

NEWS OF FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

Letter to Editor from Portland State University, February 24, 1982:

Dear Dr. Bacharach:

No appointments, promotions, Ph.D.s or dissertations to report. On the negative side, of which we seem to be a prime example, the results of the proposal submitted to the State Board of Higher Education on November 2, 1981, by President Joseph Blumel (and subsequently approved by the State Board for implementation) may be summarized as follows: while Dr. Blumel's original (September 16th) plan called for the complete elimination of the Middle East Studies Center and all language programs associated with it, the ultimate revision called for:

1) Suspension of instruction in the Persian and Turkish languages — with layoff and/or non-renewal notices issued to all faculty concerned (two full-time, tenured associate professors in Persian and one half-time instructor in Turkish; total loss = 2.50 FTE);

2) Continuation of instructional programs in Arabic and Hebrew, at reduced FTE, with remaining faculty transferred to the Department of Foreign Languages (loss of 1.25 FTE in Arabic, including one full-time, full professor and one part-time instructor, plus reduction of FTE in Hebrew — allocation of remaining FTE among existing part-time people remains to be determined);

3) Elimination of the Middle East Studies Center as an administrative unit, with transfer of the Middle East Studies Certificate Program to the Office of International Education; and elimination of Center directorship (0.50 administrative appointment) and secretarial position associated with the Center operation;

4) Suspension of all "area studies" (i.e., non-language) course offerings funded by the Center.

In short, effective June 1982,

- the Middle East Studies Center will cease to exist;
- a total of two/three faculty members (less than 2.0 FTE total) will move to the Department of Foreign Languages to continue a minimal undergraduate instruction program in Arabic and Hebrew languages;
- the remaining Center-funded language faculty (six/seven — with service records at PSU ranging from 5 to 20 years) will be laid off (or "not renewed" in the case of fixed-term appointments);
- the Center's current Director will be returned to her home department in the Social Sciences (where she heads the layoff list for the next round of cuts in that department).

What will remain is the Certificate Program — still backed by area studies instruction in the Departments of History, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science. Certificate candidates wishing to pursue languages other than Arabic and Hebrew will be encouraged to take advantage of intensive language programs at other institutions during summer sessions.

And, then, there is the good news: the MESC's "Swan Song" will be a Wagnerian opera — the "Middle East Mosaic" planned for Summer Session 1982, with the usual range of language and area studies courses—with faculty from PSU, the University of Utah, and

others participating.

Sincerely — M. Ann Bennett, Director
M.E. Studies Center, Portland State University

Ph.D. Dissertations Completed

- Lisa S. Anderson: States, Peasants and Tribes: Colonialism and Rural Politics in Tunisia and Libya.
[Columbia U]
- Naomi J. Williams: Intervention by Syria in the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-1976.
[Columbia U]
- Philip Mattar: The Mufti of Jerusalem: Muhammad Amin al-Husayni, a Founder of Palestinian Nationalism.
[Columbia U]
- Lawrence Conrad: The Plague in the Early Medieval Near East.
[Princeton U]
- Martin Kramer: The Congress in Modern Islam: On the Origins of an Innovation.
[Princeton U]
- Eric Ormsby: An Islamic Version of Theodicy: The Dispute Over All Possible Worlds.
[Princeton U]
- Sulayman Khalaf: Village, Family and the Political Party: Articulation of Social Change in Contemporary Rural Syria.
[UCLA]
- John Jandora: Butrus al-Bustani: Ideas, Endeavors, and Influences.
[U of Chicago]
- Ziya Özcan: Social Stratification and Social Mobility in Turkey.
[U of Chicago]
- Paul Sprachman: The Comic Works of ^CUbayd-i Zakani: A Study of Medieval Persian Bawdy Verbal Aggression and Satire.
[U of Chicago]
- Suzanne Stetkevych: Innovation in a Literary Tradition: Abu Tammam, Poet and Anthologist.
[U of Chicago]
- Said Amir Arjomand: Shi^Cism, Political Organization and Societal Change in Pre-modern Iran: 1338-1850.
[U of Chicago]
- Irene Bierman: Art and Politics: The Impact of Fatimid Uses of *Tiraz* Fabrics.
[U of Chicago]
- Donna Lee Bowen: Contemporary Muslim Religious Attitudes Toward Family Planning.
[U of Chicago]
- Evelyn Early: *Baladi* Women of Cairo, Egypt: Sociability and Therapeutic Action.
[U of Chicago]
- Henry Munson, Jr.: Islam and Inequality in Northwest Morocco.
[U of Chicago]
- Kelly Ogden: A Geography of Amos.
[U of Utah]
- Abdallah Ibrahim: Evolution of Government and Society in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica (Libya), 1835-1911.
[U of Utah]
- Dirgham Hanna Sbait: The Improvised Sung Folk Poetry of the Palestinians.
[U of Washington]
- Rosalynd W. Gwynne: The Tafsīr of Abū ^CAlī al-Jubbā'ī: First Steps Toward a Reconstruction, with Texts, Translation, Biographical Introduction and Analytical Essay.
[U of Washington]

Ph.D. Dissertations in Progress

- Irit Abramski (Blay): Political, Administrative and Social Problems of Syria, 700-940 A.D.
[Princeton U]
- Caroline Beeson: Religious Leaders in 16th-Century Iran.
[Princeton U]