

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Welcome to NELC at Harvard

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DATES TO NOTE

- FAS CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 1.
- JOIN US FOR NELC'S ANNUAL SPRING RECEPTION ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 3:00-5:00 PM AT 6 DIVINITY AVENUE.
- NELC'S FIRST FACULTY MEETING OF THE SPRING TERM WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 4:00-6:00 PM, IN ROOM 201 OF THE SEMITIC MUSEUM.



The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations offers eleven distinct graduate programs in different fields of study, all of which are concerned in some way with the peoples and civilizations of the Near East. These fields include: *Akkadian and Sumerian Studies*, *Arabic and Islamic Studies*, *Archaeology of the Levant*, *Armenian Studies*, *Hebrew Bible/Old Testament*, *Indo-Muslim Culture*, *Iranian and Persian Studies*, *Jewish Studies*, *Semitic Philology*, *Turkish Studies*, and *Yiddish Language and Literature*.

DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Harvard's library resources in the various fields of Near Eastern Studies are virtually unparalleled. Widener Library, for example, has vast holdings in Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish and Yiddish literature. The reading room of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Andover-Harvard Theological Library of the Harvard Divinity School also have excellent resources available to students. Additionally, at the Divinity School is the Center for the Study of World Religions. Students wishing to special-

ize in modern Near Eastern political or social studies should familiarize themselves with the resources and personnel of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, as well as the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School.

Those interested in Jewish studies should become familiar with the resources and personnel of the Center for Jewish Studies. The Harvard Semitic Museum, in which the Department is housed, has a superb collection of ancient and medieval artifacts representing many of the cultures of the Near East. As a University teaching museum, the Semitic Museum is committed to providing access to these materials for study and teaching. For students interested in Biblical or other ancient Near Eastern studies, or in the archaeology of the Near East, a variety of opportunities for archaeological work in the Middle East are available. These include the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, which is conducted by the Harvard Semitic Museum under the directorship of Professor Lawrence E. Stager.



The Semitic Museum
6 Divinity Avenue

Spring 2006 Visiting Faculty



Photo Courtesy of
Brown University

Engin Deniz Akarli, *Visiting Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations*, comes to Harvard from Brown University where he is Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History and Professor of History. In 2003-2004, Dr. Akarli was an NEH fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton where he researched his current book project entitled *Law in the Marketplace: Istanbul Artisans and Shopkeepers, 1730-1840*. While at NELC this spring, Professor Akarli will teach *Islamic Civilizations 150: Ottoman Legal History*.

Abd-el-Hameed Mohammed Mousa Hawwas is *Shawwaf Visiting Lecturer of Arabic and Islamic Studies*. Mr. Hawwas specializes in Arabic folklore and

previously taught at the American University in Cairo and Riyadh University in Saudi Arabia. This spring at Harvard, Mr. Hawwas will teach the following two courses: *Arabic 148: The Epic Tradition in Arabic Literature* and *Arabic 243: Folklore and Mythology in the Arabic Short Story*.



Michael Oren, *Nachshon Visiting Lecturer on Jewish Studies*, serves as Contributing Editor of *The New Republic* and *Azure* and is the author of *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2002). While at Harvard,

Dr. Oren will teach *Jewish Studies 134: The History of Zionist and Israeli Diplomacy* and *Near Eastern Civilizations 111: Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present*. ♦

NELC Faculty Meetings Spring 2006



6 Divinity Avenue, Room 201,
Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00

February 14
March 7
April 11
May 9

FAS Faculty Meetings Spring 2006



All Faculty Meetings will be held in the Faculty Room in University Hall.
Tea is served at 3:30 p.m. and the Meetings start at 4:00 p.m.
Regular Meetings end by 5:30 p.m.

February 7 & 28*
March 14
April 4 & 18
May 2 & 16
June 5**

*Degree Meeting
**Degree Meeting only, to be held at 4:30 p.m.

Faculty Notes



J. F. Coakley, Senior Lecturer on Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations announces the publication of his new book: *Elementale Quadrilingue: a philological type-specimen* (Zürich 1654) [Jericho

Press (the private press of J. F. Coakley)]. Dr. Coakley writes: "In the Houghton Library collection is a possibly unique copy of a type-specimen showing Hebrew, Samaritan, Arabic and Syriac types, printed by the press of J. J. Bodmer. It seems to be the oldest type-specimen of any kind from Switzerland. Dr. Coakley recently brought this document to light, and has now published a facsimile edition with commentary on the types. Also part of the edition is an essay on the author of the text, J. H. Hottinger, by **Professor John Huehnergard**. The oriental types were the work of the rather well-known punchcutter Balthasar Koeblin. They never had much use, however, and of the Samaritan the specimen is practically the only sighting." For more information please visit:

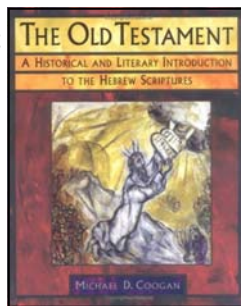
www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~coakley/jericho.htm



Photo Courtesy
Stonehill College

Michael Coogan, Visiting Lecturer on Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, writes that in December 2005, Oxford University Press published his latest book *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. The book jacket reads:

"Lucidly written by a leading biblical scholar, this balanced, engaging, and up-to-date introduction to the Hebrew scriptures distills the best of current scholarship. Employing the narrative chronology of the Bible itself and the history of the ancient Near East as a framework, author Michael D. Coogan covers all the books of the Hebrew Bible, along with the deuterocanonical books included in the Bible used by many Christians. He treats



every book of the canon with careful attention to its historical context, its particular genre, and its distinctive features. Dealing in detail with ancient Near Eastern sources and archaeological data, Coogan works from a primarily historical and critical methodology but also introduces readers to literary analysis and other interpretive strategies, especially current ones. *The Old Testa-*

EDITORIAL STAFF

NELC Newsletter Spring 2006
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EDITOR & DESIGNER
Jennifer Petralia

COPY EDITORS
Kimberly De Wall
Mary Medlin, Kathleen Cloutier

Please Join Us...
NELC's Spring Reception

February 1, 2006
3:00-5:00 p.m.
6 Divinity Avenue



Koeblin Samaritan Specimen



Faculty News (cont.)

ment: *A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures* is enhanced by a glossary, timelines, photos, illustrations, maps, and a four-color insert on Jerusalem in biblical times. Strategically placed boxes address issues that often puzzle readers of the Bible, provide models of interpretation of particular texts, and discuss their significance for Judaism and Christianity. Each chapter includes key terms, questions for review and discussion, and suggestions for further reading. Providing a non-denominational and non-doctrinal treatment, *The Old Testament* is accessible to students of all backgrounds. It offers a unique and captivating introduction to the Hebrew scriptures themselves and to how they have been—and can be—interpreted."



William A. Graham, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in FAS and John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity, gave the Baccalaureate Address at Lehigh University last May and

received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. He delivered the religion lecture at the Ninth Biennial Roethke Humanities Festival: 'The Book Revisioned', at Lafayette College, October 20, 2005; his topic was "Sacred Texts and their Uses". He also delivered the keynote address for a conference on "Sacred Texts and Print Culture", held at the Central European University in Budapest, December 2-4, 2005; his topic was "On the Concept and Functions of Scripture".



Jon Levenson, Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies (Harvard Divinity School), submits the following recent activities:

Lectures:

- "Isaac, Jesus, and Passover," lecture on the Sinaiko Fund for Jewish Studies, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA, September 29, 2005.
- "Our Father Abraham between Torah and Gospel," keynote lecture at the annual Rabbinic

Action Committee Study Institute of the Jewish United Fund (Chicago), Wilmette, IL, November 3, 2005.

Book Reviews:

- Sherwin B. Nuland, *Maimonides*, and Robert Pinsky, *The Life of David*, in *Commentary* 120:3 (October, 2005): 65-69.
- Nathan MacDonald, *Deuteronomy and the Meaning of "Monotheism,"* *Scottish Journal of Theology* 58 (2005): 237-40.



Susan Kahn, Lecturer on Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, delivered the Fifteenth Annual David W. Belin Memorial Lecture in American Jewish Affairs in 2005, sponsored by the Frankel

Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Michigan. Her talk "Are Genes Jewish: Conceptual Ambiguities in the New Genetic Age" analyzed how the concept of the Jewish gene is represented and understood in three contemporary discursive domains: population genetics, medical genetics and Halakhic discourse about the appropriate uses of new reproductive technologies.



Miri Kubovy, Professor of the Practice of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations writes: In the last World Congress for Jewish Studies, which meets every four years in Jerusalem, I was invited to chair the session on the Israeli writer S.Y. Agnon, who received the Nobel Prize in 1966. I also presented in the World Congress for Jewish Studies a paper "Exiles in the Homeland"

analyzing the concept of exile in the narratives of the Israeli writer Yoel Hoffmann (August 2, 2005). On November 4, I was invited to give a lecture to the MIT faculty on "The Literature of the Modern State of Israel in the Current Situation", which dealt with the two way relationship and influence between the political situation and contemporary Israeli literature.

Publications:

"Exile in The Homeland: Yoel Hoffmann's *Katschen and Efraim*" in *Creation and Re-Creation in Jewish Thought*, Ed. Rachel Elior and Peter Schaefer, Tuebingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2005, pp. 225-238.

In Press:

"Subversive Narratives in Israeli Literature in The 90s", in *Formes et Dynamiques de l'Exclusion*, Ed. Ami Colin, Unesco Publishers, Paris 2006.



Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History (Department of History) is the author of *The Mantle for the Prophet* which has been ranked as the seventh best Middle East studies book of the past century by a

survey compiled at the end of 2005. The Harvard history professor is joined on the list by his colleagues professor Leila Ahmed of the Divinity School and fellow historian E. Roger Owen. Ahmed's *Women and Gender in Islam* took ninth place, the highest position held by a female author. Owen appears on the list at the nineteenth spot, with his *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Mottahedeh is the second highest ranked living author on the list, as he is topped only by Timothy Mitchell's *Colonising Egypt*. Above them both,

Harvard University

NELC Online



www.fas.harvard.edu/~nelc



Faculty News (cont.)

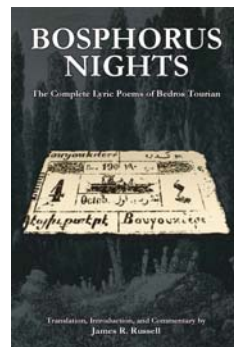
from first to fifth, are Said's *Orientalism*, Batautu's *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq*, Hourani's *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age* and *A History of the Arab Peoples*, which placed third and fourth respectively, and Hodgson's *The Venture of Islam*. The survey was compiled at the MES Center at the American University in Cairo using selections sent in by fifty-two professors in the field of Middle East studies. Concerning background information, the goal of the survey was to find the Middle East studies books most highly recommended by professors in the field. All told, fifty-two professors sent their lists to us and from these recommendations the MES Center compiled the following list of the 21 "Best" Books in Middle East studies:

1. *Orientalism*
Edward Said, 1978
2. *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq*
Hanna Batautu, 1978
3. *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*
Albert Hourani, 1962
4. *A History of the Arab Peoples*
Albert Hourani, 1991
5. *The Venture of Islam*
Marshall Hodgson, 1975
6. *Colonising Egypt*
Timothy Mitchell, 1988
7. *The Mantle of the Prophet*
Roy Mottahedeh, 1986
8. *Contending Visions of the Middle East*
Zachary Lockman, 2004
9. *Women and Gender in Islam*
Leila Ahmed, 1992
10. *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*
Bernard Lewis, 1961
11. *Over-stating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East*
Nazih Ayubi, 1995
12. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*
Alan Richards & John Waterbury, 1990
13. *A History of Islamic Societies*
Ira Lapidus, 1988
14. *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*
Timothy Mitchell, 2002
15. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*
Lisa Wedeen, 1999
16. *The Muqaddimah*
Ibn Khaldun, 1377
(Rosenthal transl.)
17. *A Peace to End All Peace*
David Fromkin, 1989
18. *Armed Struggle & the Search for State*
Yezid Sayigh, 1997
19. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*
Roger Owen, 1992
20. *Society of the Muslim Brothers*
Richard Mitchell, 1969
21. *Arab Politics: The Search for Legitimacy*
Michael Hudson, 1977



James Russell, *Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies*, announces the publication of *Bosphorus Nights*. Describing the book, the publisher, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research puts forth: "Bedros

Tourian (1851-1872) is generally acknowledged as the creator of the modern Western Armenian poetic language. Strongly inspired by the French Romantics, ranging from Lamartine to Nerval, Tourian produced in the last few years before his death from consumption a corpus of forty-odd poems. They have been the touchstone and primer for generations of Armenian symbolists, decadents, and revolutionary realists. Most of Tourian's lyrics address the agony of unrequited love, illness, and the expectancy of death; but they also include visionary flights whose intricacy of language and imagery hark back to the earliest sources of the Armenian tradition. Tourian was preeminently a poet of the great nineteenth century city with all its enthusiasm for technological and social progress. From his wooded hilltop haunt on Scutari, he watched steam ferries traverse like Helles the



waters of the Bosphorus to the promise of Europe. In his cold garret he summoned the black sun of melancholic creativity at midnight: he was brother to Nerval, the hoped-for Greco-Oriental youth of Cavafy. His work added a new dimension to Romantic poetry, Armenian and Ottoman history and literature, and the study of poetics. His complete lyrics are available here for the first time in English, with analysis by Prof. James R. Russell, *Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies* at Harvard University, of Tourian's poetics and roots and evocations of the fabulous polyglot metropolis of his birth."

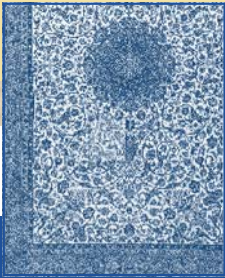
Professor Russell writes: "My other news is that I lectured on "Soteriology on the Silk Road" for the Buddhist Lecture Series of the University of Toronto in October, and organized and chaired an international symposium the same month to commemorate the 1600th anniversary of St. Mesrop Mashtots, inventor of the Armenian alphabet. The symposium was sponsored by the Armenian Prelacy, New York; the Mashtots Chair; and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. The conference was held under the august patronage of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia at Antelias, Lebanon, who opened the proceedings.



P. Oktor Skjærvø, *Agakhan Professor of Iranian, NELC Chair*, writes:

"The fall of 2005 was an exciting semester. It was the first term of the new Dean of the

Graduate School, Theda Skocpol. As part of her efforts to improve the Graduate School program, she started by visiting the Departments and studying their programs. Invited, she visited NELC as one of the first. The new Dean is a sociologist and revels in statistics and graphs. Although I questioned then and still do the adequacy of some of the graphs, it is clear to me, at least, that her "vision" for the Graduate School might eliminate many of the problems that departments, including NELC, struggle with. As one of her first acts, she has instituted a dissertation completion fellowship, which will finance a full year of studies (beginning with students admitted in 2005). This brings the total commit-



ment of the university up to five years of full funding for graduate students. There is a year limit of G7 to this fellowship, however. If a student takes longer, he or she will have to apply for the traditional, non-guaranteed dissertation completion grant. The new fellowship is meant as an incentive to both students and teachers not to drag out their studies. One immediate consequence is that General Exams have to be passed by G3 (beginning of G4) to leave time enough for the thesis to be finished by G6-7. That this is possible in NELC as well has been proved by several recent PhDs. A less promising reform, of which we were apprised only recently, is a "threat" to reduce the cohort of admissions in a given department in proportion

to its number of G8-10s. It will be interesting to see how she applies this to the upcoming admissions. On the other hand, there is still no resolution of the problem of finding sufficient TF jobs for G3-4 students, although the Dean and her colleagues say they understand the problem. Here, too, it has been suggested that reducing entering cohorts would solve the problem. What is not yet clear is to what extent she intends to reward departments who follow her lead and revamp their programs accordingly!

Extracurricular activities were few last term, but one exciting event was my participation in a panel on the Babylonian rabbis in Sasanian times, where I was the respondent to a presen-

tation by Yaakov Elman, Professor at the Yeshiva University, NY, and former Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies. There is, in fact, among students of Judaism a newfound interest in the Iranian context of the rabbinic literature of the period that might eventually revitalize Middle Iranian studies globally. Among articles, I would like to single out from my edition of "An Account Tablet from Eighth-Century Khotan" [an Iranian kingdom on the southern Silk Road in Xinjiang] in the *Bulletin of the Asia Institute*. The tablet is a flat piece of wood, which was used as monthly register of the amount of flour received from the farmers and then delivered to bakers, among them that of the prince." ♦



Wooden Tablet from Chinese Turkestan

Upcoming Events

2006 SEMITIC PHILOLOGY WORKSHOP

A Harvard University GSAS-sponsored Research Workshop
 All events take place at 5:15 in Room 201, 6 Divinity Avenue

- Thursday, February 16:** Dr. Mark Arnold, NELC graduate, "The Middle Voice and the Hitpael"
- Thursday, March 2:** Audrey Pitts, PhD candidate, NELC, "The Vultures of Lagash,"
- Thursday, March 16:** Joel Baden, PhD candidate, NELC. Lecture Title TBA.
- Thursday, April 13:** Keith Stone, PhD candidate, NELC. Lecture Title TBA.
- Thursday, April 27:** Elitzur Bar-Asher, PhD candidate, NELC. Lecture Title TBA.



Harvard GSAS Near East Society (HNES) by Christine Thomas, NELC PhD Student

Early one morning in October after a breakfast meeting with the GSAS deans and the Graduate Student Council executive committee, our new dean of the graduate school, Professor Theda Skocpol gave me a challenge. "You need to organize the graduate students in your department." Fair enough. Having put in a year and a half with GSC, I figured I had enough information on funding, stipends and the great hope of extending dissertation completion grants to current students to lure my over-scheduled colleagues to a meeting.

The next week we had a meeting, fifteen of us showed up, and the idea of creating the Harvard Near East Society as an officially recognized and funded GSAS student organization was born. If our next-door neighbors at the Yen-Ching Institute could do it, why can't we? The Harvard East Asia society has been thriving for decades, with graduate student conferences, social mixers, workshops and even a beer, dumpling and cards night. The Harvard Near East Society can do the same, although with falafel and kosher wine or even a "Tiglath-Pilsner III."

As of our first meeting, Dan Sheffield, Kelly Johnson, Jonathan Kaplan, John Whitley, Adam Aja, Jessica Munitz, Nicola Carpentieri all agreed to be on a steering committee, and many more -- Eve Levavi Feinstein, Sara Bersche, Yaron Klein, Yehuda Kurtzer, Cory Crawford, Suzie Park, Janling Fu and Keith Stone agreed to spread the word and find more steering committee volunteers. Nicola Carpentieri heroically volunteered to help in any way and thus immediately became co-president. Adam Aja with his consummate ability to bring people together became vice president and soon we had much welcome support and the membership of students from the departments of Anthropology and the History of Art and Architecture. Deena Ragavan agreed to lend her experience in managing and making budgets, and she became our treasurer. James Osborne with his ever-faithful, never-failing ability to do what needs to be done became our secretary and was soon writing up the constitution, by-laws and mission statement our group drafted over 'drafts' at John Harvard's.

At our third meeting on December 7, 2005, forty-five people turned out to officially elect our acting officers, approve the constitution and pass the

budget, all in an hour and fifteen minutes. Dan Sheffield masterfully created the Harvard GSAS Near East Society website at:

www.hcs.harvard.edu/hnes/

Visit the site, find out details on our spring events and view the beautiful images Dan and Melissa Eppihimer contributed. On the site you will find a full list of the members and steering committee and the following mission statement.

The Harvard GSAS Near East Society (HNES) is dedicated to the study and promotion of the ancient and modern Near East in the Harvard community, especially among graduate students. We seek to create a university-wide intellectual environment that will facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue and foster a sense of community among the disparate but related fields whose purview is the Near East. The HNES is geographically oriented, spanning the region from Egypt to Iran and related areas, and encompasses, but is not limited to, the study of religion, literature, philology, history, and archaeology.

The HNES provides a forum for dynamic exchange among the many academic departments in Harvard whose work pertains to the Near East. Our steering committee represents the departments of Anthropology, the History of Art and Architecture and nine subfields within Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, including Akkadian & Sumerian Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Archaeology of the Levant, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Iranian and Persian Studies, Indo-Muslim Culture, Jewish Studies, Semitic Philology, and Yiddish Language & Literature. We also have a steering committee member from the Harvard Divinity School graduate program in Hebrew Bible and we look forward to welcoming steering committee members from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

We have an exciting calendar of events for the spring of 2006, all of which are academic in nature, but which strive to enhance our intellectual interests with the formation of social bonds between graduate students. Graduate students at Harvard constitute a diverse group of scholars with a range of religious affiliations and with families of all kinds. HNES events are planned for morning, noon and evening hours during the

week, Monday through Friday morning only, in order to respect the weekly religious observances of Muslim, Jewish and Christian students and to optimize the time of students with various childcare arrangements. All refreshments at our events will be kosher and hallal.

Our activities for the spring of 2006 include:

(1) Tuesdays with HNES: Fortnightly Brown Bag Lunch Talks. Informal interdisciplinary forum intended to promote dialogue within the HNES community. The student host invites a dialogue partner from a related field of study.

(2) HNES Works in Progress: Fortnightly Wednesday Evening Lecture Series. Graduate students who are working on dissertations or who have completed significant projects present their work in a formal setting and discussion follows during a reception.

(3) Mixing It Up at the Museum: Monthly Evenings of Cultural Exchange. Once a month, students whose research within the field of the Near East seems the most separated by chronology, culture or religion will join together to organize an evening of entertainment, good food and celebration. February's event will be hosted by students in Hebrew Bible, Arabic and Islamic studies, and Indo-Muslim studies. Join us for "An Evening in Al-Andalus," featuring Hebrew and Arabic poetry reading, traditional Andalusian music, live music and dancing. The March event will be hosted by students in the Archaeology of the Levant, Iranian and Persian Studies, and the History of Art and Architecture. The April event will be hosted by students in Yiddish Language and Literature and Akkadian and Sumerian Studies.

(4) Monthly Donut and Coffee Mentoring Meetings: Once a month, on a Friday morning, open discussion over coffee and donuts will be held in the Semitic Museum to encourage students to form connections with their colleagues and alumni in our fields. HNES will also invite the "graduate students of the future," Harvard undergraduates interested in the Near East.

(5) HNES Spring Book Sale: Building on last year's informal book sale and book exchange, we will organize a book sale to benefit the operating budget of HNES. ♦

DEGREE SCHEDULE

Degree Application Due:

December 1, 2005
April 3, 2006

Thesis and Thesis Acceptance Certificate Due:

January 27, 2006
May 26, 2006

Diplomas Available:

March 8, 2006
June 8, 2006

Student Resources



Garth McCavana, *Associate Dean for Student Affairs*, Byerly Hall 222, telephone: 617-495-1816

Dean McCavana has general responsibility for the welfare of graduate students and monitors students' academic status, progress and discipline. He oversees the GSAS Residence Halls, the Office of Student Services, and the Office of Housing Services in Dudley House. The Student Affairs Office administers the various graduate fellowship competitions and processes, leave and travel applications, intra-Faculty of Arts and Sciences transfer applications, and readmission applications. Dean McCavana represents students in disciplinary cases before the Administrative Board and advises students on sexual harassment complaints. He also coordinates orientation and commencement activities.

Rise Shepsle, *Student Affairs Officer*, Byerly Hall 225, telephone: 617-495-1814

Rise Shepsle serves as a contact person and resource for the registrar, the departments, and other Faculty of Arts and Sciences and University offices in communicating and interpreting GSAS policies and in assisting graduate students in maintaining academic satisfactory progress. She coordinates the transfer and readmission process, the Exchange Scholar Program, the non-resident applications, and the Internship Program with the Office of Career Services. She provides advice to students throughout the petitioning process including extensions of incomplete, academic and financial credit, and add/withdrawals after the deadline. She advises international students about English as a Second Language resources. She assists with registration and commencement. She represents GSAS

in the Teacher Education Programs (GSAS Option). This option allows graduate students to obtain their secondary teaching certification before they graduate.

Ellen Fox, *Director of GSAS Student Services*, Dudley House, Rm. B-2; telephone: 617-495-5005

Ellen Fox is the primary resource for all GSAS students about any academic or personal concerns including policies regarding sexual harassment. She serves in an advisory role and provides support. Ellen is the liaison with GSAS students who have disabilities and/or who have special needs and supervises the Resident Advisors, one of whom resides on each floor of the GSAS Residence Halls. She will refer students to additional sources of assistance, if necessary. ♦

Bookmark NELC's Online Calendar

www.fas.harvard.edu/~nelc

Harvard University



Administrative Notes



Kathleen Cloutier, Staff Assistant/Student Coordinator writes: "Don't miss the upcoming NELC Teaching Fellow Workshop with the American Repertory Theatre in February (more details to

follow)! Students, faculty and teaching fellows: please feel free to let me know of ideas for future teaching workshops at NELC. Have a great spring term!"



Mary Medlin, Staff Assistant, not the first New England transplant in her family, is a North Carolina native whose young years were spent listening to her mother read *The Runaway Bunny*

and *Goodnight Moon*, still some of her favorites. She moved to Cambridge after graduating *magna cum laude* from Colby College with honors in English and Creative Writing in May 2005. She attended the 2005 Columbia Publishing Course and is being introduced as a new writer at the 2006 PEN-New England Discovery Evening at Emerson College.

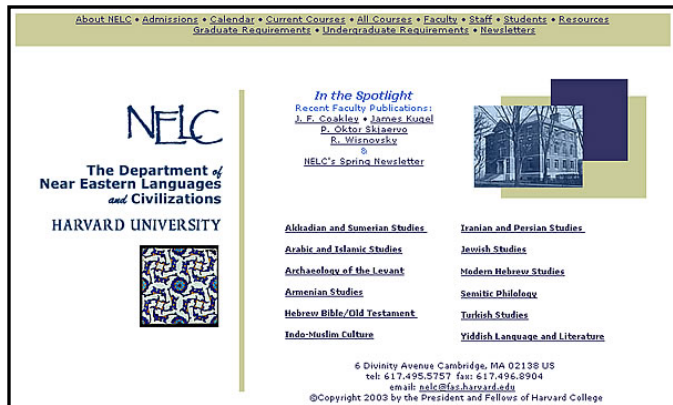


Jennifer Petrallia, Department Administrator, completes a degree in higher education policy at Harvard this term. Recent research has centered on college access and affordability. ♦

A Departmental Thank You

AS PROFESSOR SKJAERVØ'S TENURE AS DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMES TO A END THIS JUNE, THE NELC DEPARTMENT EXTENDS ITS WARM AND RESPECTFUL GRATITUDE FOR HIS CARE, SERVICE AND TIME.

NELC Online

The screenshot shows the NELC website with a navigation menu at the top: About NELC, Admissions, Calendar, Current Courses, All Courses, Faculty, Staff, Students, Resources, Graduate Requirements, Undergraduate Requirements, and Newsletter. The main content area features the NELC logo, the department name 'The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations', and Harvard University affiliation. A 'In the Spotlight' section highlights recent faculty publications by J.F. Coakley, James Kugel, P. Oktor Skjaervo, and R. Wisniewski, and mentions the 'NELC's Spring Newsletter'. A grid of subject areas includes Akkadian and Sumerian Studies, Arakic and Islamic Studies, Archaeology of the Levant, Armenian Studies, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Indo-Muslim Culture, Iranian and Persian Studies, Jewish Studies, Modern Hebrew Studies, Semitic Philology, Turkish Studies, and Yiddish Language and Literature. Contact information for 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138 US is provided, along with phone, fax, and email details. A copyright notice for 2003 is at the bottom.

NEW TO NELC ONLINE!

Bookmark NELC's **Calendar** page: lectures, workshops, classroom schedules, and more!

www.fas.harvard.edu/~nelc