The latest exciting initiative successfully launched by the Center in Fall 1999 is a program of coursework and summer travel spread over three semesters titled Mediterranean Crossroads. Eleven students were chosen to participate through a competitive process. The program involves three semesters of work: a semester of preparatory work in Spring 2000, a study-abroad course including five weeks of faculty-led travel in Turkey and Israel during the first session of Summer 2000, and a concluding conference course in Fall 2000. Students will receive 15 total credit hours for course work in the program. Travel to the Middle East is being underwritten by the Dean of Liberal Arts.

Through the combination of course work, travel, and individual research, students will acquire an in-depth knowledge of a region that occupies a unique place in human history. Students will have an opportunity to explore a wide range of issues, from religion and language to space and identity, as a way of appreciating the forces that have shaped the region’s landscapes and societies.

All students are required to take the Mediterranean Crossroads Seminar, taught in Spring 2000 by Professor Ian Manners (Geography and Middle Eastern Studies). The Summer portion of the program is jointly led by Dr. Marcus (History and Director of Middle Eastern Studies) and Dr. Manners.

Course work will encourage students to think about the region’s rich heritage and complex realities in a broad comparative and interdisciplinary context. This will include reading about the crucial role of religion, about the ways in which nomadic, village and urban communities have interacted to shape social institutions and daily practices, about the conquests and movements of peoples that have profoundly affected the rhythms of economic, political, and cultural life, and about the contemporary challenges that confront nations and peoples seeking to define their identities and places in an era of global interdependency. At the same time, students will start work on their individual research projects, a process that will involve writing a research proposal, identifying sources of information, establishing contacts with individuals and institutions in the region, as well as learning about and developing appropriate research strategies.

In addition to the Mediterranean Crossroads Seminar, students were also enrolled in two classes during the Spring 2000 semester, chosen from a selected list of course offerings.

The group of faculty and students left for Istanbul on May 25, and will conclude the journey in Jerusalem on June 26, 2000.
Message from the Director

I am pleased to announce that the Center's grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) was successful in the national competition and that we were awarded an increase of nearly 10% over the level of funding for the previous three-year cycle. This is the largest grant we have ever received under the Department of Education's National Resource Centers Program. The award will allow us to continue the promotion of excellence in teaching, research, and outreach on the Middle East at UT. Roughly one third of the Center's total budget comes from the US DOE with the remainder of the budget financed by a combination of State of Texas funds, including the University's budget, and other private granting agencies.

I would like to thank all the affiliated faculty and programs that contributed to the preparation of the proposal. Special gratitude is due to the Center's staff and administrative faculty for their dedicated work on what was a highly demanding and stressful task.

The University of Texas at Austin's Middle East instructional program rests on a comprehensive, multidisciplinary body of courses coordinated by the Center, a full complement of degree programs concentrating on the area, and faculty of impressive numbers and quality. Every major field in the social sciences and humanities is represented by a set of courses on which students can draw for their particular programs of academic work at both the undergraduate and graduate levels spread across 20 disciplines and fields of study. Approximately 100 instructors teach non-language courses on some aspect of the Middle East.

After a busy year of recruitment, I am also pleased to report that five new faculty members whose work focuses on the Middle East will be joining us in the coming academic year. They will add strength in a number of important fields and enhance considerably our course offerings and support of students' needs.

The Center's initiative to hire tenure-track faculty with specialization in the Middle East and North Africa in the departments of Sociology, Geography, and Anthropology has concluded successfully. Dr. Mounira Charrad, currently a visiting scholar at Georgetown University, will join the Department of Sociology in the fall. Ms. Diana Davis, who is completing her doctoral work at Berkeley, will join the Department of Geography in Spring 2001. Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali, currently an assistant professor at the University of Rochester, will join the Department of Anthropology in Fall 2001.

In addition to these three appointments, Dr. Mohammad A. Mohammad of the University of Florida has been appointed Associate Professor of Arabic in the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures beginning next fall. Further, the Department of History, in cooperation with the Center, has appointed Dr. James Grehan as a visiting lecturer in Middle Eastern history for the coming academic year. Dr. Grehan recently received his doctoral degree from UT. Finally, the Center has arranged, in collaboration with the Department of Art and Art History, for the renewal of the appointment of Dr. Carel Bertram as a visiting lecturer in Islamic art. We welcome all of these faculty, looking forward to the contributions they will make to the University and the study of the Middle East here.

Recruitment on this extraordinary scale naturally involves a great deal of work. Thanks are due to all those who served on search committees, hosted candidates, and provided input. We are especially grateful to Richard Lariviere, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, for making these appointments possible. Again, the Center's staff, along with the staff of each of the departments involved in a hire, deserves special thanks for helping to coordinate a rapid succession of campus visits, job talks, and appointments, and for handling a heavy load of paperwork. Our program is all the stronger for this team effort.

Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. The generation of faculty who first set up the program is now gradually retiring, and each farewell party occasions personal reminiscences of a humble beginning that few of the younger faculty and none of the students can readily imagine. From that early start in 1960, when the Center occupied one small office and could claim a staff of one part-time assistant and a half dozen affiliated faculty, a remarkable journey of growth has occurred. Generous university support along with nearly four decades of federal funding, have made possible the steady expansion of faculty, programs, enrollments, and resources, and the building of a full-fledged and dynamic Middle East program of national and international standing.

Thank you for your support.

Regards,

Abraham Marcus

1999 Middle East Summer Institute

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, through the Western Consortium of Centers for Middle Eastern Studies, successfully hosted the annual Summer Middle East Institute in the summer of 1999. Over eighty students attended the Institute for an eight-week period, intensively studying courses offered in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish languages.

A rich program of activities accompanied the language courses devoted to the cuisine, music, folk dancing, and the architecture of the Middle

(continue on back page)
Women of the Book Conference

Christian, Islamic, and Jewish scholars gathered at the University on November 9 and 10, 1998, to discuss the implications of their religion for women. The conference, entitled “Women of the Book: The Changing Face of Feminism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” focused on issues of law, family, and religious practices and scriptural readings. The modified version of the Islamic concept “people of the book” was chosen as the motto of the conference because it addresses the three monotheistic religions that originated in the Middle East, and stresses their similarities rather than their differences. The conference culminated in an evening event that combined Dr. Virginia Danielson of Harvard University reading from her recent book, *Umm Kulthum, A Voice Like Egypt*, the singing of Jamie Schappell, a female cantor from Congregation Beth Israel, and a performance of the Spirituallettes, an all-women gospel group.

The conference was organized by Elizabeth Fernea, Professor Emerita of English and Middle Eastern Studies at the University, and Denise Spellberg, Associate Professor in History at the University. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Religious Studies and Women’s Studies programs were co-sponsors. Conference proceedings are expected to be published in Summer 2000.

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 1999

The University of Texas at Austin was out in force for this year’s MESA meeting. *Legacy of the Middle East*, a travelling exhibit organized in 20 panels and curated by Professor Denise Schmandt-Besserat, was on display at the entrance to the book exhibit (See page 4).

Papers were given by several UT faculty, including:

- Kamran Scot Aghaie, *Symbolic Representations of Husayn, Fatimah & Zaynab in Modern Iranian Literature*
- Carol Bertram, *Rural Memory in Istanbul: Drawing My Village Home*
- Linda Boxberger, *Piety, Praise and the Politics of Housework: Women’s Poetry in Hadramawt (Yemen)*

Two CMES students also gave papers: Steven Hyland, Jr., *Silent Whiteness of the Page: Abdullah Habib’s “Laylamiat”*; Peter C. Lyon, *Palestine and the End of the British Raj in India: Wars of Elephants Comparable with Wars of Mice.*

Elizabeth W. Fernea served on the FilmFest selection committee, and also was a discussant at a Special Session panel on *Iraq: Assessing a Decade of Devastation*. Other students attending the conference included Brad Bowman, Morris Karam, Kristin Monroe, Youngsun Moon, Chris Rose, Avi Santo, and Clay Schouest. CMES staff members in attendance were Abe Marcus, Annes McCann-Baker and Hillary Hutchinson.

The Life and Legacy of Hassan Fathy

An international conference, “The Life and Legacy of Hassan Fathy,” was held on May 8, 1999 in the Dean’s Conference Room of the Architecture Building. Organized by Akel Kahera, UT Professor of Islamic Studies, the Conference was sponsored by *Aramco World* Magazine, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the School of Architecture, and the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. The recorded round-table discussion was the basis of the November/December issue of *Aramco World*, which was devoted to Hassan Fathy.

Hassan Fathy, a world-famous architect from Egypt, died in 1989. The Conference focused on Fathy’s commitment to the poor and his extraordinary aesthetic sense. Fathy demonstrated during his lifetime that graceful mud-brick structures could be both economical to build and admirably suited to hot, dry climates. He is best known in this country for Dar al-Islam, the mosque he designed in Abiquiu, New Mexico. He was the winner of the Aga Khan Chairman’s Award for Architecture in 1980.

Experts on Fathy, his philosophy, and his methods of building spoke at the conference and participated in a round-table discussion. Invited speakers were James Steele, architecture professor, University of Southern California; Simone Swan, adobe builder, Presidio, Texas; Hassan Uddin-Khan, architecture professor, MIT and Berkeley; and Abdel Wahid el-Wakil, architect/professor, Prince of Wales School of Architecture.
Legacy of the Middle East Exhibit

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, through the efforts of Denise Schmandt-Besserat, collaborating with Sami Saleh Nawar, the Director of the Jeddah Historic Preservation Department in Saudi Arabia, and the Texas Council for the Humanities, to create a travelling exhibit, entitled Legacy of the Middle East. The exhibition consisted of 20 panels celebrating the heritage of the Arab world. The images and texts (which are in Arabic and English) highlight some of the profound economic and social changes, technological inventions, and cultural and artistic innovations believed to have originated in the Middle East, such as agriculture, metallurgy and writing. The exhibit was on display at the annual Middle Eastern Studies Association meeting held in Washington, DC at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, November 18th through November 22nd, 1999.

Pilgrimages to Holy Sites

On November 10, 1999, a symposium was held in the Texas Union to examine the idea of pilgrimage from a variety of perspectives. Sponsored by the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, this was a successful interdepartmental symposium. The Center's new Associate Director, Nina Berman, chaired the afternoon session. Jonathan Wyrtzen, a graduate student in Middle Eastern Studies, spoke on "evangelical tourism."

TAMES Meeting at Texas

The Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES) held its annual interdisciplinary conference at the University of Texas at Austin on March 24-25, 2000. The panels, "When Worlds Collide: Confluences of Disparate Values," "The Media and the Middle East," and "Women, Art and Culture," addressed a wide range of topics.

The next TAMES meeting will be held in Austin in Spring 2001.

Cities in the Middle East

The Centers for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas and Harvard University presented a conference in Austin in March 1999, entitled "New Perspectives: The City in the Middle East." The conference brought together individuals working on cities, whose research was grounded in new theoretical approaches in varying disciplines of history, geography, art, literature, sociology and anthropology. Panelists discussed the dynamics of the new approaches as well as the evolving area of urban studies. Organizers were Ian Manners (CMES and Geography-UT) and Roger Owen (Middle Eastern Studies-Harvard).

New Joint Degree Program

In the spring of 1999, a proposal by the Center and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science was approved by the Dean of Liberal Arts for a joint degree program leading to a Master of Library and Information Science and a Master of Art in Middle Eastern Studies. Both programs are nationally recognized for their excellence. The joint degree will take approximately three academic years to earn. The goals of the program are: 1) to train students for careers in Middle Eastern Studies with major responsibilities in information management; 2) to train students for careers in information service that may include positions in academic libraries or special collections related to Middle Eastern Studies; and 3) to foster increased collaboration between the faculty and students of the two programs.

Library News

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies is proud to announce the acquisition of the 2nd Edition of the Index Islamicus. The Index is considered one of the primary research tools for scholars of Middle Eastern Studies, with over 200,000 records (including 172,000 articles and 24,000 monographs) available in CD-ROM format. It indexes worldwide literature in European languages on Islam, the Middle East and the Muslim world from 1906 to 1997, covering such topics as the arts, economics, education, history, literature, politics and current affairs, and religion, philosophy and science.
**Student and Alumni News**

On November 5, 1999, the Middle Eastern Studies Graduate Students Association voted to elect Kristin Monroe and Sarah Fox Ozkan, both first year Master’s degree students through the Center, as co-presidents of the association. Please feel free to contact them with any ideas for events. They replace Mike Juge and Chris Rose, who served during the 1998-99 term.

Peter C. Lyon worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut, Lebanon as an intern from May-August 1999. He also presented a paper at the November MESA convention (see page 3).

*A World Between: Poems, Short Stories and Essays by Iranian-Americans* was published in the summer of 1999 by George Braziller, Inc. The book was edited by Persis M. Karim and Mohammed Mehdi Khorrami, who went on a promotional tour including Austin during Fall 1999. Persis was also interviewed about the book by Jacki Lyden of National Public Radio’s Weekend Edition which aired in November 1999.

**Recent Graduates**

A large group of students graduated with a Masters in Middle Eastern Studies in Spring 2000: Melissa Bolbecker, Andrea Christman, Renee Goings, Coyt Hargus, Steven Hyland, Randaj Jarrar, Michael Juge, Morris Karam, Sameena Karmally, Margaret Luevano, Rika Muhl, and Christopher Rose. The following students graduated from the joint degree programs: Brenda Gazzar (MES/Journalism), Marjorie Trace (MES/Business Administration), Peter Lyon (MES/Public Affairs), and Curtis Stefferud (MES/Public Affairs).

Congratulations to all of you!!

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**Student Awards**

**Ford Foundation**

Three grants were given to students through the Ford Foundation in 1999. Amy Mills was granted support to conduct research in Istanbul for a project on urban space. David Lynch and Galeet J. Dardashti did fieldwork in Israel and Morocco for an ethnomusicology project on the Mizrahim of Israel and the Gnawa of Morocco. Steven Hyland and Jaime-Faye Bean gathered material on Palestinian writers in Israel. The students presented their preliminary findings in October 1999 in the Center’s colloquium series.

**1999 Dorot Foundation Travel Grants**

The recipients for the 1999 Dorot Foundation Travel Grants are as follows: Jaime-Faye Bean, M.A.-Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Mark Chess, B.A.-School of Business Administration, Mayanot Institute of Jewish Studies; Galeet Dardashti, Ph.D.-Department of Anthropology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Sara Radin, B.A.-College of Liberal Arts, Plan II, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Sultan Tepe, Ph.D.-Department of Government, Tel Aviv University; Robert Torrey M.A.-Biblical Archaeology, Archaeological Excavation in Tel Kedesh; Jonathan Wyrtezn, M.A.-Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

**Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients Summer 1999**


**Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship Recipients—1999-2000**

Recipients for the academic year were as follows: Maria Curtis-Richardson, Ph.D.-Anthropology, Advanced Arabic; Galeet Dardashti, Ph.D.-Anthropology, Advanced Hebrew; Stephanie Ellis, Ph.D.-History, Advanced Arabic; Brenda Gazzar, M.A./M.A.-Middle Eastern Studies and Journalism, Advanced Arabic; Golnaz Ghavami Modarresi, Ph.D.-Linguistics, Elementary Turkish; Morris Karam, M.A.-Middle Eastern Studies, Advanced Arabic; Amy Mills, Ph.D.-Geography, Advanced Turkish; John Morgan, M.A.-Middle Eastern Studies, Elementary Arabic; Kenneth Potochnic, M.A.-Energy & Mineral Resources, Advanced Turkish.
Deborah Littrell, the long-time Outreach Coordinator, left the Center in April 1999 to take a new post at the Texas State Library. Her contributions to the Outreach program and to the national Middle East Outreach Council will be missed. In 1999-2000, the Center’s Outreach Coordinator was Dr. Linda Boxberger, who has considerable background in the Middle East, having lived and worked in Kuwait and Yemen for eight years. She has a Master’s degree in Middle Eastern Studies and a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern History, both from the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests focus on the social and cultural history of Yemen, the Arabian peninsula, and the Indian Ocean region.

This year, the Outreach program’s activities also benefited from the efforts of the Outreach Assistants, Christopher Rose, who graduated in May 2000 with an MA in Middle Eastern Studies, and Avi Santo, graduate student in Middle Eastern Studies and Radio-Television-Film Studies.

The Center’s Outreach program makes the resources of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies available to educate the community about the cultures and peoples of the Middle East. The Outreach program’s teaching materials collection includes books, audio and video materials, slide packs, and teaching units which are loaned to public schools in Texas and other states. The availability of these materials is publicized through Hemispheres, the newsletter jointly produced by the University’s four area studies centers and through its associated list-serve. A new annotated catalogue of the Center’s educational materials is now available on-line on the Outreach program webpage.

In June 2000, Christopher Rose was appointed to direct the Outreach program. He will be assisted by Sulafa Abou-Samra, who is currently a graduate student in the Center’s MA program, and has worked as an Outreach Assistant since March.

Seven years after its debut, the Middle East Network Information Center (UT-MENIC) continues to break new ground as the most comprehensive academic Internet site devoted to Middle Eastern studies. UT-MENIC receives over 3 million hits per year, and is frequently updated in response to user feedback as well as the constantly increasing resources available on-line.

MENIC offers the most comprehensive directory of on-line information on the Middle East and North Africa, with hyperlinks to thousands of sites worldwide, including institutes, libraries, newspapers and media sources, government databases, and other relevant on-line sources of information. Over the past year, the site was redesigned, making the country and subject categories more user-friendly and incorporating an easier-to-read font.

The MENIC site includes the most comprehensive listing of on-line newspapers and media sources from the Middle East to be found on the Internet, and a page of resources available for K-12 educators that links to sites that are useful for primary and secondary teachers and classrooms.

In June 1999, the Center’s Outreach program, in conjunction with other area studies Centers, sponsored two workshops for K-12 teachers. Approximately 25 teachers from around Texas attended each of the week-long workshops, “Cities and Social Change” and “The Ancient World” (co-sponsored by the Texas Council for the Humanities). Each center brought in faculty and graduate student lecturers to participate in thematic panels and sessions designed to illuminate the history, politics, culture, and arts of their respective regions. Both workshops were well received.

Significant interest was also generated for this year’s workshop on “Faith, Culture and Identity: Teaching About Religion Today,” which was held June 5-9, 2000.

Several Center graduate students have been invited to give presentations at primary and secondary schools in Central Texas. The Outreach program has also participated in K-12 social studies forums in Abilene and San Antonio and participated in the World 2000 (Teaching World History and World Geography) Conference which was held in Austin on February 11-12, 2000.
Publications

The Center is proud to have brought out three works on North Africa last year, one in each of its series.

First, in the Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series, was Leila Abouzeid's *Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman*. Abouzeid's earlier novel *Year of the Elephant* has sold over 9,000 copies. It has been used extensively in college and university classrooms. She first published her memoirs in Rabat in 1983 to critical acclaim. The work, translated by Abouzeid into English with the help of Heather Taylor, brings to life the interlocking dramas of family ties and political conflict. The memoir utilizes multiple voices, especially those of women, in a manner reminiscent of the narrative strategies of the oral tradition in Moroccan culture. *Return to Childhood* may also be classified as an autobiography, a form only now gaining respect as a valid literary genre in the Middle East. Abouzeid's own introduction discusses this new development in Arabic literature. In her introduction, Elizabeth Fernea situates the work in its historical context.

*Arabic-Islamic Philosophy: A Contemporary Critique* came out in the Middle East Monograph Series in May 1999. It is an introduction to the ideas of the distinguished Moroccan philosopher, Dr. Mohammed ‘Abed al-Jabri. Al-Jabri examines the status of Arab thought in the late twentieth century. He rejects what he calls the current polarization between an imported modernism that disregards Arab tradition and a fundamentalism that would reconstruct the present in the image of an idealized past. He offers instead a radical new approach to Arab thought, one in which he finds, especially in the work of Averroes, the roots of an open, critical rationalism, which he sees as emerging in the Arab world today. Translator of the work from French is Dr. Aziz Abbassi, a Moroccan writer and linguist currently living in the United States. Dr. Walid Hamarneh, a scholar of Arabic literature, wrote the introduction to the work in English.

*Men and Popular Music in Algeria: The Social Significance of Rai* was published by the University of Texas Press in the Center's Modern Middle East Series during the summer of 1999. In his ground-breaking study, anthropologist Marc Schade-Poulsen uses this popular music genre as a lens through which he views Algerian society. He situates rai within Algerian family life, moral codes, and broader power relations. Rai is the voice of Algerian young men caught between generations and classes, in political strife, and in economic inequality. Schade-Poulsen describes the history of the musical form, which emerged in the late 1970s and spread throughout North Africa at the same time the Islamist movement was growing to become the most potent socio-political force in Algeria. The work studies the Islamic as well as the Western roots of rai music. Schade-Poulsen is Executive Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network at the Danish Centre for Human Rights in Copenhagen.

All three of the new books are available through the University of Texas Press (800) 252-3206. See also the Press Website at: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/>

Concerts/Special Events

Latif Bolat Concert

Latif Bolat and the Austin Middle Eastern Ensemble held a concert in July 1999 featuring traditional Turkish devotional songs, instrumental pieces and improvisations. The spiritual songs, with their great trance-like quality, are based on lyrics by the great mystical poets, including Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi and Yunus Emre.

Latif Bolat is a native of the Turkish Mediterranean town of Mersin. He has performed widely in the United States. He plays the baglama (long-necked Turkish folk lute). Accompanying Latif Bolat were Abraham Marcus, Director of the Center, on the ud and lavta, Roberto Reggio on the violin, and Erin Foster, percussion.

A Concert of Middle Eastern Music

In March 2000, a concert entitled, "Music of the Middle East," featured Mohsen Jamal (Iranian music, violin), Rachel E. Rhodes (Yiddish songs), Faik Gur and Erin Foster (dance tunes from Turkey), and the Austin Middle Eastern Ensemble (Tunes from Asia Minor).
A welcome addition to our faculty is Dr. Carel Bertram whose appointment as a visiting lecturer in Islamic art has been renewed for another year. Dr. Bertram received her Ph.D. in Art History from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1998, where she concentrated on Islamic art.

Her dissertation investigated the image of the Turkish house in the collective imagination of Turkey. In that work, she used novels to assess the meaning and emotions that these images carried over time. The University of California Press has expressed interest in publishing this study, examining collective memory seen through the eyes of art history.

Professor Bertram's newest project focuses on modern Turkey. In this study, she looks at how domestic memories are visualized and imagined by the men and women who have moved to Istanbul from rural Anatolia. Initially, informants were asked to draw their childhood home. Later, they will be asked to describe their apartments and the urban images that make up their contemporary urban picture.

Dr. Bertram has a number of publications to her credit, including: "The Urban History of Sarajevo in the Ottoman Period and Into the Period of the Dual Monarchy," Strategies for Rebuilding: Bosnia and Beyond (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, Winter 1998; also published at: <http://solar.cini.utk.edu/bosnia/cb1.html>); "After the Ottomans are Gone: Imagining the Turkish Ottoman House," The Ottoman House, proceedings of the Amasya Conference, eds. S. Ireland and W. Bechhoefer, (British Institute of Archeology at Ankara, Monograph 26, 1998); "Restructuring the house, restructuring the self: Gendered meanings of place in the modern Turkish short story," in Deconstructing Images of The Turkish Woman, eds. Zehra Arat and Sibel Erol (St. Martin's Press, 1998).

In addition, she has two forthcoming articles that will be published in 2000, "Between triumphant Kemalism and a sense of loss: the old wooden house," (Yeni Türkiye, centennial edition of Ottoman scholars), and "Emotional memory, 'the felt real,' and the image of the Turkish House," Architecture and Memory, ed. Eleni Bastea (University of Minnesota Press).

Nina Berman replaces Kate Gillespie as Associate Director. In addition to acting as a sounding board for Director Abe Marcus, she will be in charge of the colloquium series and other current events. Her research focuses on German colonialism and orientalism, minority literature, Arabic travel literature and geographical writings, and questions of modernization. Dr. Berman is currently working on a monograph about German engineers, doctors, pilots, soldiers and tourists in Africa.

Linda Boxberger joined the Center as Outreach Coordinator in May 1999. She received her doctorate in Middle Eastern History in 1998 from the University of Texas at Austin with a dissertation on Hadramawt, Yemen, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr. Boxberger replaced longtime Outreach Coordinator Deborah Littrell. In addition to handling outreach requests, she focused on updating the teaching materials collection in the Center, and overseeing the MENIC web page. Her successor is Christopher Rose, who was appointed Outreach Coordinator at the beginning of June 2000.

Hillary Hutchinson has joined the Center as the Executive Assistant to the Director, replacing Marjorie Payne who retired after twenty years.
of service in August 1999. Ms. Hutchinson received an MA in Anthropology from the University of Texas in 1982, with a Master's thesis focusing on issues of gender and equity among "pink collar" workers. She brings a variety of work experience and a long history of personal connection with Middle Eastern scholars to the Center.

Keith Walters is an Associate Professor in the Linguistics Department at the University of Texas. He specializes in sociolinguistics of the Arab world and has done field work in Tunisia and lectured in Morocco and Egypt. Dr. Walters began serving as the Center's Graduate Advisor in the Fall of 1999, a position formerly held by Nina Berman.

Faculty and Staff News

Kamran Aghaie (MELC) was awarded a Summer Research Assignment.

Nina Berman (Germanic Studies) received the President's Associates Teaching Award in Summer 1999. She recently published articles on Albert Schweitzer and on multiculturalism in the Arab world. She was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Texas in 1982, with a Master's thesis titled "Women in the Middle East Today." The conference was sponsored by Ennek Yezreel University in Nazareth and Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. Her film, *The Road to Peace*, was shown, and she lectured widely over this period to both women and peace groups in Israel and at Al-Quds University.

Clement Henry (Government) was a Visiting Research Scholar at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia for six weeks in July-August, 1999, completing a manuscript for Cambridge University Press on the Politics of Globalization in the Middle East.

Akel Kahera (MELC) led the Tracking Cultures program to Morocco this summer. Kahera was co-convenor for the international architecture conference, *The Life and Legacy of Hassan Fathy*, last spring.

Deborah Kapchan (Anthropology) was awarded a Faculty Research Assignment for 2000-2001. She won the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, and will be on sabbatical next year to work on her book, *Poetic Justice: Self and Nation in Morocco*. She is also working on an ethnography on Gnawa musicians in Morocco.

Daniel Laufer (Business Administration) presented "Israeli-Jordanian Joint Ventures: A Preliminary Analysis" at last year's MESA conference. Laufer recently returned from teaching his Israeli Business course at Bar Ilan University's International MBA program.


Adam Zachary Newton (English) published *Facing Blacks and Jews with Cambride University Press in 1999. His third book, The Fence and the Neighbor: Emmanuel Levinas, Yeshayahu Leibowitz, and Israel Among the Nations* will be published by SUNY Press next fall.

Tom Palaima (Classics) presented an invited paper, "The Palaeography of Mycenaean Inscribed Sealings from Thebes and Pylos and Their Place Within the Mycenaean Administrative System," at the V. Internationales Siegel-Symposium, Marburg, Germany, in September. Palaima was also elected a life member of the Philosophical Society of Texas.

Esther Raizen (MELC) was awarded the Liberal Arts Council Teaching Award. Her most recent publications include *Biblical Hebrew: An Analytical Introduction*, written with Lehmann and Hewitt, published by Wings Press, and *Modern Hebrew for Beginners*, published by the University of Texas Press. Raizen has received a research grant to complete a manuscript on environmental concerns in Hebrew literature, and will be spending part of the summer in Israel doing research for that project.

Funding from the UT Vision Plan for the web-based Modern Hebrew Project under Raizen's directorship was renewed for the 1999-2000 academic year. The instructional portion of the site, developed with Yaron Shemer (MELC) won first place in the University's annual Innovative Instructional Technology competition. The site was voted one of the top ten sites by the Jewish Agency for Israel.


Diane Watts (CMES), Artist/Administrator, was awarded the Presidential Excellence Award in May 1999.

Seth Wolitz (French & Italian) has been given an honorary Visiting Professorship at University College, London, to do research and offer a seminar on Jewish theater in Eastern Europe, Israel and the New World.
Center's Colloquium Series

The Center's Colloquium Series presented speakers addressing a wide range of topics throughout the academic year.

Seyed Ali Akbar Afjeh, Allameh Tabatabaei University, Tehran, “Islamic Management”

Kate Gillespie, Marketing, UT Austin, “Arab Markets: What Do Managers Want?”

Safei-Eldin Hamed, Texas Tech, Lubbock, “Sustainable Development in the Islamic World”


Jaime-Faye Bean & Steven Hyland, MES, UT Austin, “The New Generation of Palestinian Writers in Israel”

Az-Eddine Khaloufi, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes, “Bilingual or Bicultural? Where is the Boundary? The Case of Moroccan Bilinguals”

Dan Laufer, Business Administration, UT Austin, “Israeli-Jordanian Joint Ventures: A Preliminary Analysis”

David Lesch, Trinity University, San Antonio, “Syria and the Middle East Peace Process”


Amy Mills, Geography, UT Austin, “New Ways of 'Knowing' Istanbul: The Meaning of Place in Urban Expansion”

Collaboration on Lectures and Conferences

The Center also co-sponsored conferences in collaboration with other academic units at the University.

In October 1999, a panel discussion was held, entitled “Religion and State: Defining the Issue.” Christoph Müller, Emeritus Professor, Free University, Berlin was the keynote speaker. Respondents were L. Michael White (Religious Studies, UT), Benjamin Gregg (Government, UT), and Kamran Aghaie (MELC, UT).

In March 2000, the Center co-sponsored a conference organized by the Department of Middle Eastern Languages on “Judaism and Islam: Cross Currents.” The panels addressed questions of travel, women in Middle Eastern cultures, issues of philosophy, religion and society, and the Arts.

The following lectures were co-sponsored by the Center.

Walter Armbrust, Georgetown University, “The Ubiquitous Non-Presence of India in Egyptian Popular Culture”

David Butler, Southwest Texas State, “Lookout Below! Landscape Change and the Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park, Montana”

Mounira Charrad, Georgetown University, “State-Building and Women’s Rights: Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco”


John C. Eisele, Assistant Professor with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, presented a lecture on “Myths, Values and Practice in the Representation of Arabic”

Esmail Khoi, a leading Iranian poet who gives a most articulate poetic voice to the Iranian diaspora, spoke at the University in February 2000. His lecture was entitled, “A Poet’s Life in Exile”

Mohammad A. Mohammad, Associate Professor of Arabic and Linguistics at the University of Florida, who spoke on “The Syntactic Relevance of Agreement in Standard (Fusha) and Palestinian Arabic”

Jonathan Owens, Professor of Arabic Linguistics at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, gave a talk entitled, “Arabic Creole: The Orphan of All Orphans”

Helen Rizzo, Ohio State University, “Islam, Women’s Organizations and Political Rights for Women”

Aseel Sawalha, Graduate School, City University of New York, “From French Café to Funeral Home: The Reconstruction of Space and History in Beirut”

Dona Stewart, Georgia State University, “Cultural Landscape of Cairo: Evolution Across a Millennium”
At the end of March 2000, Yaron Shemer (MELC) organized a three evening event centering on the work of Haim Shiran. The film retrospective, "Jewish Life in Morocco, Tunisia and Spain,"celebrated the culture and history of Sephardic Jewry. Mr. Shiran was born in Morocco and immigrated to Israel in 1965, where he was among the founders of the Israel Educational Television Network. He has gained international acclaim for his insightful exploration of the heritage, culture, and lifestyles of Sephardic Jewry in his films and TV programs. Mr. Shiran has earned a number of prestigious awards both in Europe and Israel. Haim Shiran was present at the screenings and available for discussions of his films, Pillar of Salt, The Jews of Morocco, In Praise of David, The Mimouna, and Embroidery of Stone and Words.

In March 2000, Architecture of Mud, was shown. This film by Caterina Borelli and Pamela Jerome examines the vernacular architecture of Hadhramaut, Yemen. It lyrically depicts the local techniques of mud brick construction and unique styles of decorative embellishment in this long-isolated region and shows how they are changing. The filmmakers were present for questions after the screening.

Faik Gur, graduate student in Middle Eastern Studies, and Miyase Goktepeli, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Communication, organized a film festival under the rubric "Women, Film and the Middle East." The screenings of Bent Familia by the Tunisian filmmaker Nouri Bouzid, Golem Bama'agal by the Israeli Aner Preminger, Samt al-Qusur by the Tunisian Mofida Tlatli, Al-Tawaq wal-Iswara by the Egyptian Khairy Beshara, Uridu Hallan by the Egyptian Sa'id Marzuq, and Shirat Hasirenah by the Israeli Eytan Fox attracted a large audience of students and faculty.

Spring Film Festivals

The Center sponsored or cosponsored a number of film festivals and screenings of individual films.  

Avi Santo and Randa Jarrar, graduate students in the MA program at the Center, with Chris Micklethwait, undergraduate student in English, organized a film festival under the rubric "Women, Film and the Middle East." The screenings of Bent Familia by the Tunisian filmmaker Nouri Bouzid, Golem Bama'agal by the Israeli Aner Preminger, Samt al-Qusur by the Tunisian Mofida Tlatli, Al-Tawaq wal-Iswara by the Egyptian Khairy Beshara, Uridu Hallan by the Egyptian Sa'id Marzuq, and Shirat Hasirenah by the Israeli Eytan Fox attracted a large audience of students and faculty.

Middle Eastern Journalism: A Panel Discussion

On February 7, 2000, the Center invited students and faculty to a panel discussion with ten journalists from leading newspapers of the Arab world, who were visiting the United States on a tour organized by the State Department. This event presented a unique opportunity to explore issues related to journalism in the Middle East and to media coverage of the Middle East in the United States. The visiting journalists represented newspapers from Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Israel. The event began with statements from the journalists who talked about the situation of journalism in their respective countries, and addressed some of the key issues, such as censorship, the role of different kinds of newspapers, and their views on the development of new forms of communication, such as the internet. After the statements, the floor was open to questions from the audience, and the discussion centered on issues related to the freedom of the press and the coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event was organized in collaboration with Mortada Mohamad from the Austin International Hospitality Committee.
East, a series of Middle Eastern films, and other social and cultural events. Particularly popular was an evening of classical Sufi music featuring Latif Bolat performing traditional Turkish devotional songs, instrumental pieces and improvisations played on the baglama (long-necked Turkish folk lute). Six films were also presented in conjunction with the Summer Institute, including *The Silences of the Palace* (Tunisia, 1995) and *Terrorism and Kebab* (Egypt, 1993). Students also experienced the "Austin culture": laid back yet sophisticated, ranked among the best places to live in the U.S., a computer literate community home to more restaurants, bars, bookstores, and movie theaters per capita than any other American city. The city’s nickname “The Third Coast” is reflective of its identity as “The Live Music Capital of the World.”

The Institute is open to undergraduate and graduate students from all universities as well as high school graduates and Austin high school students who have completed their junior year. Each course provides the equivalent of two regular semesters of instruction and credit, at an unusually affordable cost, for both resident and non-resident participants.

The Institute rotates host sites between the following six member institutions:

- University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Utah
- University of Washington

The Summer Language Institute 2000 is hosted by the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.