Large Increase in Center’s Federal Funding

In the recent national competition for Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies has won an award totaling nearly one million dollars for the years 1997-2000. This sum represents an increase of 52 percent in the Center’s Title VI funding over the previous three-year period and the highest level of federal support enjoyed by the Center since its establishment in 1960. The Center’s grant was the largest total award to any single Middle East center in the country for educational activities as a federally-designated National Resource Center and for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. The allocation for fellowships was almost tripled (from $52,000 to $138,000 a year), making it the highest to any single center.

The Center’s grant proposal drew praise from both the Department of Education program officers and the outside reviewers, receiving perfect or nearly perfect scores in practically every category. One of the evaluators rated the Center as “the leading public university Middle East Center.” The application process, which followed new Department of Education guidelines and priorities, required each center to present a large body of information, including a narrative addressing dozens of questions about its program and laying out a three-year development plan accompanied by a detailed budget. Center Director Abraham Marcus guided the preparation of the proposal and wrote the narrative. The Center staff and faculty provided invaluable assistance and input.

The generous award will support a wide array of initiatives and activities over the next three years, including new courses and language instruction programs, conferences, workshops, lectures, library acquisitions, outreach, on-line projects, musical performances, film festivals, and other special events. The increased funding also raises dramatically the level of fellowship support for our students.

Fellowship Support at Unprecedented Level

This academic year the Center will be able to award $160,000 in student fellowships and grants. All but $4,500 of this sum comes from outside funds and is available in addition to university-funded awards. This level of financial support, which is unprecedented, will make it possible for the Center to help 25-30 students pursue study and research related to the Middle East. (In the 1996-97 academic year, the Center made 26 awards totaling $146,000, which was a record-high amount.) Competitions will be held during the spring semester for the following awards:

FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Fellowships. Nine academic-year fellowships and four summer fellowships totaling $138,000 will be awarded to graduate students from all disciplines. The awards are funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Ann Grabhorn Friday Endowed Presidential Fellowship in Middle Eastern Studies. This new fellowship, with the estimated amount of $3,000 in its first year, will be awarded to a Center graduate student (more details on page 2).

Social Sciences/Middle Eastern Studies Research Grants. The Center will award two grants of $4,500 each to support research projects by graduate students in social-science disciplines. The awards are funded by a Ford Foundation grant and by contributions from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the School of Graduate Studies.

continued on back page
A New Fellowship in Memory of Ann Grabhorn Friday

The university has established an Endowed Presidential Fellowship in Middle Eastern Studies named after Ann Grabhorn Friday, the Center's former Outreach Coordinator, who was killed in a car accident in 1995 at age 40. The fellowship was funded by generous donations from Ann's husband, Mr. Philip C. Friday, Jr., and from her relatives and many friends. The gift, in the amount of $100,000, creates a permanent endowment for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. The funds distributed from the endowment will be used for an annual award to a Center graduate student, with preference for one concentrating on study of the Arab world and further preference for a female student. The first award, to be made for the 1998-99 academic year, will have an estimated stipend of $3,000. The amount of the award will be larger in subsequent years.

The fellowship is a fitting memorial to Ann, whose work at the Center was inspired by a love for Middle Eastern studies. Ann served as the Center's full-time Outreach Coordinator from 1980 to 1985. With a master's degree in Education, training in Arabic, field experience in the Middle East, and boundless energy, she brought special qualifications to her job. Many of us remember her collegiality and sense of commitment.

Ann's professional accomplishments in the Center were impressive. She assisted countless students and faculty with materials on the region, and presented numerous workshops for elementary and secondary school students and teachers as well as for community groups. She authored 11 curricular units on the Middle East published by the Center, six of them completed with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. She coordinated a national conference on "The Role of Education in Cross-Cultural Communication" for the U.S. International Communication Agency in 1980. In 1984 she co-organized a national conference on "Promoting Citizen Understanding of the Middle East," co-sponsored by the Middle East Outreach Council and The Johnson Foundation. Ann was a founding member of the Middle East Outreach Council, and served as a member of its board (1982-85) and as editor of its Newsletter (1983-84). She was also a board member of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (1982-84).

After leaving the Center, Ann returned to teaching. She worked for six years at Anderson High School in Austin, where she was instrumental in setting up the International Baccalaureate Program. In 1992 she left full-time teaching to launch ExCet Reviews, which offered courses designed to prepare teachers for their state certification examinations in their subject matter areas. The business grew rapidly, and by 1995 Ann was offering courses in several Texas cities. She also taught geography on a part-time basis at Austin Community College.

The Center expresses its deep appreciation for this generous gift. We are proud to be able to participate in honoring the memory of a cherished colleague and friend, and in keeping that memory alive in the academic program of which she was part.

The fellowship endowment can be augmented by additional individual gifts, which will increase the amount of the annual award. Those interested in making a donation can contact Center Director Abraham Marcus for information.

Two New Joint-Degree Programs

The Center has established two new joint-degree programs that broaden the range of opportunities available to graduate students interested in combining a professional degree with a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies. The School of Law and the Center now offer a joint program that leads to two graduate degrees, the Doctor of Jurisprudence and the M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies. It is structured so that students can earn both degrees simultaneously in approximately four academic years (rather than five years if the two degrees are pursued sequentially). The program responds to an increased need in both the public and private sectors for legal specialists with an advanced knowledge of the languages and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa.

The second joint-degree program, established with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, allows students to combine study for the Master of Library and Information Science with study for the M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies. The program is structured so that students can earn both degrees simultaneously in approximately three academic years (instead of four years if the two degrees are pursued one at a time). The program's goals are twofold: to train students for careers in Middle Eastern studies with major responsibilities in information management; and to prepare students for careers in information services that may include positions in academic libraries or special collections related to Middle Eastern studies.

The new programs were initiated by Center Director Abraham Marcus. They join the three dual-degree programs established earlier with the School of Business, the LBJ School of Public Affairs, and the College of Communication. Together, the five programs offer a set of special educational options that few other schools in the country make available.
The Istanbul Summer Program

A group of 13 students participated in the Center's 1997 summer program in Istanbul, organized jointly with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During seven busy weeks they took courses at Boğaziçi University and enjoyed a rich variety of excursions, lectures, and social activities. The program was highly successful, winning praise from the students for the extraordinary educational experience and the able on-site administration by the academic director, Dr. Yıldırım Erdener, and his assistant Dr. Pelin Başıç.

The Center is now receiving applications for the summer 1998 program, which will be held from June 21 to August 9. Participants can earn up to nine hours of credit for courses offered by the summer school at Boğaziçi University and taught in English in classes attended by Turkish students. They will visit Istanbul's historical sites on weekly excursions and have an extended weekend trip to Troy and Gallipoli. They will also be able to attend special lectures by Turkish scholars and a variety of music and dance performances presented by the International Istanbul Festival.

Dr. Ian Manners, Professor of Geography and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas, will accompany the group as academic director. Dr. Pelin Başıç, Assistant Professor of Turkish Studies at Portland State University, will serve as resident coordinator and live with the students in the Boğaziçi dormitory.

Students from any accredited institution in the United States may apply. For information, contact Ian Manners at (512) 471-5116, imanners@uts.cc.utexas.edu; or Marjorie Payne at (512) 471-3881, mpayne@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Special Courses on Middle East Business

The Center is now offering a two-semester sequence of courses focusing on doing business in the Middle East. “Doing Business in Israel” is taught in the fall semester by Daniel Lauffer, a University of Texas MBA and a consultant on investment opportunities in Israel. The course is followed in the spring semester by “Doing Business in the Arab World,” taught by Dr. David Lesch. Lesch is an Associate Professor of Middle Eastern history at Trinity University in San Antonio and a consultant on business projects in the Arab countries.

The courses combine study of the business environment with practical information on pursuing business ventures. They offer students an unusual opportunity to obtain informed knowledge of the region's business conditions and to work on individual class projects that apply this knowledge with expert guidance.

Two related courses are “Business in Emerging Markets,” taught by Dr. Kate Gillespie; and “Economic Development of the Middle East and North Africa,” to be offered in the fall by Ward Sayre through a joint arrangement between the Center and the Department of Economics.

Expansion of Academic Ties with Morocco

Since 1993, when the University of Texas and Moulay Ismail University in Meknès signed an agreement of academic cooperation, fruitful relations have developed between the two institutions. Cooperative programs as well as reciprocal visits of students and faculty have worked to nurture these ties.

The Tracking Cultures Program will be taking students to Morocco this coming summer for the third year, and Meknès will serve again as the group’s home base. A professor from Moulay Ismail, Dr. Abdelmajid Hajji, is visiting the campus for the spring semester to serve as an advisor to the program; he has an office in the Center and is participating in its academic activities. An intensive Arabic language program directed by Dr. Aman Attieh was held in Meknès in summer 1997 for a group of 14 students (four from UT and ten from other schools). In addition, two Center graduate students, Roxanne Brame and Janice Curreri, spent the 1996-97 academic year as exchange students at Moulay Ismail, taking courses and doing research.

In fall 1997 Center Director Abraham Marcus visited Moulay Ismail University as a guest of Dr. Driss Ouaoouicha, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities. Marcus met with the president of the university and with faculty, arranged the official renewal of the original agreement of academic cooperation, and developed plans for new joint projects and expanded academic exchanges. The Center has offered to support Moulay Ismail’s libraries with donations of duplicate copies of books, and has already prepared a first shipment of journals and monographs.
New Faculty

The ranks of faculty teaching courses on the Middle East have been strengthened in the last two years by the addition of faculty in a number of disciplines.

Zilla Goodman joined the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. She is completing her Ph.D. at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Her interests are modern and contemporary Hebrew fiction and poetry, women and gender in Judaism, the Bible, and North American and Commonwealth Jewish literature.

Akel Kahera joined the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University after a career as an architect. His main fields of interest are architecture and urbanism in the Muslim world, non-Western art history, and law and habitat in medieval Spain and North Africa.

Daniel Laufer is a part-time Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies and International Business who teaches a course on “Doing Business in Israel.” He holds an MBA from the University of Texas and works as a consultant on investment opportunities in Israel.

Adam Zachary Newton is an Associate Professor (effective September 1998) in the Department of English. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, and is the author of the award-winning book Narrative Ethics, and the forthcoming Facing Black and Jewish Literature as Public Space. His interests include Jewish literatures generally and intercultural studies.

Mark Southern, who received his Ph.D. from Princeton University, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages. He has taught at Harvard, Princeton, and Carthage College. His courses and research are in the fields of historical linguistics and comparative Semitic, Indo-Iranian, and Anatolian linguistics.

Barbara Wolbert is a Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages. She received her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of Cologne and holds a faculty position in the University of Fine Arts in Berlin. She will be teaching at UT for at least two years. Her major fields of interest are migration, ritual and representation, and the social anthropology of Turkey, Western Europe, and the Mediterranean.
In June 1997 the Center’s Outreach program offered two Internet workshops for teachers. Organized jointly with the three other area-studies centers on campus, the workshops provided guidance on using the Internet and its area-studies resources in the classroom. The workshops attracted over 100 teachers from around Texas. A follow-up workshop for Northside Independent School District was held in the fall. The workshops have been highly successful, and in the last three years have helped over 250 teachers integrate Internet resources into their instruction.

The Center and the other area-studies centers on campus publish a joint outreach newsletter, *Hemispheres*, which is sent to teachers around Texas. The newsletter is now available electronically as well through the centers’ joint outreach listserv, which also announces workshops and other opportunities for teachers and reaches a large number of individual teachers. To subscribe, send a message to listserv@mcfeeley.c.utexas.edu leaving the subject line blank and in the message area typing “subscribe HEMISPHERES Firstname Lastname.”

The Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES) held its 1997 meeting at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas. Over 80 people attended, presented and heard papers on a wide range of topics, and enjoyed the hospitality shown by the hosts. The TAMES annual meeting has established itself as an active academic forum for faculty and graduate students from colleges and universities around Texas.

The Center’s two public humanities exhibits, *Istanbul: Portrait of a City and Life on the Nile*, traveled to several sites around the United States. Viewed so far by over 21,000 people, they continue to offer to a nationwide public interesting windows on the culture and history of the Middle East.

Deborah Littrell, the Center’s Outreach Coordinator, has completed six years of service in various capacities on the board of the Middle East Outreach Council. She now coordinates the Council’s Web site, http://menic.utexas.edu/menic/meoc/, which is hosted on the Center’s UT-MENIC Web site.

### New Grants Program Invites Regional Scholars

The Center is introducing a new three-year program designed to assist faculty members at universities and colleges in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas to conduct research on the Middle East using resources available at the University of Texas at Austin. Several small grants of up to $750 each are available to help cover travel, lodging, and meal expenses. Recipients will be appointed as Visiting Scholars during their stay in Austin and will have access to library and computation center facilities as well as hands-on training in the use of UT-MENIC, the Center’s information service on the Web. Research trips may be conducted at any time up to August 14, 1998.

Applicants should send a letter describing their proposed research and indicating the dates of their visit, together with a curriculum vita that includes a list of the courses they teach. Applications should be sent to Center Director Abraham Marcus by March 31, 1998. Funding for the program is made available through the Center’s Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

### UT-MENIC Attracts Praise and Millions of Visits

Five years after its pioneering launch of a Middle Eastern studies information service on the Internet, the Center continues to expand the successful system and maintain its prominence as the leading academic Web site in the field. The site, UT-MENIC, now receives nearly two million electronic visits a year from users all over the world and has been rated as “the single best Web site for Middle Eastern studies” in a recent academic review of hundreds of major Web sites. The review praised the system for its unmatched coverage and ease of use. “This regional microcosm,” it said, “is equally useful to undergraduates and area studies specialists” (*Choice, Special Supplement, August 1997*).

UT-MENIC (University of Texas Middle East Network Information Center) offers the most comprehensive directory of on-line information on the Middle East and North Africa, with linkages to hundreds of sites worldwide, including institutes, libraries, news, media, government databases and reference works. Newly designed menus allow users to search for data easily by countries and subjects. The system also offers on-line courses, curricular units for primary and secondary schools, professional and academic information, and publications (including the full 200-page text of Part I of *Istanbul Boy*, the popular memoir of the late Turkish writer Aziz Nesin). In addition, UT-MENIC hosts the sites for the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) and the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars.

The Center is working on plans to expand the service and add new publications and databases in the field of Middle Eastern studies. Suggestions and comments from users are welcome. UT-MENIC’s Web site is at http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html
**Center Publications**

The Center has just published its 51st book, *Flight Against Time* by Emily Nasrallah. A translation by Issa Boullata of *al-qa‘a‘ah ‘illā al-zaman*, the novel examines the strength of kin ties against the pull of national identity. It follows the lives of three generations in a Lebanese family, sketching a moving picture of the dispersal of a traditional family across the world in the wake of the Lebanese Civil War.

*Flight Against Time*

by Emily Nasrallah

Translation from the Arabic by Issa B. Boullata

Three other publications appeared recently in the Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series. *No Rattling of Sabers: An Anthology of Israeli War Poetry* by Esther Raizen (the University of Texas) offers a selection of poems reflecting attitudes toward Israel’s wars over the last fifty years. Written by soldiers, wives, and mothers as well as famous Israeli writers, the poems are presented in the original Hebrew alongside Raizen’s English translations. In her introduction, Raizen explores the meaning and literary value of poetry written with a defined political message and in the context of current events.

*The Game of Forgetting* was written by the renowned Moroccan author Mohamed Berrada and translated from the Arabic original (*Lubhat al-niṣyan*) by Issa Boullata. Told from several viewpoints, the novel presents a postmodern narrative of one family’s experiences during Morocco’s war of independence. *Kirkus Reviews* described it as “a wise, humane, and deeply involving work.” The book was adopted in England by Quartet Press.

*Curfew* is a translation of the novel *Üç beş kişi* by Adalet Ağaoglu, one of Turkey’s leading novelists and playwrights. The translator, John Goulden, served as British Ambassador to Ankara. The book’s plot is set in Turkey of 1980, a turbulent time of military takeover, martial law, and curfews. It focuses on seven characters in Ankara, Istanbul, and Eskisehir and the decisions they make in the course of one night’s curfew. Their thoughts and mental states reflect the dilemmas faced by the nation of Turkey at the time. The narrative is presented in a complex stream-of-consciousness style. “Convincing characterizations and a keen sense of how cultural history influences personal destiny make this an absorbing and unusually satisfying realistic novel.” (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Two historical studies appeared in the Modern Middle East Series sponsored by the Center and published by the University of Texas Press. *Women and Men in Late Eighteenth-Century Egypt* by Afaf Marsot draws on archival documents to investigate the structure of Egyptian society and the financial power achieved by women. *Slaves into Workers: Emancipation and Labor in Colonial Sudan* by Ahmad Sikainga offers a revisionist study of the process of slave emancipation and the development of wage labor in the Sudan under British rule.

The Center has also issued an updated edition of *The Islamic Movement in North Africa* in its Middle East Monograph Series. François Burgat published the original French version in 1988. He and William Dowell translated and updated the work for the English edition issued by the Center in 1993. For the new edition Burgat has added an epilogue to bring the book up to date and an index of names.

*Curfew*

by Adalet Ağaoglu

Translation from the Turkish by John Goulden

*The Islamic Movement in North Africa*

New Edition

by François Burgat
William Dowell

Three new publications are forthcoming: *Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman* by Leila Abouzeid; *An Introduction to the Critique of Arab Reason* by Mohamed Al-Jabri; and *Men and Popular Music in Algeria: An Analysis of the Social Significance of Rai* by Marc Schade-Poulsen. Center books can be ordered through UT Press, tel. (512) 471-7233; or on-line at www.utexas.edu/utpress/
Library News

Abazar Sepehri, the Middle East librarian, made acquisition trips to Syria, Turkey, and Azerbaijan in the last two years with Center support. He purchased hundreds of books in the three countries, which were targeted with an eye to strengthening the collection in less developed areas. The Syrian publications augmented an already impressive Arabic-language collection of nearly 70,000 volumes. The Turkish and Azerbaijani collections, after a decade of attentive development, have reached sizable proportions. In addition to thousands of monographs they now include a nearly complete set of Turkish and Azerbaijani periodicals that is probably unique in the country. Sepehri has published a lengthy article on the history and holdings of UT’s Middle East collection for the 1997 issue of The Library Chronicle of The University of Texas at Austin.

A unique collection—the Development Communication Archive—was recently donated to the university by the U.S. Agency of International Development. It includes 350 boxes of records on issues ranging from agriculture and the environment to health and community development. About one quarter of these records covers Middle Eastern projects. Other Middle Eastern research materials of note are the Humanities Research Center’s massive collection of authors’ personal papers, which includes the papers of T. E. Lawrence, Paul Bowles, Freya Stark, Richard Burton, and others with a Middle Eastern connection; and some 2,100 volumes of census records from Middle Eastern countries housed in the Population Research Center.

The Center has increased substantially its financial support of the Middle East collection for the next three years, bringing it up to $100,000. This allocation from the Center’s federal grant, supplemented by additional funds raised by the Center from other outside sources, will go toward book purchases, acquisition trips, and library staff salaries.

New On-Line Bibliography on Muslim Women

Through a Center initiative, the library has put on-line a major bibliography on Muslim women which is available for searching by UT students, faculty, and staff. The work—Muslim Women Throughout the World: A Bibliography by Michelle Kimball and Barbara von Schlegell—was published in a hardcover edition by Lynne Rienner in 1997. With the support of the General Libraries and the Women’s Studies Program, the Center negotiated the purchase of the electronic rights to the book. The library prepared the on-line version of the work and made it available for use from campus or from an off-campus location by keying in a UT identification number. The book is listed on UTNetCAT, the library’s catalogue on the Web, with the full text just a click away at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/monographs/muslim/

The bibliography includes nearly 3,000 titles of articles and books on women in the Middle East and the Islamic world. The electronic version offers keyword and phrase search options. In addition, the lengthy index has been configured electronically so that the user can link immediately from a specific entry in the index to the relevant titles in the bibliography. In the first two months there were over 1,600 searches of the bibliography.

Annes McCann-Baker from the Center and Carole Cable from the General Libraries coordinated work on the project. The technical aspects and mounting of the text were handled by Mark McFarland and Aaron Choate of the General Libraries.

Donation of Persian Book Collection

The University of Texas library received a donation of a private book collection acquired in Iran. The donation was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Mohsen Mirabi of Houston, who purchased the books, and Mr. Behrouz Gholamrezaey, who facilitated their transportation from Iran to Austin. Dr. M. R. Ghanoonparvar identified the collection in Iran and coordinated arrangements for its acquisition and transfer to the library. At the library Abazar Sepehri helped with arrangements for storing and processing the collection. A reception in honor of the donors was held in the Perry-Castañeda Library, accompanied by a public display of a sample of the books.

The faculty and students gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Dr. Mirabi and Mr. Gholamrezaey and the efforts of all those who helped make this contribution to the Middle East collection possible.

Mohsen Mirabi, M. R. Ghanoonparvar, and Abraham Marcus at library reception
Faculty and Staff News

Nina Berman (Germanic Languages) was on leave during the fall on a Dean’s Fellowship. She presented several lectures during the fall and preceding summer, including “Orientalismus in der deutschen Literatur” at Universität Gesamthochschule Kassel in July, and “Nomadism as Resistance: Salim Alafenishe’s ‘Das Kamel mit dem Nasenring’” at the annual conference of the German Studies Association, Washington, DC, in September.

Cora Boyett (CMES Staff) retired in January 1997 after eighteen years of service as the Center’s Financial Coordinator.

Karl Butzer (Geography) was elected to the National Academy of Sciences during the spring of 1996.

Yildray Erdener (MELC) served as academic director of the 1997 summer program in Istanbul. His book Turkish Through Songs is in press with Indiana University’s Turkish Studies Series. He presented a paper on “Re-stylized Memory: Ashik Ilyas” at the 1997 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society, and an invited lecture at the University of California at Berkeley in April.

Elizabeth Fernea (English) and Robert Fernea (Anthropology) published The Arab World: Forty Years of Change, an updated edition of their prizewinning book The Arab World: Personal Encounters. Anchor Books/ Doubleday brought out the new edition with a new introduction, a new conclusion, and six new chapters reflecting their recent return visits to the region.

Barbara Harlow (English) published her book After Lives: Legacies of Revolutionary Writing with Verso Publications in 1996.

Michael Hillmann (MELC) published his Persian Newspaper Reader (Dunwoody Press), and “On Translating Hâfez” as a preface to a new edition of Wilberforce Clarke’s Diwan of Hafez (Ilanbooks). In summer 1997 he participated in a computer workshop at the Center for Language Analysis and Research at Michigan State University and is developing a multimedia Persian syllabus. Hillmann received an MA in English Literature from Southwest Texas State University in August 1997. He spent the fall as a Research Associate at Institut d’Études Iraniennes de l’Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, where he gave two lectures and did research.

Carol Justus (Classics) published an article on “Cuneiform” in the Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures.

Akel Kahera (MELC) received a university summer research grant to work on revising his dissertation for a book on “Building, Dwelling and Reasoning: The Adjudication of Habitat in Medieval Spain and North Africa.”

Deborah Kapchan (Anthropology) was appointed Director of the Center for Intercultural Studies in Folklore and Ethnomusicology. She is on leave with a Dean’s Fellowship writing a book entitled “Exchanging Lies: Essays on the Commodification of Culture in Morocco.”

Daniel Laufer (CMES) presented his case study “Country Specific Mutual Fund: The Growth Fund of Israel” at the Association for Israeli Studies annual meeting at Emory University in June 1997. He was invited to present the case study to business students at Stockholm University in Sweden, where he will be teaching a seminar on business in Israel in spring 1998.

Harold Liebowitz (MELC) was promoted to Full Professor (effective September 1998). In summer 1997 he directed the archaeological expedition at Tel-Yin’am in Israel, which included a group of UT students.

Gail Minault (History) published Secluded Scholars: Women’s Education and Muslim Social Reform in Colonial India (Oxford University Press).

Thomas G. Palaima (Classics) received a fellowship from the foundation Gunvor och Josef Anérs Stiftelse to do research and teach a seminar on Mycenaean Greek religion at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, in May 1998. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala (1994).

Esther Raizen (MELC) was promoted to Assistant Professor and appointed the coordinator of the Hebrew language program. She received a University Cooperative Society subvention award for the forthcoming publication of “Biblical Hebrew: An Analytical Introduction,” written with W. P. Lehmann and H. J. Hewitt. She also received a university summer research grant for completion of a second set of Hebrew language materials, and a university award for developing a clip-art-based multimedia unit.

Faegheh Shirazi-Mahajan (MELC) wrote an article on “Visions of Paradise: Persian and Anatolian Textiles in the Collection of the Harry Ransom Center” for the 1997 issue of The Library Chronicle of The University of Texas at Austin. She organized a panel and presented a paper on “Erotic Images of Middle Eastern Women” at the MESA meeting. Shirazi-Mahajan has received a university summer research grant to do research on “Images of Muslim Women in Advertisements: The Cases of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia.”


Denise Spellberg (History) was awarded a Faculty Research Award, which made it possible for her to be on leave during 1997-98 to work on a book entitled “Science, Religion, and Blood: Female Biology in Medieval Islamic Thought.” She was also awarded the President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award for her undergraduate teaching.
Student and Alumni News

Najeeb Ahmad (MA, Middle Eastern Studies and MBA, 1991) and Catherine Ahmad (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1990) are living in Richmond, VA, where Najeeb has a job with Capital One Financial as Human Resources Manager. They have three children—Sarah (4), Rebecca (2), and Emily, born October 28, 1997.

Armaity Bharucha (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1995) has a job with Sun Microsystems in Palo Alto, CA.

Linda Boxberger (Ph.D. student, History) presented a paper on “Sultans and Subjects: Rule and Reform in Early Twentieth-Century Hadramawt (Yemen)” at the 1997 MESA meeting.

Carrie Branam (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1993) is working as Information Systems Director for a medium-size consulting firm in San Francisco, handling projects related to networking, Websites, database management, and multimedia development.

Lisa Childs (MA, Middle Eastern Studies and MPAff, 1994) works for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Arlington, VA.

Blanca Chow (MA student, Middle Eastern Studies) works for Chemonics International, Inc., a firm based in Washington, DC, that handles international project management for programs funded by such agencies as USAID and the World Bank. Blanca’s job as Project Administrator takes her to cities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Joanne (Held) Cummings (MA, Geography, 1979) has her own business, CEC Cummings Education and Economics Consulting, based in Nicosia, Cyprus. She travels in the Middle East conducting training seminars.

Tom Dell (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1994) is a Regional Security Analyst specializing in the Middle East at the Defense Intelligence Agency. He spent considerable time in the Middle East, including three months as Assistant Attaché in Damascus.

Cindy Friedman (BA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1996) is working for Hillel in Jerusalem.

Sarah Fuller (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1997) is working for AMIDEAST in Washington, DC. She is Program Assistant for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program.

James Grehan (Ph.D. student, History) gave a paper entitled “Everyday Diet in Eighteenth-Century Damascus: A Perspective on Material Culture in the Ottoman Middle East” at the 1997 MESA meeting.

Caron Gremont (BA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1997) is working with the Women’s Network in Jerusalem.

Steven Hyland, Jr. (BA, History, 1997) is Program Officer at the Yemen Language Center in Sanaa. In addition to his administrative work, he is teaching English and studying Arabic.

Anne Johnson (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1988) has accepted a position as consultant to a firm in Washington, DC, and will be working in Central Asia.

Daniel Kerman (BA student, Middle Eastern Studies) received a Danciger/Levinthal Hebrew scholarship for 1997-98.

Chad Kia (graduate student, MELC) is studying Arabic in Cairo on a year-long CASA fellowship.

Robert Kitrinos (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1982) and his wife Carolyn have two children—Catherine (4) and David Alexander (1). Carolyn quit her job at the Defense Mapping Agency last year to stay home with the children. Bob is now a senior research analyst covering Middle East affairs on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Jason Leuck (MA, Middle Eastern Studies and MPAff, 1995) is working as an international trade specialist with the Office of Telecommunications, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC.

Michael Penn (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1996) is in Japan this year teaching English.

Jeffrey Sacks (graduate student, MELC) is studying Arabic in Cairo on a year-long CASA fellowship.

Shari Silberstein (MA student, Middle Eastern Studies) has received a Danciger/Levinthal Hebrew scholarship for 1997-98.

John Vandenbarg (BA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1996) is Program Coordinator of the Model Arab League at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations in Washington, DC.

Ching-jen Wang (MA, Middle Eastern Studies, 1993) is working in Taiwan as Branch Director of a private, nationwide language institute. He is also a free-lance writer for the Sino-Arabian Association Bulletin.

Caroline West (MA, Middle Eastern Studies and MPAff, 1996) is a research analyst for Family Health International in Durham, NC.

Katherine (Mansour) Zilkhha (MA, Middle Eastern Studies and MBA, 1994) and Professor Avraham Zilkhha (MELC) were married in November 1996. Kathy entered the doctoral program in Speech Communications at UT.

Call to Our Alumni

We are working to establish more regular contacts with former UT students whose work concentrated on the Middle East. We would like to keep them informed about our activities and to get from them news for inclusion in the Center’s Newsletter. Please send us your home and e-mail addresses, along with news on your career and family. If you happen to be in touch with other former students please ask them to do the same or let us know how we can reach them. Please send your information and news to Marjorie Payne at mpayne@uts.cc.utexas.edu; fax (512) 471-7834.

The Ex-Students’ Association of The University of Texas will sponsor a meeting of International Texas Exes on November 4-7, 1998, to establish a committee to improve communication with international graduates. For more information, contact Betty Cotten, P.O. Box 7278, Austin, TX 78746; bgcotten@mail.utexas.edu
During the spring, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies organized jointly a photographic exhibit on Central Asia at the Texas Memorial Museum. The exhibit, “Between Empires: Turks of Central Asia, 1850-1925,” displayed rare archival photographs of people and places in Central Asia alongside recent pictures taken by Turkish photographer Ergun Çağatay, who put the collection together. The opening of the exhibit was accompanied by a roundtable discussion on photography and Central Asia with Mr. Çağatay; Uli Schamiloglu, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages at the University of Wisconsin; and Robert Arndt, Editor of Armco World.

Another special event sponsored by the Center during the spring was the “Austin 1997 Israeli Film Festival: A Showcase of Contemporary Israeli Cinema.” The festival presented six feature films, three lectures, and a number of short films, and was attended by about 1,000 people. Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman introduced the screening of his film The Distance and gave a talk. Yaron Shemer (MELC) directed the festival.

A performance of traditional Persian music cosponsored by the Center was held on campus in the fall. It featured Iranian santur player Kazem Davoodian with accompanying musicians in a program of classical instrumental pieces as well as poetry and folk songs.

A mini-conference on “Travels and Troubles of Civil Society in the Middle East and North Africa” organized by Professor Clement Henry (Government) took place on February 10, 1997. It featured presentations by Henry, Professor Michael Hudson (Georgetown University), and Professor Richard Norton (Boston University).

In addition to these events, during the spring and fall of 1997 the Center sponsored or cosponsored several lectures, including:

- “The Jewish Labor Bund and the Birth of Modern Jewish Politics,” by Zvi Y. Gitelman, Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan.
- “From Persia to Iran: Memories of an American Iranologist,” by Richard Frye, Professor of Iranian Studies at Harvard University.
- “The Making of a National Myth: Remembering the First Zionist Congress,” by Michael Berkowitz, Professor of History at Ohio State University.
- “Ahad Ha’am and the Politics of Jewish Culture,” by Steven Zipperstein, Professor of History at Stanford University.
- “Linked Comparisons: Images Between Casablanca and Cairo,” by Susan Ossman, Sorbonne University.
- “Staging the Revolution: The Art of Persuasion in the Islamic Republic” and “Why Study Iran, Why Study Persian,” by Peter Chelkowski, Professor of Literature at New York University.
- “On Traditional Medicine in Morocco,” by Abdelhai Diouri, Professor of Anthropology at the Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique in Morocco.
- “Ernest Gellner and Islam” and “Trajectories of Political Islam,” by sociologist Sami Zubaida from Birkbeck College at London University.
- “Memory and Architecture: Arab and Jew Narrate the Palestinian Village,” by Susan Slyomovics, Professor of Comparative Literature and Theater Arts at Brown University.

“Yemen Then and Now: Change in a Generation,” slide lecture by Shelagh Weir, former Curator for the Middle East at the Museum of Mankind of the Ethnography Department of the British Museum.

“Why Study Persian?” by Professor Reza, former chancellor of the University of Tehran and Iran’s ambassador to UNESCO and Canada.

The Center’s Colloquium Series continued to present lectures by faculty, students, and invited scholars in the Center’s Reading Room. The Spring 1997 series opened with a joint talk by UT Professors Elizabeth Fernea and Denise Schmandt-Besserat on impressions from their trip to Saudi
Arabia on Malone Fellowships from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. It was succeeded by the following lectures:

“Business in Syria: A Cup Half Empty or Half Full?” by David Lesch, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History at Trinity University.

“What to Order in Ninth-Century Baghdad,” by Charles Perry, a historian of Arab cuisine and food columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

“Theatrical Hybridity in Morocco: An Ambiguous Compromise,” by Khalid Amine, doctoral candidate at Moulay Ismail University in Morocco.

“Political Institutions and Working Class Identity in the Contemporary Maghreb,” by Christopher Alexander, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University.


The Colloquium Series during the fall 1997 semester included the following lectures:

“A Moroccan Discourse on Tea,” by Abderrahmane Lakhsassi, Professor of Islamic Studies at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco.


“Frederick Catherwood: From the Middle East to Mesoamerica,” by Jason Thompson, Professor of History at Western Kentucky University.

“The War of Culture, Religion, and Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” by M. R. Ghanounparvar, Associate Professor of Persian at UT.

“Turkey’s Export Performance: The Role of Central Asia,” by Liesl Riddle, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at UT.

During the spring, the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures sponsored an art exhibit in the Texas Union Gallery entitled “Persian Images Remembered,” which featured paintings by Shahla and Mohsen Jamal. It also sponsored a lecture on “Complex Predicates in Persian” by Simin Karimi, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona.

Robert W. Stookey, 1917-1998

Dr. Robert W. Stookey died in Austin on January 12, 1998. From 1973 until his retirement in 1993, Dr. Stookey was a Research Associate at the Center, where he dedicated himself to writing and publishing on the Middle East. His books include America and the Arab States: An Uneasy Encounter (1975); Politics and Petroleum, with James Bill (1975); Yemen: The Politics of the Yemen Arab Republic (1978); and South Yemen: A Marxist Republic in Arabia (1982). He also edited two volumes—The Arabian Peninsula: Zone of Ferment (1984) and The End of the Palestinian Mandate, with Wm. Roger Louis (1986)—and translated Algerian Reflections on Arab Crises by Ali El-Kenzi (1991).

Before joining the Center, Dr. Stookey had a long career in the Foreign Service of the Department of State (1946-1968). With a command of Arabic and knowledge of the political scene in the Middle East and North Africa, he served in Morocco, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. After his retirement from government service he received his Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas (1972) and was a Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Scholar in Yemen (1973).

Colleagues and friends of Dr. Stookey will remember his devotion to scholarship, his contributions to Middle Eastern studies, and his fruitful association with the Center.

Upcoming Events

February 9, 2:00 p.m.
“Islamic Yuppies,” a lecture by Farhang Rajaee, Visiting Professor of Political Science, Carleton University.

February 20, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and February 21, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Annual meeting of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES).

February 20, 8:00 p.m.
Performance of Sufi music from Turkey by Latif Bolat and ensemble.

March 5, 8:00 p.m.
“The Synagogue as Sacred Space: Transformation and Continuity in Judaism,” 19th Annual Gale Family Distinguished Lecture, by Steven Fine, Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Literature and History, Baltimore Hebrew University.

March 6-7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Conference on “The City in the Middle East: New Perspectives.”

March 23, 3:30 p.m.
“Duellng Dhu’l-Fiqars: How ‘Ali’s Sword Became a Political Hot Potato in Ottoman Egypt,” a lecture by Jane Hathaway, Associate Professor of History, Ohio State University.

April 3, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
and April 4, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Workshop on “Second Generation Iranian-American Writers.”

April 9, 3:30 p.m.
“The Myth of Primordialism: Rebels and Villains in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon,” a lecture by Professor Ussama Makdisi, Rice University.

March 27-May 10
“Other Worldly Visions: Persian and Indian Paintings from the Arthur Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution,” exhibit at the Huntington Art Gallery.
Travel grants for summer study in Israel. The Center will award $10,000 in travel grants of up to $1,000 each to support students, primarily undergraduates, who enroll in summer programs in Israel. The funds come from a three-year grant of $30,000 awarded to the Center by the Dorot Foundation.

We are pleased to recognize the following recipients of graduate fellowships and grants:

**FLAS Fellowships, 1997-98 Academic Year**
Liana Brooks, CMES (Hebrew)
Mieke Curtis-Richardson, Anthropology (Arabic)
Stefanie Ellis, History (Arabic)
Anwar Emon, History (Arabic)
Heather Ferguson, CMES (Arabic)
Adrian McIntyre, CMES (Arabic)
Stephen Peterson, CMES (Turkish)

**FLAS Fellowships, Summer 1997**
Heather Ferguson, CMES (Hebrew)
Adrian McIntyre, CMES (Arabic)
Chantal Tetreault, Anthropology (Arabic)

**Social Sciences/Middle Eastern Studies Research Grants, 1997**
Liana Brooks (CMES) and Katrinka Sondahl (CMES), directed by Professor David Eaton (LBJ School of Public Affairs), for a research project on “Simulating Drought Conditions: A Study of Palestinian-Israeli Joint Management of Shared Groundwater Aquifers.”

Liesl Riddle (Sociology), directed by Professor Cynthia Buckley (Sociology), for a research project on “Myth, Religiosity, Gender, and Export Performance: Turkey and Central Asia.”