

# THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle WA

Fall 1998

Vol. 24 No. 1

## TECHNOLOGY MAKES ARABIC DISTANCE LEARNING A REALITY

*The Middle East Center and Montana State University  
Cooperate on an Innovative New Initiative*



*Terri DeYoung (standing first right), UW supervising faculty adviser of the program and Nadia Yaqub, UW Arabic instructor (standing fourth from right) with new Arabic teaching assistants from each participating institutions.*

WITH the beginning of the fall school year, an exciting new program starts, which will teach first-year standard Arabic to sixty-five students at seven colleges and universities in the upper Midwest (Montana State-Bozeman and Billings, Idaho State, Carroll College, Rocky Mt. College, and the universities of North and South Dakota) through interactive video originating on the University of Washington campus.

UW Arabic instructor, Nadia Yaqub, the primary Arabic teacher in the program, was

assisted this summer by Terri DeYoung, UW supervising faculty adviser, in an intensive training program held in Bozeman to prepare the TA's from the subscribing institutions for this experimental course. The TA's are from a number of Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Egypt, and Yemen, and all are native speakers of Arabic

Using the textbooks *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* and *Al-Kitaab fi ta'allum al-'arabiyya: A Textbook for* (continued on page 2)

## COMPARATIVE ISLAMIC STUDIES

*New Course Funded by  
The Walter Chapin Simpson  
Center for the Humanities*

A NEW year-long seminar focusing on comparative Islamic studies has recently been awarded funding from The Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities at the UW. Faculty coordinators for the seminar are Brannon and Deborah Wheeler, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, and Ilse Cirtautas, all from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Over the course of the year, the seminar will host guest lectures from prominent international scholars from across North America and the Middle East to Africa and Southeast Asia. The course, is open to graduate students and (continued on page 2)

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## Distance Learning Program

*(continued from page 1)*

*Beginning Arabic* both by Mahmoud Al-Batal, Kristen Brustad, et al (Georgetown Univ. Press), the course is structured so that two classes a week are taught via live, interactive video originating from the UW. Two more classes a week are on-site drill sessions supervised by TA's. Interaction among the students, TA's, and instructors is aided through an email conferencing software package called Firstclass. The software allows all participants access to a chat room, assignments, and on-line resources.

Although the course is experimental in nature, with its heavy reliance on technology, academic expectations remain the same as for more traditional courses. The program is proficiency oriented with emphasis placed on functional use of Arabic in communicative contexts. In addition to language training, the course will introduce students to Arab culture.

Periodically, students will be tested using the ACTFL standards to determine their level and to gauge, in part, the success of this new program.

Students who decide to go on to second-year Arabic, will be able to attend Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, for Arabic instruction and other coursework in English. Tuition and credits will be at the rate of their home institutions.

Seed money for this project comes from a grant from the National Security Education Program. ☸

## Islamic Studies Seminar

*(continued from page 1)*

selected undergraduates in all disciplines for credit. In addition, the seminar coordinators are encouraging all those in the academic community to sit-in on sections of the seminar that may be of particular individual interest.

During the fall term, the focus will be on approaches and resources available for the comparative study of Islam. Winter term will explore the interplay among text, tradition, and politics with case studies, such as how Sufism and Sufi traditions have been used to imagine political structures in Java, Senegal, Egypt, and Morocco. In the spring term, the emphasis will be on informational technology and political change looking at contemporary examples of how Islamic societies respond to changes in the transmission of knowledge, with case studies drawn from Yemen, Iran, and Afghanistan.

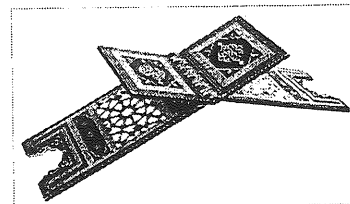
Over two dozen UW faculty members will be involved in the new seminar, in addition to invited specialists. For more information about the series, contact Brannon Wheeler at 206-543-7343 or email: <wheelerb@u.washington.edu>

*(See related article "New Courses" on page 6.)*

## Center Wins Access Grant

THE Middle East Center has been awarded a \$780 grant to purchase videos for its Resource Library from the UW's Friends of Access. The funds will be directed toward the acquisition of videos, which can be used in the Center's new Arabic distance learning program and will form an important component of the materials that will introduce Arab culture to students.

Friends of Access was founded in 1988 by members of the UW's Access program, which allows any Washington state resident 60 years or older the opportunity to audit classes at the University of Washington for a nominal fee on a space available basis. Friends of Access is composed of students who have benefited from the this learning experience and who, through the generosity of their membership, organize an annual competition that awards grants to units on campus who are have projects that benefit undergraduate education. The program is administered through the Office of Undergraduate Education. ☸



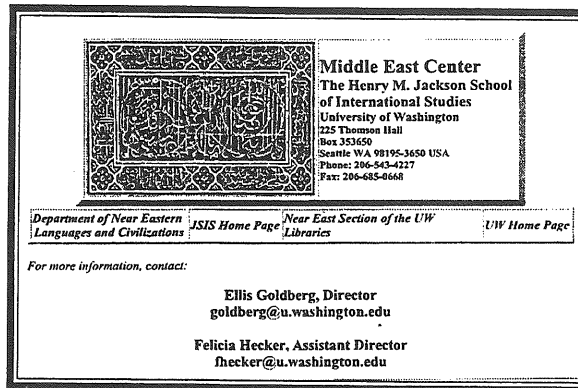
*16th century Ottoman ebony and ivory reading stand (Hungary Nat. Museum)*

## MIDDLE EAST CENTER HAS NEW HOMEPAGE

### *Information on Courses, Events, and Resources Made Easier*

THE Middle East Center now has a new homepage, which will make access to information about the many Center related activities much easier. The site is located at:  
< [www.weber.u.washington.edu/~mideast/index.htm](http://www.weber.u.washington.edu/~mideast/index.htm) >

There are direct links on the Center's homepage to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, the JSIS homepage, the Near East Section of the main library, and the UW homepage. In addition, the site has subpages providing information on the Center's



*First page of the Center's new homepage.*

history, affiliated faculty, the Arabic distance learning program, calendar of Center events, the Center's exchange programs, the Interdisciplinary Near and Middle East Ph.D.

program, requirements for the masters program in Middle East Studies, on-line news and journals focusing on the Middle East, other Middle East centers, quarterly course listings, and the Center's video collection. In cooperation with Montana State University, the Center is developing a comprehensive site to support the new Arabic distance learning program linked to the Center's homepage. ☺

## MARCI LAUGHLIN

### *1998-99 Middle East Center Schwartz Fellow*

MARCI Laughlin has been named the 1998-99 recipient of the Middle East Center's Schwartz Fellowship. Marci received her B.A. with honors from UC Davis in International Relations and enrolled in the Jackson School's M.A. program in Middle East studies in 1995. She had significant experience with the Middle East well before she entered the UW. In 1993 she visited Israel and the Occupied Territories as part of a women's delegation to learn about the peace process, and particularly the involvement of grassroots and women's organizations.

At the UW, she developed an interest in Turkey and the former Ottoman Empire and

took advantage of the newly established exchange program with Bogazici University in Istanbul, where she studied in the summer of 1996. From there she went on to the American University in Cairo to work on Arabic, and Arabic literature and continue her Turkish studies.

While in Cairo, she became interested in the Naqshibandi Sufi group, researching the group in Cairo and traveling twice to Cyprus to visit the group's sheikh.

She is currently writing her M.A. thesis on the Naqshibandi community in Cairo, highlighting the experiences of women participants, and looking for commonalities



*Marci Laughlin, MA student and Schwartz recipient*

between the varying nationalities of these women ☺.

# Egypt Gift of the Nile Summer Teacher Institute

*Middle East Center and Seattle Art Museum Offer Teachers an Introduction to Ancient Egypt*

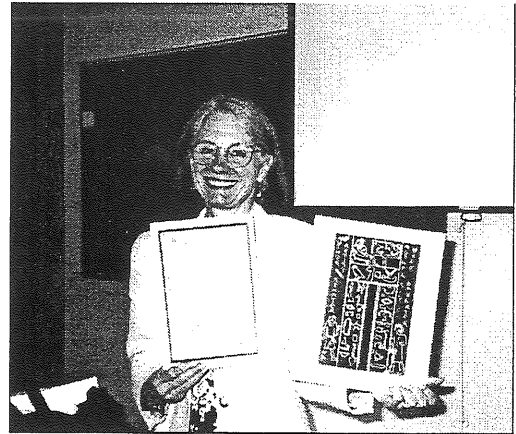
A one-week intensive workshop was held during August for approximately 150 Washington state school teachers to introduce them to "Egypt: Gift of the Nile" a traveling exhibit from the University of Pennsylvania Museum now showing at the Seattle Art Museum. The institute, coordinated by Mimi Heggelund of the Center and Beverly Harding from SAM, aimed to provide teachers with the tools and resources to present the subject in their own classrooms.

Lectures were given each morning by UW faculty and

such internationally renowned Egyptologists, as Emily Teeter of The Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago; and Patricia Podorski, Assistant Director, Museum of Art and Archeology, University of Missouri.

Afternoon sessions were devoted to hands-on activities and were primarily led by elementary and middle-school teachers. Each teacher developed a lesson plan on daily life in ancient Egypt.

For more information on



*Sarah Alsdorf, a teacher at Lowell Elementary School, Seattle, displays materials she designed for her own classroom presentations.*

school tours and curriculum resource guides to the exhibition, contact the Seattle Art Museum at 206-748-9280.☎

## Change in Central Asia: Agricultural Development between Russia and the Middle East

ON November 21-22, 1998, the Center, in cooperation with the Russia, East European, and Central Asian Studies program, will hold a conference on agricultural changes in Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. The event will be held at the UW in HUB 106B and is open to the public. For more information contact 206-543-6939. Invited speakers and panels are as follows:

### Saturday, 21 November

8:45 a.m.: Welcome

#### 9:00-12:00: Session One: Russia

ROY PROSTERMAN, Rural Development Institute, Seattle, "Agricultural Change and Development in Transition Economies"

STEPHEN K. WEGREN, Department of Political Science, Southern Methodist University, "Agrarian Transformation in Russia: Where Is the Rural Bourgeoisie?"

GREGORY IOFFE, Department of Geography, Radford University, "Continuity in Rural Russia"

### 1:30-4:30: Session Two: Central Asia

BORIS RUMER, Harvard University, "Agriculture and Critical Issues of Central Asian Economies"

PHILIP MICKLIN, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, "Managing International Waters of the Aral Sea Basin: A Geographic Perspective"

RENÉE GIOVARELLI, Rural Development Institute, Seattle, "Agrarian Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic"

### Sunday, 22 November

#### 9:00-12:00: Session Three: The Middle East

MICHAEL BONINE, Department of Geography, University of Arizona, "Agricultural Development in the Middle East"

PAUL KALDJIAN, Department of Geography, University of Arizona, "Agricultural Development and Policies in Turkey"

WILL SWEARINGEN, Department of Geography, Montana State University, "Agriculture and Environmental Constraints in North Africa"

*Closing Remarks*

## New Acquisitions in the Center's Resource Library

Resources may be borrowed from the Middle East Center free of charge by contacting the Middle East Center <[fbecker@u.washington.edu](mailto:fbecker@u.washington.edu)>, or by telephoning the Center at 206-543-4227. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holding, which is available free upon request or see our on-line guide at our homepage.

### NEW VIDEOS

*Atatürk: I Stand for Your Dreams.* 60 min., 1983. Produced by the Turkish government, biographical information, historical footage.

*The Broken Wings.* 93 min.

Kahlil Gibran, author of *The Prophet*, describes his passion as a young man for a beautiful woman from Beirut who is destined by social convention to marry another.

*The Crusades.* Four videos, each 50 min., 1995. Examines the reasons for the Crusades, the creation of a mythology of knights and chivalry and the legacy of distrust between East and West. Pt. 4 contains some partial nudity, possibility inappropriate for precollegiate levels.

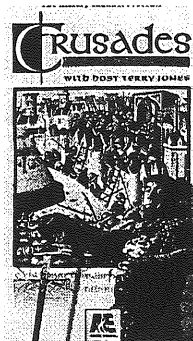
*The Hajj: One American's Pilgrimage to Mecca.* 22 min., 1997. ABC Nightline segment. Writer Michael Wolfe documents his trip to Mecca during the hajj and explains the origins and meanings of various rituals.

*Islam: A Closer Look.* 30 min. Short documentary about Islam, especially in North America. Features

interviews with scholar John Esposito, athlete, Hakeem Olajuwon, and others.

*Mecca: The Forbidden City.* 52 min., ca. 1960. Examines the hajj and associated rituals.

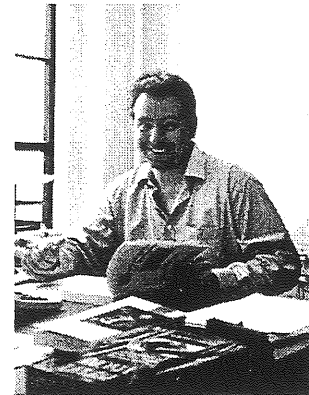
*Muslims in America.* 22 min., 1995. ABC Nightline segment. Examines the tenets of the Muslim faith and stereotypes.



*The Price of Change.* 26 min., 1982. Examines how women have adjusted to changes in the Middle East since WWII. Produced by Elizabeth Fernea.

*A Veiled Revolution.* 26 min. 1982. Explores stereotypes about veiling in the Middle East. Interviews with Egyptian women. Produced by Elizabeth Fernea.

## JÖRG GERTEL Visiting Geographer from Germany



Jörg Gertel

JÖRG Gertel, Leipzig University, is teaching in the Department of Geography and JSIS fall term as part of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Gertel specializes in human geography and has published on the subject of urban food systems and security in the Middle East. He was the research coordinator for an Egyptian-German project on the food system of Cairo and was a consultant for the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation. He is teaching two courses: "Geographical Perspectives of Globalization" and "Middle East Countries in the Wake of Macroeconomic Liberalization."



Persian ms. detail, 16th century  
(private collection)

## *New Courses Relating to the Middle East Offered by Visiting Scholars*

## **CHAD HOPE** *First Wineman Fellow*

**T**HROUGH support from the Middle East Center and the International Studies Center several new or seldom taught courses will be offered during the 1998-99 academic year that will contain a significant Middle East component.

### *FALL 1998*

Middle East Countries in the Wake of Macroeconomic Liberalization, Jörg Gertel

### *WINTER 1999*

ARCH 498/SIS 490A Geometry and Islamic Architecture, Mamoun Sakkal

ANTH 318/SISME 490A Peoples and Cultures of the Islamic

Middle East, Paula Holmes-Eber

SIS490/CHID 270 Gender and the Nation: 19th Century East Central Europe in a Comparative Perspective, Jitka Maleckova

### *SPRING 1999*

CMU 418/SISME 490 Islam in Cyberspace, Deborah Wheeler

IBUS 490/SIS 490A State Business Relations and Integration to Global Economy, Soli Ozel

CMU 418/SIS 490A Issues in Mass Communications, Soli Ozel

ANTH 469/SISME 490A Arab Folklore, Nadia Yaquob

**C**HAD Hope, a master's student in Middle East Studies, has been named the first Paul Wineman Fellow. Hope will spend the academic year at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, where he will be taking a variety of classes in Arabic. In addition to his course work, he will be finishing his MA thesis on the El-Salaam irrigation project in Egypt. While at the UW, Chad served as the webmaster for both the Middle East Center and the Russian, East European, and Central Asian programs.

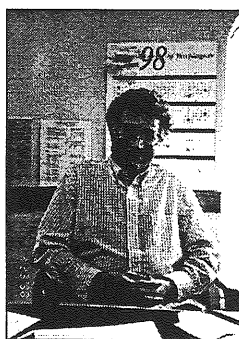
The Wineman Fellowship is made possible by the generosity of Paul R. Wineman and supports students interested in business in the Middle East. ☞

## *FACULTY PROFILE: AHMAD KARIMI-HAKKAK Persian Literature Specialist and Avid Gardener*

**A**HMAD Karimi-Hakkak is a specialist in Persian literature, who brings his enthusiasm of the subject to both his research and his teaching.

His book, *Recasting Persian Poetry: Scenarios of Poetic Modernity in Iran* (Utah, 1995), has generated much important discussion on the course of modernity in Persian literature, and was selected as the runner up in the prestigious Saidi-Sirjani book award competition for 1996. In the spring of this year, he organized The Second Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, under the auspices of the Society for Iranian Studies in Bethesda, Maryland.

He has recently been awarded a special grant from the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the



*Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak*

Humanities for a project on "Literature and Censorship in Iran." The award will allow him to gain access to research materials in Iran that are crucial for his research.

Karimi-Hakkak, who teaches modern Persian language, and modern and classical Persian literature, is a popular teacher, winning much praise, especially from students in his honors seminars.

When he is not teaching, directing the activities of the Persian Circle, or speaking in the community, he tends his garden at his home in Bellevue, where he says of his flowers, "they excite and engage me in thoughts beyond the daily." ☞

# THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## MOSAICS

1998-99

BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR CLASSROOM  
ACROSS THE CURRICULUM GRADES K THROUGH NINE

Three Saturday workshops featuring sessions by international studies experts and experienced teachers, resource displays, hands-on activities, demonstrations of multi-purpose and interdisciplinary lessons, and hand-outs.

Sponsored by the UW Jackson School of International Studies and the Washington State Council for the Social Studies. The Festival MOSAIC is also cosponsored by the Seattle International Children's Festival.

### ISLAM IN ASIA MOSAIC

Contact: Keith Snodgrass, 206-543-4800  
South Asia Center

NOVEMBER 7, 1998

### SOUTHEAST ASIA MOSAIC

all new!

Contact: Maureen Jackson, 206-543-9606  
Southeast Asia Center

MARCH 13, 1999

### FESTIVAL MOSAIC

Contact: Mary Bernson, 206-543-1921  
East Asia Center

APRIL 1999\*

\*date to be announced

All workshops will take place in 101 Thomson Hall, University of Washington, Seattle. Each workshop costs \$35 and includes lunch and all materials, with clock hours available at no additional charge. Special discount: \$30/each for those who register for two or more MOSAICs. Pre-registration is required. To register, make check payable to WSCSS and send, with completed form below to: Outreach Programs, Jackson School of International Studies, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3650. Please call the appropriate contact above for additional information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (hm and school): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School/District: \_\_\_\_\_

Grades/subjects taught: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop(s) registering for: \_\_\_\_\_



## CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

1998

November 7

Islam in Asia MOSAIC (see inside for registration, p. 7)

November 21-22

Change in Central Asia: Agricultural Development between Russia and the Middle East (see inside for details, p. 4)

1999

March 14-16

Western Jewish Studies Association Fifth Annual Conference. Keynote speakers include William Jordan, Princeton; Robert Stacey, UW; and Lucette Valensi, University of Paris. Info: 206-543-7145

May 21-22

Oil and Gas Resources in the Middle East and Central Asia Conference (more information in future newsletters)

The Middle East  
Center Newsletter

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