New Center Administration

Professor M.R. Ghanoonparvar (Persian Studies) was named the new Associate Director of the Center during the summer of 1993. Replacing him as Undergraduate Advisor is Esther Raizen (Hebrew Studies). The new Graduate Advisor is Abraham Marcus (History), replacing Elizabeth Fernea, who is teaching at Ohio State for the semester. Robert K. Holz (Geography) continues as Center Director.

Professor Ghanoonparvar has taught at the University since 1990, and was Undergraduate Advisor at the Center from 1991-1993. A frequent translator and the author of many books and articles, he is the recent author of In a Persian Mirror: Images of the West and Westerners in Contemporary Iranian Fiction. He received his Ph.D. from the University in 1979, and has taught at the Universities of Arizona and Virginia.


Dr. Raizen has been a Lecturer in Hebrew since 1991. She received the University of Texas Outstanding Dissertation Award in 1988 and the Texas Excellence Teaching Award in 1993. She has forthcoming, with Lehmann and Hewitt, from Lang Publishing Company the publication Biblical Hebrew: an Analytical Introduction.

Summer Study Abroad

Mindful of the need for students to receive foreign field experiences in the Middle East, the Center is planning summer-abroad programs in Israel and Turkey and an expanded faculty and student exchange program with Moulay Ismail University in Morocco. The summer study in Israel involves a six-week program from July 6-August 20 including travel throughout Israel and two available credit courses: "Conservation, Resources and Technology in the Middle East," taught by David Eaton (LBJ School of Public Affairs), and "The Jewish People and Their Literature," taught by Yair Mazor (OALL).

The Summer Study in Istanbul program will take place at Bosphorus University from June 28-August 20. Students will have the opportunity to take courses in Turkish language and culture, business, government, and history, as well as enjoy field trips in Istanbul. This program is sponsored jointly by the University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Center looks forward to providing opportunities for both faculty and students to participate in its exchange program with Moulay Ismail University in Morocco as early as the spring of 1994.

Individuals interested in these programs should contact the Center at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712; phone (512) 471-3881; fax (512) 471-7834; e-mail mideast@bongo.cc.utexas.edu
From The Director

The fall semester of the academic year is always a hectic time at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Besides all of the activities a new year brings: the start of classes, new appointments of both faculty and students, budget matters and planning the activities for the academic year, we are faced with the daunting task of preparing the grant proposal to the U.S. Office of Education, which is our major source of funding. This funding is based on a three-year cycle, which will begin anew in 1994-95. We expect the competition for funding to be especially intense this year, and, as a result, our proposal will have to be more sharply focused and innovative. Preparing the proposal consumes a great deal of the director's and staff's time and energy, but we are appreciative of the opportunity to compete for this funding and grateful for the support we have had in the past.

We still occupy quarters on the 15th floor of the Dobie Center. Plans call for us to move back to campus in the late spring of 1994. The Center is tentatively scheduled to occupy quarters on the third floor of the WMB, just across the West Mall from the Student Union. The move is complicated because it must be coordinated with the moves of several other programs that must vacate space to make room for the Center. It will be good to be back on campus, especially in such a central location to campus activities and university administrative offices.

I have felt for a long time that the Center needs more and better lines of communication and contact with the Middle East. In this information age of electronic communication we have opportunities to exchange information rapidly, easily and relatively inexpensively if we are properly equipped, trained and organized. In order to develop these lines of communication, the Center has begun a program to establish electronic linkages with Middle Eastern universities. With financial support from Dean Sheldon Ekland-Olson in the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Communication and the School of Library and Information Sciences, we were able to hire a Research Associate, Dr. Elizabeth Bouri, to begin work on this project. Besides electronic linkages such as E-mail and Internet we intend to examine the opportunities for establishing interactive television linkages in real-time. The program is just starting, and I strongly encourage anyone who has a special interest in this form of communication to contact Dr. Bouri at the Center.

Over the summer of 1993, the Center organized and conducted the Summer Language Institute, sponsored by the Western Consortium of Middle Eastern Centers. We had 82 students enrolled in first-, second- and third-year Arabic, first- and second-year Hebrew, first- and second-year Persian and first-year Turkish. We also offered for the first time at Texas first-year Azerbaijani. Area courses in other departments and a number of non-credit enrichment courses on the Middle East were offered. Next summer, the 1994 Institute will be held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

At a reception for faculty, staff and students, I initiated a new program designed to recognize and reward faculty who have made long, sustained and valuable contributions to CMES. The award consists of a framed certificate, a book and Center financial support to attend the national meetings of the Middle East Studies Association. This year, the award went to Professor Hafez Farmayan, Professor of History, for his long and dedicated service to the Center. Plans call for this award to be given each year in the future.

Recent communication from the upper Administration indicated our exchange program with Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco, should have final signatures in the next few weeks. This means the program will be ready for exchanges to begin in the spring semester, 1994, and we look forward to providing opportunities for both faculty and students to go out to Morocco.

The Center has initiated a joint M.A. program with the College of Communication, modeled after our very successful joint program with the College of Business. The course of work has been approved by the faculties in CMES and the College of Communication. It is currently being reviewed by the Graduate School and the upper administration and, if all approvals are received, we hope to activate the program in the Fall Semester, 1994. We are looking for ways to establish similar contacts with the Colleges of Engineering and Library and Information Sciences.

The Center hopes to offer a Summer Study Abroad Program in Israel in the summer of 1994. Plans are well underway. A brochure has been printed and the two faculty who will teach courses, Yair Mazor and David Eaton, are actively recruiting students to take part in this overseas program. They may ask to speak to your classes about this study-abroad program. If they make such a request, please try to cooperate. The Oxford Program in Geography has found this to be one of the most valuable methods of recruiting students for that summer program.

At this time it seems we have a busy, exciting and academically productive year ahead of us.

Robert K. Holz
Director
Fourteenth Annual Gale Lecture

On July 8, Professor Mahdokht Moin, Visiting Scholar at the Center, lectured on "Hafez's Ghazals: A Seminar Session in Persian."

The Center will host the annual meeting of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES) on February 18-19. Any persons interested in delivering papers or attending should contact Deborah Littrell at this address, phone (512)471-3881.

Professor Hafez Farmayan (History) is organizing a conference on Nineteenth Century Persian Travel Memoirs to be sponsored by the Center on April 8-9. The Persian travel memoirs that the conference participants will address offer rich insights into the profound influence that Western concepts of law, justice, and power have had on the structure and content of recent Iranian events.

Fourteenth Annual Gale Lecture

Kafka’s Tears: On Being Jewish, Male and Ill,” was the title of the 14th annual Gale Lecture presented this year by Professor Sander L. Gilman on October 21. Professor Gilman is the Goldwin Smith Professor of Humane Studies and the Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at Cornell University. He is also Professor of the History of Psychiatry at Cornell Medical College and President of the Modern Languages Association.

The Gale Lecture, sponsored by the Gale Family of Beaumont Texas Chair of Judaic Studies in cooperation with the Center, is held annually and presents a topic related to Jewish Studies. This year’s lecture on Kafka included slides and a discussion of the general social and psychological state of the Jews in Europe at the turn of the century. The lecture was arranged by Seth Wolitz, L.D., Marie and Edwin Gale Chair of Judaic Studies.
Round Table on Israeli-PLO Peace Accord

On September 14, two days after the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace agreement, the Center held a round-table discussion made up of faculty, students, and residents of Israel and the West Bank. The seven participants tried to interpret to a large audience from the campus and the community the fast-moving events surrounding the historic signing. Elizabeth Fernea (English and CMES) was moderator of the discussion. Other participants were Martha Diase, (Radio-TV-Film), Robert Fernea (Anthropology), Clement Henry (Government), Esther Raizen (OALL), Yaron Shemer (OALL), and Avraham Zilkha (OALL). Makram Copty, an Israeli Arab visiting in Austin, also spoke on the practical aspects of the peace agreement.

After opening statements, the panelists took questions from the audience concerning the agreement's possibilities for Palestinian autonomy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. “As a Palestinian American, I believe the pact that was signed Monday is potentially the most important thing that's happened this century to open the doors for peace,” affirmed Diase. Zilkha cautioned that the signing was “just an agreement to seek a peaceful solution.” Raizen confirmed the considerable division already existing in Israel by translating and reading poems written by Israeliis of both sides during the week of the signing. Henry spoke, nevertheless, of the “huge political momentum” growing during the week of the signing. When asked how other Arab countries might affect the success of the agreement, Robert Fernea expressed the hope that the movement in Israel might promote more democracy in some of the Middle Eastern dictatorships, since the easing of tensions could result in less internal interference from the West. The panel agreed that the status of the Palestinian refugees and that of the Israeli settlers would prove to be the most challenging issue in the weeks ahead.

On September 27, the Israeli Consul General from Houston, Meir Romen, continued the conversation by answering questions on the peace agreement at a brown-bag luncheon. Both events were sponsored by the Center.

Hafez Farmayan Receives Award

A new award, given for the first time this year by Center Director Robert Holz, was presented to Hafez Farmayan (History) at the September reception for faculty, staff and students. Professor Farmayan came to the History Department of the University in 1969. He has taught over the years also at the University of Tehran, the University of Utah, and Columbia University. Among his recent publications is A Shiite's Pilgrimage to Mecca, published by the University of Texas Press in 1989.

Outreach News

The Outreach Program has continued its development of new curricular materials for pre-collegiate teachers. Four “mini teaching trunks” are being developed, using funds from a department of education grant. Faculty traveling to Israel, Syria, and Tunisia and a colleague in the United Arab Emirates purchased items illustrating contemporary life and culture in those countries. The resulting trunks are meant to help Social Studies teachers bring the Middle East to life for their students.

An exhibit on the city of Istanbul is being developed in conjunction with the Texas Committee for the Humanities and Marmara University in Istanbul. Project scholars Abraham Marcus (History) and Ian Manners (Geography) are selecting themes and materials, and writing a guide and essay to accompany the exhibit, which will open on campus or in Austin in the fall of 1994.

Outreach Coordinator Deborah Littrell has recently obtained an account on TENET, the Texas Education Network, an electronic mail and information resource for educators, and is exploring ways of offering information and assistance to Social Studies teachers through this computer network.

Providing speakers to classrooms is one way of reaching both students and teachers. The Outreach Program would like to thank all the faculty and students who have helped provide this valuable service to many schools, with special thanks to graduate students Kamran Hooshmand, Allison Hodgkins and Carol Macha, who spoke to over 19 classes this fall.
Faculty and Staff News

Yildiray Erden (Turkish Studies) had Teaching Turkish through Folk Songs come out as Volume 13 in the Indiana University Turkish Studies series. He especially prepared the text and accompanying cassette for beginning as well as advanced students of the Turkish language.

Elizabeth Fernea (English), as Ohio State University Distinguished Visiting Professor, spoke at a conference in her honor called “Fantasy or Ethnography? Irony and Collusion in Subaltern Representation.” Her speech was entitled “Fiction as Truth: The New Believers.”

Robert Fernea (Anthropology) gave the College of Humanities 25th Anniversary Special Event Public Lecture at Ohio State University on October 28. His speech was entitled “The Issues of Adoption and Custody: Attitudes and Practices in the Middle East and the West.”

Kate Gillespie (Marketing) was sponsored by the United States Information Agency on a speaking program in Oman, Sri Lanka, and Bahrain. She spoke to business officials in the countries on economic and marketing issues, business privatization and development.

Robert Holz (Geography) was named to the Erich W. Zimmerman Regents Centennial Professorship, beginning in September of this year. Professor Holz will visit Saudi Arabia in December as a member of a team sponsored by the National Council on US-Arab Relations.


Michael Hillmann (Persian Studies), as the 1993-94 Will and Ariel Durant Chair in Humanities, gave a Michaelmas Convocation address at St. Peter’s College (Jersey City) on September 28. An exhibition organized by Hillmann called “The Iranian Revolution: a Philatelic Self-View” was on display at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. in the fall.

Roger Louis (Kerr Chair in English History and Culture at the University and Fellow of St. Anthony’s College, Oxford) has been elected Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, the highest academic honor in the humanities and social sciences in Britain. He has also been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford History of the British Empire.

Faegheh Mahajan (Human Ecology) published with Grasso Palmieri “Mainbocher’s Work as a Material Culture” in the journal of Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East, 1993, No. 37. She was also published in Critique, Journal of Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East, Spring 1993. Her article was entitled “The Politics of Clothing in the Middle East: The Case of Hijab in Post-Revolution Iran.”


Abazar Sepehri (Middle East Collection Librarian) is Project Director for a grant awarded to the University of Texas under the U.S. Department of Education’s Higher Education Act, Title VI, for Foreign Periodicals Program. The award is for the acquisition of Turkish and Azerbaijani periodicals published outside the United States, which “are not commonly held by academic libraries and are of scholarly research interest.” Sepehri will travel to Turkey and Azerbaijan in January on an acquisitions trip.
New and Visiting Faculty

The Center is pleased to welcome three new faculty to campus this fall. Yildiray Erdener comes to the University from Massachusetts where he had worked as a specialist and consultant on multicultural arts programs. He received his M.A. in 1980 and his Ph.D. in 1987 from the Folklore/Musicology Program at Indiana University. He has taught Turkish at Indiana University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. He has numerous publications on Turkish folklore and ethnomusicology.

Deborah Anne Kapchan comes to us from a year as a Visiting Professor at Indiana University. She received her M.A. in 1987 from Ohio University and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982. Her dissertation won the first prize in the Humanities dissertations at MEFA this year, and she has a book in press with the University of Pennsylvania Press entitled Gender on the Market: The Hybridization of Cultural Forms in Morocco.

Walid Hamarneh comes to us from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale University. He received his M.A. in 1988 and his Ph.D. in 1991 from the University of Toronto. Born in Syria, Professor Hamarneh attended schools in Damascus, Lebanon, and Germany. As well as teaching, he has worked as a translator and librarian. He has forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press a collection of papers entitled Fiction Updated, which he edited with an introduction.

Visiting Scholars at the Center this year include Jenny White, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, who was here during the summer; Momamed Said Saadi, Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Law at Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco, who was here from July through October; Majid Yazdi, Assistant Professor of Political Science at East Texas State University, who will be here this academic year; and Nihad Yasin Al-Musa, Professor and Chair of the Department of Arabic at the University of Jordan who will be here in the spring.

Algerian Ambassador’s Visit

Algerian Ambassador Nourredine Zerhouni visited the Center on October 22. After being greeted by University President Robert Berdahl, he discussed his country’s and Texas’ relationship in terms of oil and other economic concerns. Interested faculty members at a luncheon hosted by the Center discussed with the Ambassador similarities between Algeria and Texas concerning water shortages, terrain, wine vineyards, and other agricultural concerns. The Ambassador described Algeria’s new program to democratize.

Ambassador Zerhouni was brought to the Center by petrochemical businessman Robert January, who has helped the Center’s Publications Program financially with its printing of books on Algeria. Over the weekend, the Ambassador and his wife and daughter were entertained by Lady Bird Johnson at the Johnson Ranch in Stonewall.

Summer Arabic Students Cover Full Year’s Course

The Arabic program at the Center’s Summer Language Institute tested its forty students at the end of the ten-week course and found that the summer students at each of the three levels taught were able to cover the equivalent of a full year’s work, as determined by the performance of a national sampling of students. Professors Peter Abboud and Aman Attieh used the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview test for the speaking skill and the Arabic Proficiency Test (APT) of the Center for Applied Linguistics for reading and listening comprehension. Other professors in the summer program were Walid Hamarneh and Driss Ouaouicha, a visiting professor from the University of Meknes in Morocco.
Publications

The Center is proud to have brought out a new publication in its Modern Middle East Literatures in Translations Series. It is *Fragments of Memory* by Hanna Mina, translated by Olive and Lorne Kenny. Hanna Mina, perhaps Syria’s most well-known novelist, tells a story of the first few years in the life of a boy born to a poor family in northern Syria. The pre-industrial first years of this century form the background of this story of poverty and struggle for existence. Mina sets his personal events against a richly detailed background, including descriptions of the silk worm industry as it was practiced by poor farmers and their families. The translation was done under the direction of Salma Jayyusi, director of the Project for the Translation of Arabic (PROTA).

In February, the Center will publish a companion piece, *Daughter of Damascus*, by Siham Terzeman, translated and introduced by Andrea Rugh. In this case, a woman describes the first half of this century in Syria, but from the perspective of the city rather than the rural point of view. Terzeman writes of her youth in the suq Saruja (“old city”) quarter of Damascus. She relates the customs pertaining to marriage, birth, circumcision, and death. She writes of Ramadan festivities, family picnics to the orchards of the Ghuta, weekly trips to the public bath, her school experiences, Damascus cooking, peddlers’ calls, and proverbs. Dr. Rugh gives meaning and context to these events in her fine introduction about the social customs of Syria.

News from the Front

We have below an E-Mail communication from Roberta Micallef in Uzbekistan, received the week of October 22. She is working with Fulbright funding in the area of her dissertation research for a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature.

This is a very exciting and interesting time to be in Tashkent. A lot is changing very rapidly. Tashkent is very easy to get around. It has a wonderful clean and safe metro system. I'm enjoying shopping in the bazaars. They are so amazed that a foreigner knows their language that they give you stuff for free. My academic work is going great. I have an office at the Institute of Literature and an advisor who is a great help. I share an office with three other women, one of whom specializes in Uzbek and Turkish literature, so we have had some very interesting discussions. I am sharing a wonderful apartment in a very nice neighborhood with my friends Monica and Michael. It would be difficult to live alone in this town. Shopping and cleaning have to be done daily, and both these tasks take some time because one often has to go to more than one bazaar, and all cleaning and washing is done by hand. Between the three of us we barely manage to get everything plus our own work done. We don't have a phone yet, and we have never seen a mail person, so the only form of communication I have access to at this time is E-Mail. Everyday is an adventure, but so far all of my adventures have been good. My worst experiences have been funny rather than bad. I was invited to a Kazakh wedding in the middle of nowhere, and as I was the first and only American anyone had seen, I was asked to do a special American dance for the bride and groom. I'm glad no one from that wedding was heading to the States any time soon. One gets a lot of exercise in this town. There is a lot of walking and climbing for those who don't use elevators, and although there are plenty of wonderful fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat, sugar and flour are very difficult to find. I hope all is well in Austin. I look forward to hearing from y'all.

Robert

Student News

The Center is trying to compose a directory of Middle Eastern Studies graduates from U.T. in order to establish a network regarding job opportunities and shared experiences. In particular, Middle Eastern graduates in the Washington, D.C. area are trying to start a U.T. alumni group. If you or anyone you know is not receiving the newsletter and would like to participate, please send in your name, address, and current status.

The Arabic Program at the Department of Oriental and African Languages will have an opening in the spring for a teaching assistant. Graduate Students specializing in Arabic linguistics, Arabic literature, and the teaching of Arabic language are welcome to apply.

Listed below are the recipients of the FLAS scholarships for 1993-94. The students' majors are given also.

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<th>Academic Year</th>
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<td>Anne Baddour - MES/LBJ</td>
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<td>James Grehan - HISTORY</td>
<td>Robin Gallaher-Branch - OALL</td>
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<td>Rehana Ikramuddin - MES/LBJ</td>
<td>Persis Karim - COMP. LIT.</td>
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<td>Jason Leuck - MES/BUS.</td>
<td>Michelle Moosally - MES</td>
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<td>Harold Revelson - OALL</td>
<td>Valerie Turner - MES</td>
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Center Establishes Electronic Linkages

Elizabeth Bouri, a new staff Research Associate, is exploring the opportunities for establishing interactive video communications for long-distance education between the University and the Middle East. Dr. Bouri has helped the Center staff get onto Internet and is making information about the Center's courses, publications and outreach activities available to all users of Internet in this country and abroad.

Dr. Bouri received her Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University in the spring of 1993. Her dissertation title was "The Development and Decline of Public Libraries in Egypt: A Shift in National Development Priorities."

Dr. Bouri was head reference librarian at the Jafet Memorial Library at the American University in Beirut before she came to this country.

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