Center Receives Fulbright-Hays Grant for Summer Program in Turkey

Through the collaborative efforts of the Center and the College of Education, and Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, 16 social studies teachers from Texas will travel to Turkey for a six-week seminar and curriculum development project this summer. Participants will be selected on the basis of their leadership in social-studies curriculum development. They will spend the first three weeks in residence at Bogazici and the second three weeks traveling throughout the country to sites selected to illustrate Turkey's historic, cultural and geographic diversity.

The project is designed to improve the quality of instruction in the social studies by providing participating teachers the opportunity to experience a Middle Eastern culture firsthand. Participants will share what they have learned by making presentations at district, regional and national workshops and professional meetings. To help with their efforts, participants will design an instructional curriculum trunk focusing on the history, culture, economy and education system of Turkey. To earn graduate credit, participants will also enroll in two seminars offered through the Center and the College of Education as part of the study program.

Project Director for the seminar in Turkey is Director of the Center Ian Manners (Geography). Professor Manners travelled to Bogazici in June of 1988 to begin advanced planning for the project and to meet personnel. Curriculum Director of the Project is Jo Ann Sweeney (Assistant Dean of the College of Education). Project Coordinator is Jenny White. Ms. White is a graduate student in Anthropology at The University of Texas who has studied and taught in Turkey for a total of five years. The three University personnel will work closely with Bogazici faculty members Sumru Ozsoy and Omur Akyuz.

A total of 22 finalists will be selected and invited to attend the first orientation session in Austin, at which time the Selection Committee will have the opportunity to meet and conduct interviews with prospective participants. The Committee will then make a final decision about participants and alternates. The final application date for interested teachers was March 9.

The Center was provided $55,000 by the U.S. Department of Education under the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad. The Federal grant will finance 56% of the total cost of the Project. The remaining 44% of project costs will be provided by the Center, fees from the participants, and contributions from private donors.

The Project further enhances the existing relationship and educational ties between the Center and Bogazici University. As partial result of Professor Manner’s trips to Turkey, the Center welcomed in August of 1989 two Bogazici faculty members to the University. Dr. Eser Taylan is Visiting Associate Professor of Turkish and Dr. Cem Taylan is Visiting Scholar in the Center. Both have provided assistance in expediting communications and planning between the two universities involved in the project.

1990 MESA in San Antonio

The Center will host the 1990 annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) in San Antonio on November 11-13. The meeting will be held at the San Antonio Convention Center and the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel.

November 10 will be devoted to affiliated associations meetings and an outreach workshop focusing on literatures of the Middle East. An opening session and welcoming address will occur Sunday morning, November 11. Panels, the film program, the book exhibit, and other exhibits will be ongoing Sunday through Tuesday.

Raouf Abbas Hamed, Chair of the Department of History at the University of Cairo, will be MESA’s 1990 Visiting Scholar in the Humanities. MESA will also sponsor a lecture tour in the U.S. for Dr. Hamed in the fall.

Sunday night a reception and buffet at the Institute of Texan Cultures will feature foods and entertainment
from Texas cultures, such as barbecue, Mexican food, and mariachi players. The Presidential Address and the Business Meeting will take place Monday, and Monday night will feature a gala of Middle Eastern popular cultures.

San Antonio is well-known for its riverwalk through the heart of the city, Spanish missions, Mexican market, fine museums and general diversity of cultures.

Conferences and Lectures

The Center cosponsored a one-day symposium entitled State Power and Social Forces: Domination and Transformation on February 9. Other cosponsors were the Department of Government, the Center for Asian Studies, and the Social Science Research Council.

Speakers were Naomi Chazan (Political Science) Tel Aviv University; Akhil Gupta (Anthropology) Stanford University; Frances Hagopian (Government) Harvard University; Atul Kohli (Political Science) Princeton University; Joel Migdal (International Studies) University of Washington; and Vivienne Shue (Government) Cornell University.

Other members of the working group were Catherine Boone (Government) UT Austin; Michael Bratton (Political Science and African Studies) Michigan State University; Resat Kasaba (International Studies) University of Washington; Elizabeth Perry (International Studies) University of Washington; and Robert Vitalis (Government) UT Austin.

Various Visiting Professors at the University and visitors to the campus have presented a wide ranging series of lectures during the semester. On February 9, Roger Owen (Fellow St. Antony's College, Oxford, and Visiting Professor of Middle Eastern History) spoke at the Faculty Seminar on British Studies. His topic was "Reflections on the First Ten Years of Thatcherism." Edna Ann Russmann (Brooklyn Museum) lectured on February 8 on "Egyptian Sculpture in the Early and Late Old Kingdom." On February 19, Jonathan Berkey (History, Princeton) presented "Tearing Down the Wall: Islamic Religious Education and the Breaching of Cultural Boundaries." Denise Spellberg (Women's Studies and History, Harvard Divinity School) gave a talk entitled "The Politics of Praise: Shadija, Fatima, and Aisha in Early Muslim Historiography" on February 22. "Transformations in Islamic Art During the Sunni Revival, 11th and 12th Centuries" was the title of the lecture of Yasser Tabbaa (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) on March 1.

The Center continues with its Colloquium Series on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 in the Resource Center. Former faculty member Caroline Williams (Architecture) returned to the University on January 18 to speak on "Islamic Decoration: Spiritual Dimensions." Abraham Marcus (History) discussed "Middle East Programs at Aix-Marseille III" on February 1. On February 8, Resat Kasaba (International Studies) lectured on "A Time and a Place for the Non-State: Social Change in the Ottoman Empire During the Nineteenth Century." On March 1, the Center cosponsored the Colloquium with the Center for Soviet and East European Studies. The speaker was Guliz Kuruoglu (on leave from Turkish), who discussed "Changes Observed on a Recent Trip to Kazan and Soviet Central Asia."

Center Publishes Kanafani Novella

May is the publication date of the Ghassan Kanafani novella previously unpublished in the English world, Ma'Tabaqqa la-kum, translated All That's Left to You. The volume is completed with ten short stories by Kanafani and an introduction by Roger Allen. The novella and short stories were translated by May Jayyusi and Jeremy Reed under the direction of Salma Jayyusi, Director of the Project for the Translation of Arabic (PROTA).

The late Kanafani is considered a leading novelist in the Arab world and one of the foremost contemporary Palestinian writers in prose. A politically active journalist in Beirut during the 1960s, Kanafani was killed in the explosion of his booby-trapped car in July, 1972.

The novella All That's Left to You deals with the tragic consequences for individuals of alienation and geographical isolation. In this vivid story of twenty-four hours in the real and remembered lives of a brother and sister living in Gaza and separated from their family, the desert and time emerge as characters. The Palestinian attachment to land and family and the sorrow over their loss are symbolized by the young man's unremitting anger and shame over his sister's sexual disgrace.

Kanafani experiments with point of view, speaking through the desert, the brother, and the sister to build the powerful rhythm of the narrative. The short stories that complete this collection also show stylistic freshness in their use of time and frame of reference.

All That's Left to You may be purchased for $8.95 through the University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713.

All That's Left to You and Year of the Elephant, published last November, are the Center's second and third books in the new Modern Middle East Literature in Translation Series, sponsored by the Center and the University of Texas Press.
Student News

On April 19-21, the 1990 Southwest Model League of Arab States will be held at the Joe C. Thompson conference Center at the University. The League of Arab States, comprised of 22 member states, was founded in 1945 for the purpose of fostering cooperation and discussion within the Arab world. During the Model League of Arab States, university delegations from throughout the Southwest will represent member countries of the organization, in a forum that will provide participants with an opportunity to study the role, structure, and performance of the League and to gain experience in parliamentary procedure and forensic skills. Interested students should contact Greg Noakes (474-4374) or Najeeb Ahmad (346-4065).

Carla Higgins, Graduate Research Assistant in the Middle East Resource Center, is developing a small collection of information concerning job placement, funding for graduate and undergraduate study and a variety of academic programs such as study abroad and intensive language institutes. The Resource Center hopes eventually to provide current announcements of career opportunities in both public and private sectors, to disseminate information on sources of funding relevant to particular areas of interest, and to provide information on current programs available in the U.S. and abroad. Any suggestions from faculty, staff, or students are welcome.

Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology Jenny White has been offered a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) post-doctoral grant for advanced German and European studies at the Free University of Berlin. Ms. White spent two years in Turkey completing her research for her dissertation on small commodity production in urban Turkey. She also taught at Marmara University while in Turkey.

Moira Killoran, graduate student in Anthropology, delivered a paper for the Project for the Historical Construction of Identities, a project ongoing at Rutgers for 1989-1991. The title of the paper was “The Historical Construction and Denial of a Turkish Cypriot Identity.”

Nabil Abdelfattah (Ph.D. candidate in FLEC and Assistant Instructor in Arabic) was awarded certification as an oral proficiency tester in Arabic by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Mr. Abdelfattah is now one of only seven certified testers for Arabic in the United States.

Former student Peter Dutz, who received a B.A. in Persian with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies from the University in 1982, has completed an M.A. in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Temple University. He is currently a law clerk in the United States Court of International Trade in New York City.

Academic Exchange Between UT and Aix-Marseille III

Abraham Marcus (History) visited the University of Aix-Marseille III campus in December to participate in a conference, and while there met with faculty concerning possible future exchange programs with the Center. The University of Texas last year entered into an agreement with Aix-Marseille III, which anticipated various forms of academic collaboration, including student and faculty exchanges. Within this general framework, Professor Marcus explored the possibility of collaboration between the Center and the Institut de Recherche et d’Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM).

Professor Marcus reported at a February meeting of the Colloquium Series that the Institut has an excellent North African collection, among other things. It is anticipated that the first faculty exchanges will be for short term (perhaps two weeks) purposes such as workshops, seminars, and colloquia, and that student exchange might start in 1992. Marcus described the Masters Program in History and Modern Middle Eastern Studies offered by the Institut d’Etude Politique, a branch of the Aix-Marseille III similar to the University’s College of Liberal Arts. IREMAM is solely a research institute.

Tel Yin’am Expedition

The Tel Yin’am Intern Program in Israel will be taking place this summer from June 20-July 30. For the fourteenth year Harold Liebowitz (Hebrew) will lead students to work side-by-side with archaeologists in studying and reconstructing finds from Tel Yin’am, near Tiberias in the eastern Lower Galilee. The site of Tel Yin’am was continually occupied for approximately 7,000 years from the Neolithic Period to the Byzantine Period. The students this year will be housed in a youth hostel in Jerusalem, where most of the materials to be studied have been stored. The materials are the result of previous digs.

Participants are eligible for up to six hours’ undergraduate or graduate credit from the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. Applications should be sent to Professor Liebowitz, DOALL, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. Applications should be accompanied by a $10 non-refundable fee which will go toward payment of the participation fees. For information, phone (512) 471-1365.

Elementary Persian for Iranian/American Students

An elementary Persian course (First-year Persian 2) has been designed specifically for Iranian and Iranian-American college students familiar with spoken Persian, but not able to read and write Persian. The course (PRS 5507) will be offered May 28-July 12. Participation in this special summer course requires prior consultation with the instructor. For that and further information, contact Michael Hillmann, DOALL, UNI 222, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. Phone (512) 471-1365.
Institute for the Study of Literature, Religion & Society

The Institute, sponsored by a four-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, is finishing its first year, which saw a series of five lectures. Mohammad Arkoun (University of Paris, Sorbonne Nouvelle) spoke in the fall. In December, Dan Miron (Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Columbia) delivered a lecture on "Literature, Religion and Faith in Israel." Rached Ghannouchi spoke in February on "Human Rights in Islam." Mr. Ghannouchi, an intellectual and political activist, is head of the MTI, the leading Islamic movement in Tunisia. Also in February, Paul Vieille spoke on "Religion, Popular Discourse, and Dereliction in Islamic Iran." Dr. Vieille is Directeur de Recherche at the CNRS, Editor of Peuples Méditerranéens, and author of numerous books on the Middle East. The last speaker of the year will be Serif Mardin (American University and Bogazici University, Istanbul) on April 30. Mardin will present a lecture on "Necip Fazil Kısakürek and Turkish Society."

A panel of speakers will meet on April 5 to discuss "Literature and the Religious Revival in the Middle East". The panelists are Roy Mottahedeh, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard; Jaroslav Stetkevych, Professor of Arabic at the University of Chicago; and Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Professor of Arabic at the University and Director of the Institute.

The two Rockefeller fellows who will take up residency at the University during the academic year 1990-91 will be chosen and announced by the Institute late in the spring.

Edgar Polomé (DOALL) traveled to the Free University of Berlin on February 26 to present a lecture on the "Present State and Future of Bantu Studies." On February 27 he spoke on "Indo-European Culture and Religion," and on February 28-March 3 he attended a symposium at the Werner Reimer Foundation at Bad Homburg, on the Sources of Germanic Religion, where he presented a paper on "The Validity of the Statements of Ancient Writers on Germanic Religion." In December his volume Essays on Germanic Religion was published by the Institute for the Study of Man.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art and CMES) published "Counting and Accounting in the Prehistoric Middle East," in Sandro Salvatori, Studies and Documents, IV, Errizzo, Venezia, Italy. She has also published jointly with Liane Jacob-Rost "Tokens from the Sanctuary of Eanna at Uruk," in Forschungen und Berichte, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vol. 27; and "Two Precursors of Writing in One Reckoning Device," in W.M. Senner, ed., Sign, Symbol, Script, University of Nebraska.

Robert Vitalis (Government) will be on leave from the University for the next academic year, and will be a Visiting Professor at Princeton.

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Faculty News

A man Attieh (Arabic) concluded work on a project funded jointly by the U.S. Department of Education and The School of Arabic at Middlebury College to develop proficiency-based materials for teaching Arabic. Under the Project, for which Dr. Attieh served as Coordinator and Peter Abboud as Director, some 600 authentic texts for reading comprehension and listening comprehension were selected, and instruction sheets containing questions on each text were designed. In addition, a large number of communicative situations for speaking were designed for four levels of instruction in Arabic. In November, Dr. Attieh was invited to be a group leader on the American Association of Teachers of Arabic panel, held at the MESA annual meeting in Toronto. Dr. Attieh was invited in December to deliver a paper entitled "New Directions in Materials Development for Promoting Proficiency" at a conference on innovative proficiency-based materials sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University.

Former visiting faculty member Hamid Dabashi (Sociology) has had his book, Authority in Islam: From the Rise of Muhammad to the Establishment of the Umayyads, named the most outstanding book in philosophy and religion in the Fourteenth Annual Professional and Scholarly Book Awards sponsored by the Association of American Publishers.

Allen Douglas (French) traveled to Paris during January for research. He had a paper delivered in absentia for him at the meeting of the Middle Eastern Literatures Seminar in March at Duke. The title of the paper was "Imperialism and Its Contradictions: Maurice Barres' Enquete aux pays du levant."

Elizabeth Fernea (English and CMES) was the discussion leader at a conference on Women and War in the Middle East at Princeton on March 24. On March 27, she gave a lecture entitled "Palestinian Question: Is There a Solution?" as part of the Great Decisions Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She spoke again at a seminar at Chapel Hill on "Cross Cultural Women's Studies: Possibilities and Impossibilities." The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded Professor Fernea a grant of $50,000 to plan and research her proposed educational project, "Perspectives on Peace: The Middle East." The Foundation also offered a matching grant of $150,000, which will become effective when an equal amount has been raised from other sources and foundations. The purpose of the film is to inform several audiences in the U.S. and abroad about some of the visions and possibilities for peace that exist in the area today. The grant will be administered through Moira Productions, Berkeley, California.

Robert Fernea (Anthropology), chairman of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, Washington, D.C., was speaker at the Council's first meeting with European directors of overseas research centers, held March 7-8 at the American Academy in Rome. Professor Fernea spoke on the historical bases for research funding in American academic institutions. The meeting was attended by representatives from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Britain and Sweden.

Kate Gillespie (Marketing) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. In the Winter 1990 issue of The Middle East Journal, she published "U.S. Corporations and Iran at the Hague."

Clem Henry (Government) participated in a symposium on North African Economic Integration sponsored by CEMAT in Tunis on January 5. He presented a paper on "Banks and Information" at a symposium sponsored in Casablanca, Morocco, by the Credit Populaire Bank on January 22-23. Professor Henry inaugurated a lecture series of the American-Tunisian Friendship Society in Washington, D.C. with a lecture on February 2, 1990, on "The Politics of Adjustment and the Adjustment of Politics." On March 15-16, he attended a symposium on Turkey sponsored by the CERI in Paris, where he presented a paper on "Arab-Turkish Financial Relationships."

Michael Hillmann (Persian), while in Iran on a Social Science Research Council grant to research the life of the late author Jalal Al-e Ahmad, presented a lecture in Persian at the Philosophical Society in Tehran on the state of Persian Studies in North America. Professor Hillmann continued his research on Al-e Ahmad in Gottingen and Paris. At the University of Gottingen, he gave a lecture in Persian on the contemporary literary scene in Tehran. Salem Press recently published Professor Hillmann's articles on Shah Abbas the Great and Ruhollah Khomeini in Great Lives from History. His collaborative bibliographical essay with Roger Allen on "Arabic Literature in English Translation" appeared in Literature East & West 25 this spring. Professor Hillmann is planning a January 1991 conference at the University on Sadeq Hedayat and Persian Literature.

Guliz Kuruoglu (Turkish), on leave for the year, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Turkish Studies Association for the coming year.

Fedwa Malti-Douglas (Arabic) has been promoted to Professor, effective September 1, 1990. She edited Critical Pilgrimages: Studies in the Arabic Literary Tradition, which has appeared as volume 25 of Literature East & West. Her study, "Blindness and Sexuality: Traditional Mentalities in Yusuf Idris' 'House of Flesh'" was published in that volume. In November, 1989, Professor Malti-Douglas delivered an invited paper, "The Future of the Past in Arabic Culture," for a conference in Cairo commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Taha Husayn. Also in November, she was invited to participate in a conference on Medieval and Renaissance Humanism, held at the Bellagio Conference Center, where she delivered a paper on "The Sacred and the Profane in Adab Discourse." Professor Malti-Douglas also spoke on "A Literature of Islamic Revival?: The
Roger Owen
Visiting Professor
From Oxford

The Center is proud to have Roger Owen as a Visiting Professor during the spring semester with joint appointments in the Center and the Departments of Economics and History. Professor Owen is teaching an undergraduate course and a graduate seminar on Economic History of the Middle East. A well-known economic historian of the Middle East in Britain, he has written extensively on the integration of Egypt into the world economy during the nineteenth century. Subsequent books, notably The Middle East in the World Economy and The Sociology of Developing Societies: The Middle East, have extended his analysis to the regional level. He has served three terms as Director of the Middle East Centre at St. Antony’s College, Oxford. Since 1964 he has been Lecturer in Recent Economic History of the Middle East at Oxford. Since 1987, he has been General Editor of the Cambridge University Press Modern Middle Eastern Library.

Outreach News

On February 1, Deborah Littrell became the new Outreach Coordinator. She had been with the Center part-time as the Resource Center Coordinator, and took over responsibility for the outreach program when Annette Pomeroy resigned.

The Center will sponsor four films from Turkey during the spring. Cem Taylan, Visiting Scholar from Turkey, will introduce each of the films, which will be shown from 7–9:45 p.m. in Room 344 of the Academic Center. The films are Iron Earth, Copper Sky directed by Zulfu Livaneli (March 27); Muhsin Bey by Yavuz Turgul (April 3); Hotel Anayurt by Omer Kavur (April 10); and 40 Square Metres of Germany by Tevfik Baser (April 17). These films are being shown in connection with MES 301L, but are open to the public at no charge. For additional information contact the Center at 471-3881.

Editor: Annes McCann-Baker
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