The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, in cooperation with the Middle East Center of the Jackson School of International Studies, has recently published Badr al-Din Lu'lu', a monograph by Douglas Patton. The book examines the life of Badr al-Din Lu'lu', one of the most ambitious and talented adventurers of the early thirteenth century. Rising from obscure origins that included birth to an Armenian family and possibly service as a slave to a tailor, Badr al-Din Lu'lu' came to prominence in the service of the Zengid rulers of Mosul. Gradually, he rose to command the army and wield influence in the court of Arslan Shah, the last independent Zengid ruler of the region of Mosul. After Arslan Shah's death in early 1211, Badr al-Din became the protector (atabeg) of the late ruler's sons and the administrator of his kingdom. Ruler in all but name, he was one of the main contestants for power during the rise of Mongol influence and their ultimate conquest of the eastern half of the Middle East. As many rulers were being swept aside during the forty-year Mongol encroachment, Badr al-Din was the only important ruler to survive by maintaining outwardly correct, if always wary and sometimes treacherous, relations with the Mongols. His survival is a fascinating exception worthy of study.

Written largely as political history, this book uses a wide variety of sources and offers insights into the career of a master of intrigue, who demonstrated the effectiveness of a political system that would subsequently assume much greater importance in the Mamluke state of Syria and Egypt. The book was supported by a grant from the Department's Farhat J. Ziadeh Publication Fund and can be ordered from the University of Washington Press (1-800-441-4115).
Jill wants to pursue a Ph.D. with a focus on Persian, Arabic and Islamic Studies. I want to give my thanks to all the faculty members who assisted me over the years, particularly Dr. Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli, with whom I have worked very closely. The three of us will soon be completing an anthology of Ottoman poetry in translation. I will be going to Istanbul this year to complete the details of the manuscript. The anthology will be in a bilingual edition illustrated with Turkish and Persian miniature paintings. It will probably be published by the Turkish Ministry of Culture at the end of 1993. After publishing the anthology, I plan to continue work in poetic translation, and also the study of Islamic art. I would like to translate literature of the francophone Maghreb, and also dream of collaborating on an anthology of the poetry of Central Asia, as well as writing my own poetry and fiction.

The following poem is a sample of one of the poems Dana Bates has translated into English. It was originally written in the 15th century by the Turkish poetess Zeynep Hatini.

Words from the Heart

Remove your veil and illuminate the earth and skies
Make this elemental world more brilliant than any paradise
When your lips stir, the rivers of paradise come to boil
Uncover your curls of ambergris, so the entire world may be perfumed
The black down of your cheek wrote a royal command to the East wind
It said - Go quickly to Cathay and captivate all of China with your sweet scent!
Oh Heart, the water of life is not your lot,
Nor sadly is the kiss of the beloved
Even if you wait one thousand years,
Searching like Alexander in the darkness
Oh Zeynep, abandon your love of the adornment of this world
Surrender all decoration, and go in a manly way towards God.

Emily Wilson has come back to the UW after having graduated in 1973 with a degree in Political Science. For the past 20 years she has been working as a sales manager for several large national corporations. Since 1989 she developed her own part-time business of adventure travel, working as a tour guide. She takes clients to Morocco, Egypt, the Sinai and to Turkey. In her own words: "I have returned to school after twenty years because I have a great interest in learning Arabic and furthering my knowledge in Islamic Studies. I want to give my clients who travel with me the best possible insights into other world cultures."

Dana Bates is a 5th year student this year, but hopes to continue her studies on the graduate level. She writes of her experience here: "I would like to thank all the faculty members who assisted me over the years, particularly Dr. Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli, with whom I have worked very closely. The three of us will soon be completing an anthology of Ottoman poetry in translation. I will be going to Istanbul this year to complete the details of the manuscript. The anthology will be in a bilingual edition illustrated with Turkish and Persian miniature paintings. It will probably be published by the Turkish Ministry of Culture at the end of 1993. After publishing the anthology, I plan to continue work in poetic translation, and also the study of Islamic art. I would like to translate literature of the francophone Maghreb, and also dream of collaborating on an anthology of the poetry of Central Asia, as well as writing my own poetry and fiction."

The Near East Reports

Volume 4/5, March 21, 1992

NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS

WELCOME!

For the 1991-92 academic year the Department welcomed four new graduate students.

Rawa Al-Akkad Johnson is from Damascus, Syria, where she received a B.A. in English Literature from Damascus University. She is interested in modern Arabic literature and linguistics and plans a career as an Arabic language teacher.

Julia Fearing is from St. Paul, Minnesota were she received her B.A. in English Literature from Macalester College. She has come to the Department to pursue a M.A. degree focusing on the languages and cultures of Central Asia. She is presently participating in the Department's exchange program with Xinjiang University in Urumchi, studying Uighur.

Randall Olson worked as Teaching Assistant for Tajik last summer (1991) and then travelled to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the Fall of 1992 to do pre-dissertation research at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Dushanbe.

Shawn Lyons is presently in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the University's exchange program, and plans to return to the UW early this summer to begin a Ph.D. in Central Asian culture and history. We recently received a letter from him in Uzbek and here is a rough translation of what he wrote: "One cannot imagine all the changes that have taken place since I have come here, it is very exciting to see all the developments, but time is passing quickly. I am staying in the Foreign Students' Dormitory, but I would like to live with an Uzbek family as soon as possible. I am studying Uzbek at the Department of Uzbek Philology, but I also wish to speak Uzbek outside the class everywhere I go. I am very busy collecting materials on the life of Fayzulla Hojaev with the help of students and teachers. Please send my regards to all who know me."

Thebert Truax is an newest graduate student. She is currently studying Uzbek and Turkish and plans on studying Tajik in the summer of 1992. At present she is investigating the role of modern Uzbek literature as a catalyst in Uzbek national reconstruction. She recently was awarded the Fritz Fellowship which will enable her to continue her research in Tashkent as our exchange student during the 1992-93 academic year.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Two of our graduate students received their M.A.s this past Spring.

Sara Yildiz Velanovich is the Teaching Assistant for Second Year Turkish. She is planning on completing her M.A. this coming Spring Quarter and entering a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago in the Autumn. The Department wishes to congratulate her for having received a four year fellowship for her studies at the University of Chicago.

Sara is also planning on graduating this Spring with an M.A. through our Department. She would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic law.

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Oh Zeynep, abandon your love of the adornment of this world
Surrender all decoration, and go in a manly way towards God.

More Grad News

Congratulations to Bill Clark for receiving the Henry Luce Foundation Fellowship. Bill continues to focus on the Central Asian Turkic languages and Islam and plans to receive his M.A. in the Spring (1992). This Summer he intends to conduct research in Xinjiang.

For the past 20 years she has been working as a sales manager for several large national corporations. Since 1989 she developed her own part-time business of adventure travel, working as a tour guide. She takes clients to Morocco, Egypt, the Sinai and to Turkey. In her own words: "I have returned to school after twenty years because I have a great interest in learning Arabic and furthering my knowledge in Islamic Studies. I want to give my clients who travel with me the best possible insights into other world cultures."

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Special Students

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Searching like Alexander in the darkness
Oh Zeynep, abandon your love of the adornment of this world
Surrender all decoration, and go in a manly way towards God.
Professor Walter Andrews, who is now an Affiliate Professor in our Department, is directing the Ottoman Text Edition and Divan Poetry Archive projects. These projects are intended to integrate the use of computer technology with the editing and analysis of original Ottoman texts. Anyone interested in this type of project can contact him at (206) 885-5525. Recently he served on the external review committee for the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at State College. He will also be giving a paper entitled "Sing- the Alienated I; the picturesque Character of the Subject in Ottoman Poetry" for the Middle East Literature Conference at the University of Washington in 1992. The paper attempts to bring Guattari and Deleuze's schizophrenia analysis to bear on some fundamental issues in Ottoman literature and society.

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Chair of the Department, organized and directed the First Central Asian Intensive Language and Culture Program (see page 10). In September 1991 she travelled to Alma-Ata and Tashkent. In both cities she met with writers, scholars and other leading personalities. In Tashkent, Professor Cirtautas participated in the festivities of the 550th anniversary of the great poet and statesman Alisher Nava'i, which happily coincided with the newly acquired independence of Uzbekistan. She was given the honor of addressing the opening session of a symposium on Alisher Nava'i and she was again received by His Excellency, Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan. Currently Professor Cirtautas is organizing the Summer 1992 Central Asian Intensive Languages and Culture Program (see page 16). She is also revising a textbook Introduction to Modern Literary Uzbek and working on a Reader in Kazakh Oral Literature.

Professor Terri DeYoung joined the faculty this fall as the new Assistant Professor of Arabic. Before coming to the UW, she was an Assistant Professor of Arabic at Rhodes College and then at Yale University. Professor DeYoung brings to the Department her experience as a teacher of Arabic and her expertise in the area of Modern Arabic Literature. She also has had several years experience living in the Arab world. Professor DeYoung is currently working on a book entitled Romanticism and Modernism in the Poetry of Badr Shakir al-Sayyab. Her research will be funded this summer by the Graduate School Fund Project Support.

Professor Ahmed Karimi-Hakkak and family enjoys the full warmth of Central Asian hospitality, spending the Autumn Quarter 1991 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Professor Karimi travelled to Tajikistan to study and collect a representative sample of contemporary Tajik literature. He was able to gather an impressive number of documents. He is currently editing an Anthology of Contemporary Poetry of Tajikistan and also plans to prepare a similar collection of Tajik "hekayas" (short stories) after that. Professor Karimi also witnessed some of the dramatic recent events in Tajikistan, including the toppling of the 70-ton statue of Lenin in Dushanbe. He writes about some of the political developments there: "The atmosphere in this republic and in its capital city has been very political and will be for the foreseeable future. The Tajiks feel that this is an epoch-making year. For the first time after 1100 years, they are trying to set up an independent government."

Professor Karimi is presently Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago, where he has been granted a National Mellon Professorship in Middle Eastern Studies for the Winter and Spring quarters. He has also agreed to present a doctoral seminar entitled "Theories of Modernity in Middle Eastern Literatures." He will return to the UW this summer to teach advanced Persian for the NELC's Summer Institute in Middle Eastern Languages.

Professor Nicholas L. Heer, Professor Emeritus, has written reviews for the Journal of the American Oriental Society, the MESA Bulletin, and Philosophy East and West. He also read a paper on Ibn Sina at the 1990 meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society and submitted another paper, on Ibn Taimiyah, for publication in the James Bellanty Festschrift. He also served on the panel of judges for the Arabic translation contest of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic.

Mr. Mamoun Sakak, Affiliate Instructor, designed the poster and catalogue for the exhibition: "Dag- trees, Heroes, and Lovers; Revival of Manuscript Painting Traditions in Uzbekistan and Iran" (see page 15), and lectured on the development of "Square Kufic in Central Asian Architecture" in the workshop for art professionals held in conjunction with the exhibition. Mr. Sakak also lectured on "Paintings of Arabic Calligraphy" during the Arab Cultural Week at the University of Washington. Professor Sakak designed several publications and posters dealing with Islamic and Middle Eastern events in North America, including MESA Bulletin and "The Middle East in Microform," which is compiled by Fawzi Kairy and Michele Bates and published by the University of Washington Libraries.

Professor Naomi Sokoloff has completed editing Gender and Text in Modern Hebrew Literature, together with co-editors Anne Lapidus Lerner and Anita Norich. The volume is to be published by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1992. Professor Sokoloff's book, Imagining the Child in Modern Jewish Fiction, an analysis of the inner life of young characters in twentieth-century Jewish fiction, was published this year by Johns Hopkins University Press. Other recent publications include: Linguis- tric Drama and the Voice of the Child in Bialik's Aftergrowth (Hebrew Studies 31, 1991) and an essay "The Impact of Feminist Research in Modern Hebrew Literature," to ap- pear in Feminist Research and Jewish Studies, ed., Lynn Davidman and Shelly Tenenbaum (Yale Uni- versity Press). In the Fall Quarter 1991 Professor Sokoloff taught a new course, "East and West in Modern Hebrew Literature: Tradition and Innovation," structured around the College Seminar Series entitled "East and West in Modern Near Eastern Literatures: Tradition and Innovation." This Summer (1992) Professor Sokoloff will be working on a project entitled: "The Representation of Female Voices in Modern Hebrew Fiction." His research will be funded by the Graduate School Fund Project Support.

Professor Donald Stilo, an Affiliate Professor in our Department, is presently teaching a first and second year Persian. Having recently fin- ished writing his first year Persian textbook, he has now begun to develop teaching materials for second year Persian. He has also been experimenting with integrating na- tive speakers of Persian, who have not been formally educated in the Persian language, into the classroom with non-native speakers.

In addition to these courses he has also instituted a new course: "Languages and Linguistics of the Middle East." The course is a survey and introduction to the Semitic, Turkic, and Caucasian language families. It covers their linguistic histories, their present areal distribution and their cultural influences. He intends to publish the materials he has been assembling for the course. To supplement the written materials he has also been collecting audio recordings of the many dialects and languages discussed in the course. Some of the languages covered are not widely spoken and are hard to find for linguistic pockets in the Middle East, including languages from the Persian Gulf, South Arabia, and the North Caucasus.

Professor Emeritus Farhat Ziadat continues his scholarly contacts nationally and internationally. He is preparing two articles for publication, and has submitted two books. Since June 1991 he was invited by the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London to lecture on property law in Islam and modern Arab countries.

Professor Aron Zysow delivered a paper entitled "Agreement and Authenticity in Islamic Legal Theory" at the November 1991 meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North Americans in Washington D.C. He was among those representing the University of Washington at the meeting at the American Oriental Society which was held in Boston in March 1992 in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society. In addition to his responsibilities asen Faculty Councilor and Graduate Program Coordinator Professor Zysow is serving this year as Chairman of the Faculty Council on Community Services and University Relations.
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Sandra Campbell, one of the Teaching Assistants for Arabic this year, for being awarded the prestigious three-year Chancellor Fellowship from the University of California, Los Angeles. She will be starting a Ph.D. there this coming Autumn. The Department will miss her, but wishes her the best.

Hebrew T.A. from Israel wins architecture award

Eitan Einy, graduate student in Architecture from Israel and the Hebrew Teaching Assistant in our Department, was recently awarded the $6,000 prize of the William Van Alen Architect Memorial Fellowship/International Competition, sponsored by the National Institute for Architectural Education, New York. Over 470 contestants from around the world submitted designs for an anthropological museum in Istanbul. The new museum, based on Eitan Einy’s design, will be situated between the Hagia Sofia Mosque, the Blue Mosque, and a Turkish bathhouse. He created a design that spoke of eternity, natural balance and history, where the existing eastern architecture could naturally meet modern western models.

In the middle of these buildings is a garden which Eitan incorporated into his design as a sunken courtyard. Roman ruins are believed to be underneath the garden and so excavations would need to be done before the courtyard could be completed.

Mr. Hadi Sultan-Qurraie, born in Azerbaijan, Iran, is assisting in teaching Persian this year. He has a rich background in Arabic, Persian and English literature as well as Islamic jurisprudence and traditional Islamic philosophy. Mr. Sultan-Qurraie has his M.A. in both English and History from Eastern Washington University. He is an adjunct faculty member at Seattle Pacific University in the Department of Theology where he teaches courses on Near Eastern Studies. In addition to this he is active in translating articles into Persian and presenting papers at international seminars and literary conferences. He is hoping to begin a Ph.D. in Persian Literature here at the UW.

Hamit Zakir, from Urumchi, the capital of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, is the Teaching Assistant for Uzbek. Mr. Zakir is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. student in Asian Languages and Literature where he is doing research in comparative studies on Turkic languages. He has taken the time to speak about some joys and sacrifices of coming to the United States: “It’s already four years since I left my home, wife and three children. I miss them very much but I am very happy to be here. I really enjoy teaching, it seems that I have been born to be a teacher! I still have my teaching position at the University of Xinjiang, and I am planning to go back to teach as soon as I finish my degree.”

The Department welcomed this past Autumn two new graduate exchange students from Tashkent State University, Bahodir Huseinov and Olimjon Qushmurudov. They are a great addition to our program as they have been able to give our students insight into the present situation in Central Asia. They also assist language students with colloquial Uzbek.

Olimjon Qushmurudov is a graduate of Tashkent State University in Biophysics. He is pursuing his graduate degree and, while here, he is studying in the Health Sciences Department. He is interested in researching artificial antibodies on the molecular level. He misses his family and friends very much, but is happy to be here. In response to a question about his view of American life he said: “While Americans tend to communicate less with each other, there are less formalities and it is easier to interact with people here. I enjoy the easy-going lifestyle of Americans.” When asked to comment on the tumultuous political changes taking place in his country he said that even though Uzbekistan still does not have its full economic independence from Russia, he is very optimistic about the future of his country.

Bahodir Huseinov, graduate of Tashkent State University, does research in mathematical logic and the theory of algorithms. He writes: “I am very thankful that I am here as a result of the exchange program between the University of Washington and Tashkent University. I have a lot of opportunities to learn about US history, culture and some of the traditions of Americans.” He hopes to establish more contacts between scientists in the U.S. and Uzbekistan. He has also offered to share a few comments about his initial experience in America:

“You Americans are always smiling. I don’t see sorrow in your eyes. You are always friendly and good natured. Yet I am troubled that I don’t see sorrow and sadness in your eyes. It is impossible for a man to feel no sorrow. Maybe somewhere innocent blood is being shed, and somewhere a nation is vanishing, but you are smiling! Streets, offices, airports, and hotels are amazingly clean. Yet you don’t have a lot of opportunities to learn what the word deficit means.

You love your nation, you love yourself, but it is my impression that you often forget about others. Unfortunately I think this love is blinding you from seeing other nations. America contains the history of many nations in all the different people who have come to these shores, yet you have forgotten where you have come from. I like you a lot, but I would like you to be better and greater, and that is why I say these things. Despite these contradictions in your character, you can travel anywhere, say whatever is on your mind, and it is no problem. It is wonderful, I’m stricken by you!”

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**OUR TASHKENT CONNECTION**

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OUR TAJIKISTAN CONNECTION

In February 1991, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization signed an agreement of cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Tajik Academy of Sciences, Dushanbe. On hand to sign the agreement was Professor Akbar Tursunzoda, the Director of the Institute. The immediate goal of this agreement was to ensure the assistance of our Tajik colleagues in developing intensive Tajik language courses as part of the Department’s Central Asian language Summer programs.

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN TAJIKISTAN

Following the invitations of Professor Hertzenberg and Mr. Bozorbobir, Mr. Randall Olson, a graduate student in our Department, travelled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan in September 1991. Mr. Olson witnessed and videotaped the anti-communist demonstrations that occurred there the last week of September. Here is a brief summary of what he recorded:

I arrived to the peaceful city of Dushanbe on September 19, 1992. The following day my host, Mr. Bozor Sobir, brought me to a collective farm near Faizabad. On the road to Faizabad, in the town of Orjonikidzebad, we witnessed a small demonstration and then a small crowd gathered in the town square across from the local community office. It soon became obvious that they were assembling to protest against the communist government in Tajikistan. Both men and women gathered to hear the speakers and some of the people carried banners in Tajik with such slogans as “The communists are the enemies of the people” and “May communism be destroyed forever!” I was soon to learn that this small demonstration was only a foretaste of more exciting things to come. I was struck by what appeared to be a grass root movement among the Tajiks.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, a large demonstration was held outside the Communist Central Committee Headquarters in Dushanbe. The demonstration was cosponsored by the Democratic party, headed by Shudman Yusuf; the Islamic Resurrection Party, headed by Turajon Jabar; and the Hezb-i-Isami Party, unofficially headed by Qazi Akbar Turajonzoda. Bozor Sobir also played a prominent role in the rally and was denounced on television that evening. We heard a number of anti-communist speeches and the people were lead in chants calling for the dismantling of the communist Party. While the majority of the crowd consisted of bearded men who had come in support of Hezb-i-Islami, the main speakers assured the crowd that they were not seeking a return to radical Islam.

That afternoon the demonstration moved to Lenin Square just outside the Parliament Building. With the victory of the pro-democracy forces in Moscow as their model, the crowd seemed to sense that the communist party in Tajikistan would also be forced to dissolve itself. That same evening, in response to the demands of the crowds, the newly elected President of Tajikistan, Aslonov, came out and addressed the crowd. He declared a ban on the Communist party and called for the seizure of all communist controlled property.

The mayor of Dushanbe, Ikrarnov, who accompanied Aslonov to the platform, then gave permission to the demonstrators to pull the statue of Lenin down. Early the next morning, with the help of a crane, the statue came crashing down, its symbolically hollow head shattering upon impact. The crowd celebrated their new sense of liberation on the square, which was appropriately renamed “Muhammad-I-Asadi” (Liberty Square).

On Monday Sept. 23 an emergency session of the pro-communist Parliament was held, and the hard-line communists pulled off a parliamentary coup. Aslonov was voted out of power and an old hard-line communist from the Breshnev days, Rahmon Nabiyaev, was elected as the new President of Tajikistan. The Parliament also called for the arrest of President Aisanov and Mayor Ikrarnov while declaring a state of emergency and martial law.

The communists then staged a large counter-rally in front of the president’s building and the president, in a picture of Lenin was hung in its place. Many Russians, a high percentage of women and university students in general were seen to join in the pro-communist demonstration. When I asked the young people why they were supporting the communists rather than the pro-democracy and Islamic groups most answered by expressing their fears about the possibility of Tajikistan turning into another Islamic state like the one in Iran.

Just two blocks away an anti-communist rally was also being held and I felt the tension mounting between the two crowds as only a small barricade separated the two agitated masses. Overhead helicopter gunfire buzzed the crowd surveying the situation, but they held their fire. The army refused to intervene and the Parliament’s vote, and there was no violence seen.

At one point, however, I was questioned by security people about video taping the anti-communist demonstration. When I showed them my American passport they brought it to the main speaker who then waved it in the air to the crowd and shouted that the Americans had come to help. They must have thought I was with CNN, because the whole crowd jumped to their feet and cried “Azadi, Azadi” (freedom, freedom).

The pro-communist demonstrators left late in the afternoon and the anti-communist demonstrators moved into the abandoned Liberty Square. The demonstrators vowed to remain there until elections were held, and reinforcements and tents were brought in by the crowd. I left before the stalemate was resolved, but I learned later that the government did make a number of concessions to the crowd and that elections were held in November. President Nabiyaev was re-elected, but I cannot help but think that the seeds of democracy have been sown in Tajikistan as a result of the demonstrations.

NEWS FROM ALMA-ATA

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, was also in Central Asia during the month of September, 1991. In Alma-Ata, she discussed with the President of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences a program of cooperation which will allow students of Kazakhstan to improve their knowledge of the language and engage in research while living in Alma-Ata. She also met with the President of the Kazakhstan State University (now Al-Farabi University), Alma-Ata, had discussions with a number of Kazakh writers, scholars, journalists and high government officials. Kazakh newspapers favorably commented on the Department’s program and the establishment of the Alatau Society. They also carried lengthy interview articles on Professor Cirtautas during her stay in Alma-Ata.

International Association for the Promotion of Kazakh Studies

Students from Columbia, Harvard, Philadelphia, Berkeley, and the UW who participated in last summer’s intensive Kazakh program at the UW founded a Society for the study of Kazakh culture. The name chosen for the society is “Alatau” which is a mountain range venerated by both Kazakhs and Kirghiz.

The purpose of the Alatau Society is (1) to promote research on Kazakh culture; (2) to disseminate information about the Kazakhs; (3) to promote international cooperation in Kazakh studies; (4) to initiate and support translation of Kazakh literary materials into English and other Western languages; (5) to support scholarly exchanges; and (6) to establish a Kazakh studies informational data bank. For information please contact Alatau Society, National Headquarters, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington, Jo Ann Conrad, Treasurer/Secretary, Alatau Society, 533 San Luis Road, Berkeley, CA 94704, Tel: (415) 524-3033.
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

The Department's Central Asian Language and Culture Program was significantly expanded during the 1991 Summer Session. In addition to the annual Summer Uzbek language program (first and second year), intensive first year Kazakh and Tajik were taught with the assistance of a number of native speakers. The Program enjoyed the participation of notable writer, poets and scholars from the Central Asian republics: Pirimqul Qidirov, historian, writer and member of the Uzbek Parliament; Shukrullo Yusupov, an Uzbek poet who also serves as an adviser to the President of Uzbekistan, Isom Karimov; Rahmanqul Berdibaev, Kazakh scholar, writer and environmentalist from Alma Ata; and Bozor Sobir, a famous poet and a leading opposition figure in the Tajik Parliament. The Tajik course was taught by the well-known Iranist, Leonard Hertzenberg, from the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.

It was especially significant that the Department hosted such a wide range of Central Asian scholars and political figures during the historical events that occurred last August in the former Soviet Union. Those who took part in the Summer Program were able to gain great insights into the attitudes of the participating Central Asian intellectuals toward the breakup of the Union. As participants followed the latest news reports expectations of shock, fear, apprehension, and joy were seen on their faces as the events moved quickly from moments of uncertainty to a jubilant climax. Still, the repercussions of the August coup and what it would mean for Central Asia seemed to weigh heavily on them as they headed back to their home republics.

The Summer Program was partially funded by the Joint Committee on Soviet Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. Fellowships, made possible through the Committee, were available for most of the students who studied Uzbek, Kazakh, and Tajik this past summer. There were a total of 46 students from a number of colleges and universities throughout the U.S. who joined us for the Program. There were also 39 students involved in the intensive first year Arabic and Hebrew courses.

The following poem, written by Bozor Sobir, was translated collectively by the first year Tajik class. This poem has served as a rallying cry in the recent democratic movement in Tajikistan.

THE MOTHER TONGUE
by Bozor Sobir

O Tajik People!
O People of Grief!
Tears in their eyes like orphans,
anger on their lips like caprices.

Everything they had and even didn't have,
from their homeland to their dreams,
has been given up to land-grabbers and grave-robbers.

Our impoverished enemies have become rich by our wealth,
while we ourselves have become destitute.

Our uneducated enemies have stolen the works of Avicenna.
Our cultureless enemies have pillaged the poetry of Rumi.
Our art mongering enemies have pillaged the art of Bezoek.

Our homeless enemies have established themselves in the house of the Tajiks.

The Tajiks have given up the club of Rastom and Sarah,
they made mighty their feeble faces.

Their mother tongue like the name of their own mother,
truly it remained on their tongues and in their mouths.

Every Tajik word gained strength from the mothers’ milk,
and penetrated to the depth of the home.

As outcasts, as strangers,
in a forgotten corner of the earth, they went alone.

The waterfall learned from their tears,
the wind and rain learned from their words.

To the rivers they taught Radakhi,
to the winds they taught Avaru.

As a wounded animal licks its wounds, again and again,
the Tajiks with their own “tongue” healed their wounds.

In determining borders of the world,
The Tajik language is the boundary of its people.
The Tajik language is the line of the limit.

That is the language, he has a homeland,
as long as one has a “tongue”, he has a homeland.
And to have a language is to be a great people.

Washington University, Bellingham: "Rahmanqul Berdibaev and Current Issues in Kazakhstan."

July 18, 1991 Professor Leonard Hertzenberg, Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg; "Tajikistan: Past and Present."

July 22, 1991 Talant Mawkhunov, from Urumchi; spoke on "The Kazakhs in Xinjiang."

July 23, 1991 Rahmanqul Berdibaev, Director of the Folklore Department, Institute of Literature, Kazakh Academy of Sciences: "The Art of the Kazakhstani (Oral Poet)."

OTHER SUMMER 1991 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

July 11, 1991 Panel Discussion: "Comparative Issues of Ethnic Sovereignty Versus the State." The participants from Russia and Central Asia included: Shukrullo Pirimqul Qidirov, Leonard Hertzenberg, and from the U.S.: Linda Jones, Manager of Health & Human Services for the Tulalip Tribe; Charles Hale, Anthropology, University of California, Davis (speaking on Latin America). The panel discussion was moderated by Russel Barsh, American Indian Studies, UW.

July 15, 1991 Paul Buell, Western Washington University, Bellingham: "Rahmanqul Berdibaev and Current Issues in Kazakhstan."

July 24, 1991 Rahmanqul Berdibaev, Director of the Folklore Department, Institute of Literature, Kazakh Academy of Sciences: "The Kazakh Literary Language: Stages in its Development."

July 27, 1991 Summer School Party. Besides the tasty Central Asian cuisine which was served at the party, participants were treated to the love poetry of the Tajik poet Bozor Sobir and Kazakh melodies played on the Dombira by Rahmanqul Berdibaev.


Dancer Emiko Nakamura

Emiko Nakamura

Washington University, Bellingham: "Rahmanqul Berdibaev and Current Issues in Kazakhstan."

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COLLEGE SEMINAR SERIES

In the Fall of 1990 the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization began a series of public lectures on "East and West in Modern Near Eastern Literatures: Tradition and Innovation." The series was devoted to examining the topic in Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, and Central Asian literatures over a period of five consecutive quarters.

Autumn Quarter 1990: Arabic Literature

Professor Muhammad Siddiq (University of California at Berkeley) spoke on "Self and Other in the Arabic Novel: The Dynamics of Cultural Encounter." This was followed by a lecture by Professor Terri DeYoung (Yale University) entitled: "Tradition and Innovation in Adunis' 'The Falcon of Quraish." Professors Nawal Al-Saadawi and Douglas Holbrook (New York University) gave the final lecture on "Women and Religions: Nawal Al-Saadawi." January 23, 1991.

Winter Quarter 1991: Turkish Literature

Professor James Stewart-Robinson (University of Michigan) spoke on "Unsung in the West: Namik Kemal and the Remaking of Turkish Literature." This was followed by a lecture given by Professor Victora Holbrook (Ohio State University) on "Post-Modernism and the Turkish Novel." Professor Talat Halman (New York University) gave the final lecture on "East and West: Best: Searches for Identity in Turkish Literature." February 14, 1991.

Spring Quarter 1991: Persian Literature

Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi (Illinois State University) addressed the issue of "Women of the West Imagined: The European Other in 19th-Century Persian Literature." His lecture was followed by one of Iran's foremost fiction writers, Mahmud Dowlatabadi who presented a lecture "East and West in Modern Persian Literature: A Writer's Perspective." Professor Micheal Beard (University of North Dakota) spoke on "The Middle Eastern Novel in Western Pedagogy" and Professor Jerome W. Clinton (Princeton) presented the last lecture in this series entitled "The Changing Archetypes of Modern Persian Literature." Summer 1991: Central Asian Literature

The Central Asian Language Summer Institute continued the Department's 1990-1991 College Seminar Series with "East and West in Modern Central Asian Literatures & Art: Tradition and Innovation." A number of celebrities from Central Asia participated in the series. The Uzbek poet Shukurullo spoke on: "East and West in Modern Uzbek Poetry: A Poet's Perspective." Pirimqul Qodirov, historian and writer from Uzbekistan, discussed "East and West in Modern Uzbek Prose." and Shamina Shuhmadjumonov, an artist who is devoted to the revival of the ancient art of miniature paintings in Uzbekistan, talked on the same theme from "An Artist's Perspective." Bozor Sobir addressed the issue of "East and West in Modern Tajik Literature: A Poet's Perspective." and Rahmanqul Berdibaev delivered a lecture on "East and West in Modern Kazakh Literature." Autumn Quarter 1991: Hebrew Literature

The Hebrew Literature Series featured presentations by Professor James Diamond (Washington University), on "The Canaanite Movement in Israeli Culture:" Professor Dan Miron (Columbia University) and Hebrew University of Jerusalem) lectured on "The Prophetic Mode in Bialik's Poetry" and Professor Yael Feldman (New York University) addressed the topic: "Ideology and Self Representation: Othering the Self in Contemporary Israeli Fiction." The Department is most grateful for the support it received in presenting the lecture series. Funds were made available by the Dean's Office, Arts and Sciences; the Institute of Turkish Studies, Washington D.C.; the Association of Iranian Studies, Washington D.C.; the Social Sciences Research Council, New York; the Center for Humanities, UW and the Jewish Studies Program, UW. Support was also received from the Maurice and Lois Schwartz Endowment Fund.

ARABIC CIRCLE

Protests of 1887 and 1989 in Tibet.’’

March 12, 1992 Dru Gladney, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Southern California, spoke on “Sadam Hussein in China: Muslims & China’s Middle Eastern Relations after the Gulf War.”

Upcoming Events

April 25, 1992 Third Annual Nicholas Poppe Student Symposium on Inner Asian Studies.

Turkish Circle

Jan. 19, 1991 Turkish dinner and musical performance in honor of Professor James Stewart-Robinson, University of Michigan.


Feb. 9, 1991 Turkish dinner and musical performance in honor of Professor Ilse Peirce, New York University.

April 5, 1991 Thomas Goltz, Political Science, Montana University and Crane Rogers Fellow for Central Asia 1991-93; “Turkey and the Kurds and Recent Developments.”

April 10, 1991 Robert Wright, graduate student at the School of Architecture, UW: “Turkish Architecture.”


Jan. 9, 1992 Dr. Leslie Peirce, Cornell University, specialist in Ottoman and Turkish History, spoke on “The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire.”

Uzbek Circle

Jan. 11, 1991 Ibrat Usmonov and Rawshen Dalimov, exchange students form Tashkent State University: “Uzbekistan Today.”


March 8, 1991 Oydin Nurobo, Uzbek actress, and her husband, Professor Azim Turdiev, Director of the Biochemistry Institute, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Tashkent.

The central topic of the Uzbek Circle’s Autumn 1991 and Winter 1992 programs were the changes and developments in Uzbekistan. The following is a listing of some of the presentations:

April 12, 1991 Professor Ilse Cirtautas: “Alisher Navai’s and his Time: An Introduction to the Study of Navai’s.”

April 26, 1991 Abalhat Ibrahim, graduate student in Asian Language & Literature: “Alisher Navai’s in Uighur Life and Literature.”


Central Asian Miniature Paintings

In the Spring Quarter 1991 the Uzbek Circle devoted presentations and lectures to the poet, statesman, and scholar, Alisher Nava’i, in connection with his 550th anniversary. Here are the highlights of the lecture series:

Oct. 11, 1991 Professor Ilse Cirtautas spoke on “Assisting the Truth: Topics and Discussions in Uzbek Media.”

Oct. 18, 1991 “Recent Developments in Uzbekistan.” Discussants: Exchange students from Tashkent State University and UW exchange students Anthony Quilan and Alan Fahnstock.


Ibrat Usmonov and Rawshen Dalimov, exchange students form Tashkent State University: “Uzbekistan Today.”

Ilse Cirtautas.

Nov. 8, 1991 “Comments and Explanations of Developments in Uzbekistan.” Discussants: Bahodir Huseinov and Alimjon Qoshmuradov, exchange students from Tashkent.

Nov. 22, 1991 Round table discussion of recent Uzbek publications: Works by and on Writers Purged by Stalin (Cholpan, Fitzar, Qodiriy).”


Jan. 24, 1992 Professor Ilse Cirtautas: “Recent Uzbek Publications on Abdullah Qodiriy.”

Jan. 31, 1992 Jonathon Dunn, graduate student, Department of Economics: “Tashkent & Moscow: Recent Impressions.”

Feb. 6, 1992 John O’Farrell: “Recent Developments in Uzbekistan.”

Feb. 14, 1992 Nurali Boltayev, a graduate student at the Polytechnical Institute and a newly arrived guest from Tashkent, discussed the “Economic & Political Situation in Tashkent.”


Feb. 24, 1992. Professor Daniel Waugh, Russian and East European Program, and Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, presented a co-lecture on “Post-Coup Politics in Uzbekistan; Two Interpretations.”


March 13, 1992 Anthony Quilan, graduate student in Slavic Languages & Literature: “Russian Language Writers of Uzbekistan.”

SUMMER 1992 LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The Western Consortium of Middle Eastern Study Centers in cooperation with our Department will offer the following intensive language courses this Summer, June 22 - August 21, 1992: elementary, intermediate and spoken Arabic, intermediate and advanced Persian, intermediate and advanced Turkish, and elementary Georgian.

In addition to these courses our Department will sponsor its Second Summer Central Asian Languages and Culture Program. Intensive language courses will be offered in elementary, intermediate and advanced.levels in Uzbek, Kazakh, Tajik, and Kyrgyz, and possibly advanced Arabic, intermediate and advanced Persian. Students participating in the program may continue their language studies in Central Asia: individual study programs have been arranged with the University of Tashkent, the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences and the Tajik Academy of Sciences. Fellowships will be available through our Department for the Central Asian Summer Program and those who are interested should contact: Ilse D. Cirtautas, Chair, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization.