

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

NEWSLETTER

No. 21

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 1994

Istanbul Exhibit at Union



Professors Manners and Marcus at Opening

Istanbul: Portrait of a City," an exhibit designed for a general audience, had its opening reception at the Art Gallery of the Texas Union on October 4 and will continue through October 27. The Exhibit was presented by the Center in collaboration with the Department of International Relations at Marmara University, Istanbul, and the Texas Humanities Resource Center.

The Exhibit was designed to capture aspects of Istanbul's past, its daily life, and its prominence in respect to the wider geographical region. It draws on a range of materials including color and black and white photography, manuscript illuminations, maps, engravings, and documents, to depict the city through the centuries and to provide a sense of the city's vitality today. The Exhibit begins with the ancient origins of the settlement and the development and importance of Constantinople as the capital of the Byzantine Empire (330-1453). Its main focus, however, is on the subsequent period in the city's history, when it

figured as the capital of the Ottoman Empire (1453-1923) and after that as the leading urban center in the newly-formed Republic of Turkey. Of special interest and aesthetic appeal are the nineteenth-century black and white photographs of people and architecture in Istanbul.

Professors Ian Manners (Geography) and Abraham Marcus (History) conceived and developed the program with the assistance of Dr. Ayhan Aktar of Marmara University. Major financial support was provided by the College of Liberal Arts, the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Center. Matching support was provided



by the Texas Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

During November, the exhibit will travel to Arizona to be presented at the annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association on November 19-21. After that showing, the Exhibit will be available for rental, from the Texas Humanities Resource Center in Austin, to museums, libraries, colleges, and centers nationwide.

Manners and Marcus are organizing a conference, "Istanbul: the Making of a City," that will explore the present and the diverse history of the city.

Middle East Network Information Center

Are you looking for information on and from the Middle East? Do you want to search the Quran, read the May 4 PLO-Israel Agreement or download a copy of the U.S. State Department Report on Human Rights in Iraq and Syria? Do you want to read the latest Usenet articles on the Middle East? Do you want to view and download maps of Israel, Turkey and other countries in the Middle East? For all of these information needs and others, the Middle East Network Information Center (UT-MENIC) can help you.

UT-MENIC, established and maintained by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, provides University of Texas users as well as researchers and educators around the world with access to academic databases and information services about the Middle East. UT-MENIC includes databases

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From the Director

As I write these words I am preparing to go to Houston for back surgery. Prognosis suggests a five-to-six week recovery period. In my absence, Mohammad Ghanoonparvar will direct the Center. I have complete confidence in his administrative abilities and I am sure all Center related staff, faculty and students will cooperate fully with Moh, as you have with me in the past.

The Center has moved from the 15th floor of the Dobie Center to temporary quarters in building WT2. The move was precipitated by a proposed huge increase in rent for the space the Center occupied in the Dobie Center. The Center agreed to this move to save the University funds in these difficult budget times. We are still scheduled to move again this year to a permanent location in the West Mall Building. That move, which will take us back to the center of the campus, is scheduled for the first week in January, 1995. If you have not done so, please stop by the new location of the Center at WT2.

I am pleased to announce that the Center has again received a three-year cycle Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In this new cycle DOE requests that we submit two budgets in the fall, 1994, for the next two years of funding; that is for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 academic years. This is a new procedure and it has some advantages and disadvantages for faculty and students in the Center; most important I believe is that faculty can plan a two-year sequence of course development and that should greatly increase their ability to add innovations to existing courses and plan for new courses.

An organizational change in the Department of Oriental and African Languages was put in place over the summer, 1994. The language faculty who teach south- and east-Asian languages joined the Center for Asian Studies to form a new Department of Asian Studies. The Middle East language faculty in the former Department of Oriental and African Lan-

guages elected to form a new department of Middle East Languages and Cultures. Dr. Peter Abboud, Professor of Arabic, was nominated as chair of this new department. This new department will also move to the West Mall Building in January, so for the first time, both the Center and Middle East Language faculty will be housed in the same building. This should offer the advantage of better communication and interaction between the Center and the languages faculty. The Center extends best wishes to the new department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures with the hope that the Department will grow and flourish in the years ahead.

In cooperation with the University of Illinois, the Center organized a 1994 summer program in Istanbul, Turkey. All reports indicate this program, headquartered at Boğaziçi University, was a great success. We plan to offer that program again in the summer, 1995. Representatives from the University of Illinois Study Abroad Program were in Austin in late September to discuss plans for next summer's program. The Center also tentatively plans summer programs in Israel and Morocco.

CMES looks forward to the coming academic year. We have the major Istanbul exhibit opening in the fall semester, to be followed in the spring by a conference on Istanbul. This exhibit and conference were planned and arranged by Ian Manners and Abraham Marcus. After being on display on campus, the exhibit will be shown at MESA and then travel throughout the country.

In December, Ghanoonparvar will host a conference on translating Middle Eastern literatures, and in the spring, 1995, the four area centers on the campus plan a conference on Environment and Economy. So, it should be a busy exciting year and I hope each of you will join us for these activities and many others that will take place over the academic year.

Robert Holz
Director

Gale Lecture Features Dreyfus Affair

The 15th Annual Distinguished Gale Lecturer, Michael Marrus, Professor of the Department of History at the University of Toronto,



spoke on the "The Dreyfus Affair: Myths and Counter Myths" on October 6. From 1894 to 1906, the case of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, the highest ranking Jewish officer of the French Army, was tried and retried in the face of anti-semitic efforts to suppress evidence of Dreyfus' innocence. This centennial year commemorates the beginning of the ordeal, which was protested around the world.

Professor Marrus has written many books on the Jewish community of modern France, including *The Politics of Assimilation: A Study of the French Jewish Community at the Time of the Dreyfus Affair*; *Victory France and the Jews*; *The Unwanted: European Refugees in the 20th Century*; and *The Holocaust in History*, all translated into French and many other languages.

The lecture was organized by Professor Seth Wolitz, holder of the Gale Chair of Jewish Studies. Other sponsors of the event were the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Centers for Middle Eastern Studies and Post-Soviet and East European Studies, the Departments of French and Italian, Germanic Languages, Government, History and Slavic Languages, the Program of Comparative Literature, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, and the Jewish Community Center of Austin.

New Faculty Member



Faeqeh (Fawn) Shiraz-Mahajan has been hired by the Center as a Lecturer to teach courses in Middle Eastern material culture. This fall she is teaching *The Use of Textiles in Middle Eastern Cultures* and *The Cultural Meanings of Hijab (Veiling) in the Middle East*.

Dr. Mahajan received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University in Textiles and Clothing in 1985. Since coming to Austin, she has been a Lecturer for the Department of Human Ecology at the University, and a Research Associate at the Bureau of Business Research of the University and at the Center. Prior to that, she was Program Coordinator and Instructor of Fashion Marketing at Collin County Community College in Plano, Texas for three years. Her research interests are cultural aspects of textiles and clothing, consumer interests in textiles and clothing, and performance and durable qualities of recycled textile fibers. She has published many articles on the political and cultural history of clothing in Iran.

New Film on Peace in Israel

Elizabeth Fernea (Producer), Yaron Shemer (Director), Martha Diase (Associate Producer), and Allison Hodgkins (Production Assistant) spent last summer filming the documentary *Making Peace Work: Israelis and Palestinians* (working title) on the aftermath of the Israeli/Palestinian peace accord signed last year. This 90-minute documentary explores changes in day-to-day life in

the areas of the economy, environment, art and health. The documentary was shot in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. The project, to be edited and completed by February of 1995, is supported by grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation. A handbook will accompany the film.

Translation Conference Scheduled for December

Center Associate Director M.R. Ghanoonparvar is organizing a conference on translating literature from the four main Middle Eastern languages—Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. To be held on December 9–10 in the Dean's Conference Room of the Old Music Building, the conference is sponsored by the Center and the Iranian Studies Endowment.

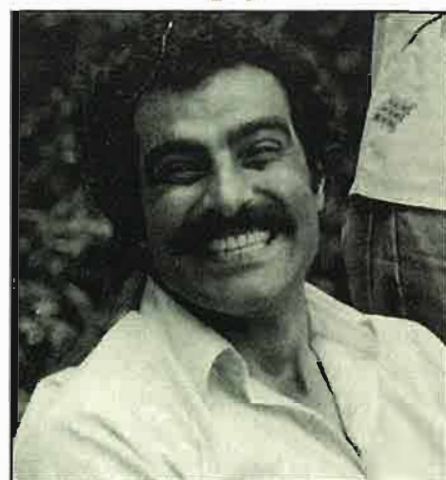
Invited participants include Michael Beard from the University of North Dakota, Donné Raffat from San Diego State University, James Stuart Robinson from the University of Michigan, and Adnan Haydar from the University of Arkansas. For further information, contact the Center at (512) 471-3881.

ARCE News

The American Research Center in Egypt will officially open its new offices on November 11 and 12. The offices include the William Kelly and Marilyn M. Simpson Library, an auditorium, the Kershaw Conference Room and four residential rooms that are available for visiting scholars. The old ARCE office is being fashioned into a director's residence.

ARCE has received from the United States Agency of International Development the right to administer the "Egyptian Antiquities Fund Project," a grant of \$15 million for the restoration of Egyptian monuments. The Center wishes ARCE well in this major new research project.

Makram Copty



Faculty, staff, and students were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Makram Copty in Nazareth on September 12. At home with his mother and brother, Makram died in his sleep from an apparent heart attack. He was 46 years old.

Makram received four degrees during the twenty years he spent at the University: a B.A. and an M.A. in Political Science, an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, and a Ph.D. in Education. He more than returned the knowledge he received by the breadth of experience he shared with the many Austinites who knew and loved him. Makram contributed other skills as he earned his way by house painting and carpentry, helping many students in communal efforts; he designed gardens for friends; and later as a graduate student taught Arabic language and literature and Political Science for the University and ACC.

Makram studied closely the systems of government and education in this country. He planned to take the best parts back to his culture, but he also traded with us his enormous knowledge of and tolerance for his own history and the frictions between his culture and ours. As well as the many sessions of intellectual conversation Makram was known for at Les Amis and other spots, he was a patient and enthusiastic lecturer at schools, churches, and community groups around the city.

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In 1992, Makram went back to his homeland as Acting Director of the Galilee Center for Social Research. He returned to America twice for visits, trying to make up his mind where to live between the two cultures he knew so well. Many of us, who expected Makram to visit again and who find it hard to believe that he is dead, will continue to expect to hear that deep and profound voice once again around some corner here in Austin.

Memorial services were held for Makram in Austin at the Student Union, St. Elias Church, and Pease Park.

Video Scenes for Hebrew Classes

Esther Raizen and Yaron Shemer have just completed making seven short video scenes filmed in Israel. They also brought back a set of slides, which are now stored on CD and may be used on-screen. This project was completed with the aid of a grant from the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. Both video scenes and slides will be used in the course of Hebrew instruction at UT during the fall and spring semesters. Shemer and Raizen are now testing last year's pilot project in the classroom. The project consists of three Hebrew video scenes filmed in Austin (now available on both video-cassettes and CD); computer programs aimed at enhancing vocabulary, teaching grammar and introducing students to the use of a Hebrew dictionary; and a workbook that ties all the components together and provides written practice. The plan is to use the materials and techniques acquired in the course of the pilot as the basis for a fully developed Hebrew instruction program grounded in proficiency guidelines and performance goals as defined by Hebrew faculty at UT.

Lecturers

The Center continues to hold its Colloquium Lecture Series every other Wednesday at 3:30. This semester the lectures are being held at UNI 118.

Linda Boxberger, Ph.D. candidate in History, opened the Colloquium Series on September 14 with a presentation of slides taken in connection with her year of research in Yemen. Her talk was entitled "Making History in Hadramawt." Michael Hillman (Persian Language and Literature) spoke on "The Satanic Verses and the Sociology of World Literature" on October 5. Harold Liebowitz (Hebrew Studies) is speaking October 19 on "Recent Excavations at Khirbet Beit Gan." He is presenting a slide-illustrated lecture on the results of the 1992 and 1994 work at that site in the Lower Galilee and the implications of this work for a reconstruction of daily life and history of the region from the

late Bronze Age to the Mamluk Period. David Eaton (LBJ School) will speak on November 16 on "Joint Management of Ground Water by Palestinians and Israelis."

In a separate lecture, Abdesslem Mechkouri will speak on "Internal Migration Movements and the Urbanization Process in Morocco in the Twentieth Century" at 3:00 on October 31 in UNI 118. A Geography Professor from Moulay Ismail University in Morocco, Dr. Mechkouri will be here to take part in a working group meeting on International Migration and Human Rights sponsored by Mexican American Studies.

Ehsan Naraghi, Professor of Sociology and Consultant to UNESCO in Paris, will speak on November 2 at UTC 1.130 at 3:00. He will deliver a socio-political analysis of the Islamic Revolution of Iran entitled "A Political Prisoner's View of the Iranian Revolution."

Elizabeth Fernea Receives Honorary LL.D.



Elizabeth Fernea, professor of English and Middle Eastern Studies, received an honorary degree in April from the State University of New York. The honorary LL.D. was awarded for "distinguished writing and film-making which have promoted understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and the United States."

Ferneas has been a distinguished visiting professor and a consultant at

the State University of New York in Plattsburgh. In honoring Fernea with the honorary degree, SUNY Plattsburgh officials said that Fernea's work, including the documentary film *Struggle for Peace: Israelis and Palestinians*, has shown Americans both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict and has encouraged all parties to pursue peaceful resolutions.

Faculty and Staff News

Elizabeth Bouri (CMES) will be chair and presenter at a special session at the Middle Eastern Studies Association in November. The title of the session will be "Integrating Telecomputing into Middle Eastern Studies." She had published "Public Libraries' Development Reconsidered: The Case of Egypt" in *The International Information and Libraries Review*.

Karl Butzer (Anthropology) had published "The Islamic Traditions of Agroecology: Cross-cultural Experience, Ideas, and Innovation" by *ECUMENE: a Journal of Environment, Culture, Meaning* 1 (1994) 7-50. He gave a plenary address, "People and the Land: Ecology in the Long View," to the Society for American Archaeology in April.

M.R. Ghanoonparvar (CMES & Persian Language and Literature) traveled to India and Iran during May and June. He worked to establish links between the University Persian Program and the various programs in India, particularly at Jawahar Lal Nehru University. He presented lectures at the University of Tehran and at the KELK Cultural and Literary Institute. He has contributed during the year "Parvin B'tesami's Utopia" to *Once Upon a Time a Lily* (Mazda, 1994); "Dampokht(ak), Dami" to *Encyclopedia Iranica* (1993); "Beyond the Textbook: On Teaching Persian and the Utilization of Cultural Resources" to *Persian Studies in North America: Studies in Honor of Mohammad Ali Jazayery* (Iranbooks, 1993); "Asakesh" to *Iranshenasi* 5, no. 3; "Chand Tasvir az Zanan dar Dastan-haye Sadeq Chubak" to *Iranshenasi* 5, no. 2; "Moruri bar Chand Film-e Sinema'ie Tablighi dar Doreh-ye Jang-e Iran va Iraq" to *Mehregan* 2, no. 3 and the translation "Haj Berekallah" by Mi-han Bahrami to *A Tree on Messigh's Grave and Other Stories from Iran* (Heinemann Educational Books, 1993). Last spring, Ghanoonparvar presented papers on "Iranian Fictional Reconstructions of the West," "Images of the Middle East," and "Persian History in Literature" at the Global Studies Seminars at

Denison University; and "Continuity and Change in the Images of the West in Iranian Fiction" and "Iranian Women Writers and Poets" at Ohio Wesleyan University. He was Organizer, Chair and Discussant of "Women and Literature: A Critique of Reality," at the Annual Conference of the Center for Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East" at Hamline University.

Clement Henry (Political Science) had a second edition of *Images of Development: Egyptian Experiences in Search of Industry* published by the American University in Cairo Press, with an epilogue on the Islamization of the profession. He presented a paper and chaired a panel on the "Political Economy of Inclusion and Exclusion" for the Middle East Conference group at the American Political Science Association meeting in New York in September.

Deborah Littrell (CMES) was elected President of the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC), an affiliated organization of MESA. Her term will last until MESA's annual meeting in 1995.

Gail Minault (History) was elected Secretary of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. She had published an article, "Other Voices, Other Norms: the Views from the Zenana," in Nita Kumar, ed., *Women as Subjects* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 1994). She is on leave with an NEH Fellowship for this year to do research on "The Delhi Renaissance: An Intellectual History of the Moghal Imperial City, 1827-1857."

Esther Raizen (Hebrew Studies) was a recipient of the 1994 Eyes of Texas Excellence Award. *Hyperdvisor*, the computerized advising program developed by Raizen, is now installed on all Macintosh servers at the Student Microcomputer Facility, where it may be accessed via Classware. The program will be re-written in HTML, a language that will make it accessible to users of both Macintosh and PCs through the Internet. The project was supported by a grant from the Dean of Liberal Arts.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art History) was named a member of the Centro Internazionale Ricerche Archeologiche, Antropologiche e Storiche in Rome. She presented her paper "Art, Writing and Narrative in Mesopotamia" at the Theorizing the Past: Art and Narrative Symposium held at Duke University in March, and had the paper included in the proceedings published as *Theorizing the Past: Art and Narrative*, ed. Dorie Reents-Budet. Schmandt-Besserat received a two-month fellowship from the American Center for Oriental Research/USIA.

Abazar Sepehri (Middle East Librarian), as a follow-up to acquisition of Turkish and Azerbaijani periodicals under the U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Periodical Program grant, travelled to Turkey and Azerbaijan in June to complete the acquisition phase of the project. He has recently published *An Azerbaijani Reader in the New Alphabet*, which contains a large section of grammar, conversational material and readings with exercises.

Denise Spellberg (History) will have her book, *Politics, Gender, and the Islamic Past: the Legacy of Aisha bint Abi bakr*, published by Columbia Press this fall.

Project Quest

Bob Holz, Ian Manners, Esther Raizen and Diane Watts received a grant from Project QUEST, which includes a PowerMac 7100 and supporting equipment, obtained under the Apple Academic Partnership Program. Center artist Watts will transfer the Center's substantial slide collection to a CD-Rom to be used to develop a set of multi-media instructional units representing the Middle East and North Africa. These units will be offered to the academic community and to institutions within the general community for evaluation and later for use at various levels of instruction.

Robert Fernea Receives CMES Award



For the second year in a row, Center Director Robert Holz presented an award to an outstanding faculty member for years of service to the Center. This year's recipient was Professor of Anthropology and former Director of the Center Robert Fernea. Professor Fernea was given a world atlas and a grant to attend the MESA Conference.

Ferne received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and taught at the American University in Cairo and the University of Alexandria in Egypt before coming to Texas. He was Director of the Center from 1966-1973. Among many other innovations he pursued during his directorship of the Center, Fernea secured funds for and started the Center's Publications

Program, which has since published 43 books in its three series. Over the years, Fernea has been president of the Society for Cultural Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association, member of the Ethics Committee of the American Anthropological Association, President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, and a member of UNESCO-Egyptian Joint Mission for Museum Planning.

Author of numerous publications, his books include *The Arab World: Personal Encounters*, co-written with Elizabeth Fernea, which won the Carr P. Collins Award for 1985 Best Non-fiction Book from the Texas Institute of Letters.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

This summer the Outreach Program completed work on a three-year project to develop an Arabic exploratory language unit for the middle school grades. Titled *Adventures With Arabic: An Exploratory Language Unit*, this unit provides an introduction to the Arabic language through history, language and culture. The goal of the unit is to interest more students in studying Arabic on the secondary school and college levels. The unit was conceived in response to the U.S. Department of Education's initiative to promote the study of the critical but less commonly taught world languages. The unit consists of a notebook with lesson plans for a

nine-week unit. Each lesson is complete with student worksheets and teacher answer keys so that the unit may be used by a teacher who does not know Arabic. All speaking practice is done with an audio tape recorded by native speakers. A variety of other audiovisual items also accompany the unit. The unit sells for \$110 and is available from the Center.

This summer, the Outreach Program held a workshop for secondary-school, social-studies teachers. Titled "The United States and the Middle East: Intersections in History—Economic Interdependence," the workshop was part of a beginning effort on

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the part of the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) members to collaborate on projects whose result will be a product with national distribution. This two-year project to explore the intersections between United States and Middle Eastern history involves several outreach programs around the country. Each program holds a summer workshop or institute to explore one aspect of the theme. Master teachers in each region then write lesson plans on that topic. The lesson plans will be edited and combined with necessary background information by university faculty. The result will be a book which explores the theme for teachers with a number of lesson plans they can adapt for their classroom. This project was funded by the Middle East Institute.

New Department of Languages



Professor Abboud

Pending approval by the Board of Regents, a Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures is being formed. Peter Abboud, Professor of Arabic, was appointed as the person in charge of this new Department, which will offer courses in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish.

The Department will offer a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian. A B.A. degree will be offered in Turkish. In addition, there are degrees in Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures.

The Department is now housed in Building UNI on University and 26th Street, and will move in January to the West Mall Office Building.

The Summer Program at Boğaziçi University



American Students in Turkey with Program Coordinator

In the summer of 1994 ten students from North American universities participated in a six-week summer program at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey. The program was organized by The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Students in the program selected three courses for nine hours of graduate or undergraduate credit. For those who had not completed at least one year of Turkish, enrollment in "Turkish Culture and Language" was required. Students in this class, taught by Yilderay Erdener (University of Texas), acquired survival language skills and the ability to function sensitively and effectively in Turkish culture. Three other courses were offered by Boğaziçi faculty. Aptullah Kuran's course "The History of Istanbul" provided an overview of the history of the city through a series of lectures by experts from Boğaziçi. In "Turkey and Her Neighbors," offered by Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, students were introduced to the challenging internal and external issues Turkey is facing today. Turkey's role in the global economic system was examined in Deniz Erden's course, "International Business Profile of Turkey."

Except for "Turkish Culture and Language," all courses were taught in English. Each class met one hour per day, five days per week. On Satur-

days and Sundays, students were given site-seeing tours and field excursions to various historical sites of Istanbul.

Participants in this program learned about and experienced Turkish culture firsthand. Some students had the opportunity to attend several cultural events scheduled as part of the Istanbul International Festival. After the program ended, students traveled to various parts of Turkey (Ephesus, Pergamon, Cappadocia, etc.) and experienced the diversity of landscapes and peoples. One student was quoted as saying about her trip: "By far the most striking and far reaching impression that I have gotten from the Turks is their generous hospitality and eagerness to make me feel welcome in their country. As a first-time foreign traveler this was all the more endearing..."

At the end of the program, participants were asked to evaluate the course. Dr. Erdener said that all students responded positively to the question of whether they would recommend this program to other students.

The program will be offered again next summer on June 23 to August 4. Dr. Erdener will again be the academic director of the program. The on-site coordinator is Aysan Darcan of Boğaziçi University. For additional information, call Dr. Ivy McQuiddy at the Study Abroad Office, (512)471-6490.

Visitors

The Center continues to have a number of Visiting Scholars in residence on campus, as well as temporary visitors from abroad. During the summer, Visiting Scholars were Manochehr Dorraj (Political Science) from Texas Christian University, Abbas Manafy (Political Science) from New Mexico Highlands University, and Majid Yazdi (Political Science) from East Texas State University. During this academic year, proposed Visiting Scholars include Abolhassan Faghihi (Public Administration) from Allameh Tabatabaee University, Issam Khoury (Economics) from Damascus University, and Fahad H. al Mekrad (Political Science) from Kuwait University.

In June, Dr. Abdellatif Chadli, President of Moulay Ismail University in Morocco, visited the Center for five days. He met the President of the University and other officials and visited some classes.

Also in June, the International Office arranged for three Moroccan journalists to visit the Center. The journalists were part of a program designed to explore the role of the media in the Middle East peace process as well as key foreign policy groups and the influence public opinion has in such decisions. The journalists were Mohammed El-Mouadden from the National Radio and TV Network, Said Fatmi from *L'Opinion*, and Mohamed Khairat from *Al Ittihad Al Ishtiraki*.



Student News

Andrew Clarno did an internship over the summer with the American University in Washington, D.C. He worked under Professor Michael Nojem, and completed a research project at the Palestine Human Rights Information Center which was entitled "Analysis of U.S. Policy towards Jerusalem."

Amir-Mohsen Mirabi has been appointed an editorial columnist for the Daily Texan. His articles appear regularly in the Monday issue.

Jessica Lee and Tobbye Adar will be studying this year in Israel, where they will take courses in Hebrew language and Middle Eastern studies.

Debra Sue Smith (Arabic), Stephanie Perin (Hebrew), Caroline West (Turkish) and Zjaleh Hajibashi (Persian) have agreed to serve as peer-advisors for MES undergraduates who are about to embark upon the study of one of the Middle East languages. They will share their experience as students of the respective languages with new students and will advise them on language choices and study plans.

Carol Macha was chosen as a participant in the Presidential Management Internship Program. This federal program places graduates in federal agencies. Carol was placed as an Information Management Analyst with the Department of Defense in Denver, Colorado.

Two students were awarded fellowships from the Institute for Turkish Studies—Caroline West (MES/Public Affairs) for the spring of 1994 and Margaret Lynch (Geography) for the fall of 1994.

The Graduate Students Committee invites all those interested in joining the planning council to call Jennifer O'Connor at 708-1419.

News From the Front

(Allison Hodgkins, CMES and LBJ School of Public Affairs Masters Student) spent the summer in Israel, participating in the research for a film on the peace process and taking Hebrew at Haifa University through a FLAS fellowship. She wrote the following as part of a letter to her family in Maine.)

It is so strange to be back in Haifa, especially after the intense experience of working on the project. Just like returning to Jerusalem, I was struck at how familiar yet how different everything is. The same trends I've been noticing all over Israel are well represented here. Palestinian flags for sale in the market and no more armed soldiers wandering around the bus station. And, true to my expectations, many more pro-peace bumper stickers in Haifa than in Jerusalem. Political sentiments that were heresy five years ago are now the mainstream. I really feel a national shift to the left.

Because of the five-month strike at the University, the Israeli students are still here taking their exams. The strike was over professors' salaries, and the students are all very bitter about having to miss so much and having classes drawn out into the summer. The biggest change I've noticed is in the demographics of the student body; Ethiopians and Russians are everywhere. It's really interesting how differently the Israelis react to these two groups. On several occasions, different students remarked on how "beautiful" the Ethiopians are, while the Russians are often regarded with an element of scorn. Of course, there is no change in which ethnic groups the Israeli students still hold in the highest contempt: those American students who insist on running wild through the dorms.

Haifa has also given in to the national building craze. Manic construction is going on all over. I counted five new apartment complexes. Cranes dot the skyline, however, none as surreal as the one big crane in Jerusalem that arches over the Jaffe Gate. It's really an obsession, for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Everyone is trying to stamp out the message: "I exist! and I exist here!"

It's funny, the one place I didn't see as much of this was the Golan Heights. There, the attitude is different, kind of a nervous holding pattern, no one wanting to make a move. I was up there visiting two old friends. To me, they were really representative of the settlers in the Golan that I've had contact with. Dovish on the peace process in every way except...you can see the pain in their faces when they talk about the negotiations with Syria. They are simply holding their breath, yet not wanting to be too vocal about the outcome. They are so different from the settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. I really saw none of the militancy and the constant flaunting of current policies.



Members of CMES Graduate Student Organization at tea party for Spring 1994 graduates

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from the region itself and also provides a gateway to other information services that may be of interest to our Middle East users. UT-MENIC offers the user quick descriptions of the information services and uses pointers to access the selections automatically. UT-MENIC is also available to host databases developed by third parties for access by users and researchers around the world. The System offers: information about the Center, its faculty, resources, activities; access to information from a variety of databases from Middle East countries, Middle East centers, associations, and networking projects; a directory of Middle East-related databases; quick access to existing databases and information services throughout the world; search tools to help users identify and utilize information available over the Internet; hosting for Middle East databases (we are currently hosting the files of the Arab World And Islamic Resources

and School Services and are ready to receive other databases).

UT-MENIC can be accessed via three interfaces: Gopher, Telnet, and World-Wide Web (WWW) provided you have access to an Internet host.

1. Gopher Client: Gopher Client, a program that retrieves data from anywhere in the world directly to your desktop, needs to be installed on your local computer network and pointed to:

menic.utexas.edu 70

Or if you have access to an Internet host then type:

gopher menic.utexas.edu

2. Telnet Login: Telnet, a program that allows you to open an interactive session with a remote host computer, needs to be installed on your local computer network. Log on to your

computer with an Internet connection (using VT100 terminal emulation) and type:

telnet menic.utexas.edu

login: menic

3. Mosaic Client (WWW): Mosaic Client, an Internet browser and retriever of information on the World Wide Web, needs to be installed on your computer. To access UT-MENIC home page:

-Log on to your local computer system with an Internet access and launch Mosaic Client software.

- Go to file menu and click on OPEN URL... and type:

<http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html>

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail message to: ebouri@menic.utexas.edu

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