST
 "Challenges of Democracy in an Undemocratic Culture: The Case of Iran," Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Mar 14: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
 "From Genocide to Reconciliation: Varieties of Ethnic Conflict in Today's World," Dan Chirot, Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

March 28: RUSSIA, EAST EUROPE, & CENTRAL ASIA

"The Coming Collapse of Russian Education?: Demographics and the Fate of Schooling in the Former Soviet Union," Stephen T. Kerr, Professor, Education

April 11: SOUTHEAST ASIA
 "Beyond Rangoon: Political Instability in Burma," Mary Callahan, Assistant Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

April 25: EAST ASIA
 "North-South Interactions on the Korean Peninsula: Implications for the U.S.," Clark Sorensen, Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

May 9: CANADA
 "The Emergence of Canadian Cinema: The Making of an Industry through Government Policy," Darryl Macdonald, Director, Cinema Seattle/Seattle International Film Festival

May 23: SOUTH ASIA
 "The Cultural Politics of Wildlife Policy in India," Kalayanakrishnan Sivaramakishnan, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

To register, please indicate which of the dinner-lectures you wish to attend.

- Jan 31: International Business
- Feb 14: Western Europe
- Feb 28: Middle East
- Mar 14: International Studies
- Mar 28: Russia, E. Europe, C. Asia
- April 11: Southeast Asia
- April 25: East Asia
- May 9: Canada
- May 23: South Asia
- ALL LECTURES

Please also check if
 vegetarian meal is desired

clock hours are desired (at no additional charge)

Jackson School Outreach Centers
 Attn: International Updates
 Box 353650
 University of Washington
 Seattle, WA 98195-3650
 or call 206-543-1675; email
 <cwes@u.washington.edu> for
 more information.

Mail this registration form and check (payable to the University of Washington), \$22 per lecture to:

REMEMBER: Deadline for registration is one week before each lecture.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

School/School District _____

Grade level currently teaching _____

| |
|---|
| <p><i>Amount Enclosed</i></p> <p>\$ _____</p> |
|---|

CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

February 3

"Effective Use of Documentary Film in the Classroom: A Workshop for K-12 Educators."
Thomson 235, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Registration required (see page 6 inside).

February 14

"Religion, State, and Society during the Independence Struggle, 1918-23." 1:30-3:20.
Parrington, The Commons. Hasan Kayali, History, UC-San Diego.

February 15

"Towards a Just and Viable Peace? A View from the Ground." 7:30-9:30 p.m. Kane Hall,
Room 110. Jeff Halper, Coordinator, Israeli Committee against House Demolitions, and
Salim Hassan Shawamreh, Palestinian Ministry of Industry.

February 17

"From Word to Image: The Case of Shahname Illustrations." 6:30-7:30 p.m., Kane Hall,
Room 220. Jerome W. Clinton, Princeton (see page 3 inside).

February 28

"Challenges of Democracy in an Undemocratic Culture: The Case of Iran." 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Kane Hall, Walker-Ames Room. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Near Eastern Languages &
Civilization. Registration required (see inside this issue, p. 7).

April 5

"The Future of Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations? Conflict and Reconciliation." 7:30-
9:00 p.m. HUB Auditorium. Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy
and Survey Research, Ramallah.

The Middle East Center Newsletter

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