CHAIR’S MESSAGE

As another academic year draws to a close, one can look back at NELC’s collective accomplishments with great pride and equanimity. We have once again graduated an impressive coterie of graduate students who have gone on to fill academic positions in the US and the Middle East (see list on p. 7). Our joint MA degree program with SPEA is up and running, and we have just inaugurated a new Egyptology track in our Masters program, which will see its first student graduate in Spring 2014. Our joint PhD program with the Center for Constitutional Democracy at the Maurer School of Law has been approved by the Graduate School and awaits final endorsement from the Board of Trustees. As for our undergraduates, the number of majors and minors remains impressive, and three of our majors were inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa society in Fall 2013. Among the many distinctions earned by our NELC faculty, students, and alumni last year (see pp. 3, 6-7), one particularly stands out. One of our very own graduates—Dr. Naser al-Hujelan—was chosen by the College to receive its Distinguished Alumni Award for 2014 (see p. 4). We also continue to grow facultywise. In Fall 2014, we welcomed our newest faculty member into our midst—Guadalupe González-Diéguez. Professor González-Diéguez is a specialist in Muslim Spain and comes to us from NYU where she is completing her doctorate this spring (see the interview with her on p. 4). Our adjunct professor Abdalrazzaq Moaz, former deputy minister in the Syrian government and former dean at the Arab National University in Damascus taught a new course for the department on Islamic Architecture in the fall and gave a number of lectures on campus and elsewhere (see p. 5). In early spring 2014 we conducted a search for a lecturer in Arabic which yielded Sara Djamaa, a doctoral student at Badji-Mokhtar Annaba University in Algeria, who will be joining NELC in Fall 2014. The new lectureship is but another sign of the continuing growth and vitality of the Arabic language program. Prof. Nader Morkus, who has been serving as its director since 2012, has taken the program to the next level. He has increased credit and contact hours for the beginning and intermediate levels of Arabic starting 2013–14 and revised the curriculum, which makes our program one of the most rigorous in the country. The program also held a hugely successful Arabic talent show in Spring 2013 during which our students displayed their impressive linguistic skills before a riveted, packed audience. For a complete list of our departmental activities throughout the year, see p. 2.

On a sadder note, we bade farewell to Professor Suzanne Stetkevych, who took early retirement from IU at the end of the fall semester, 2013. Professor Stetkevych was a beloved mentor to many graduate students in the US and from the Middle East and her highly-acclaimed works in classical Arabic literature cemented her reputation as one of the world’s most foremost authorities in her field. She has assumed a new position as the Sultan Qaboos Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University.

Another banner year then for NELC and we hope for many, many more to come. As we continue to train the next generation of NELC scholars and provide research and teaching support for our faculty, we remain highly dependent on the continuing generosity of our alumni and friends. Please resolve to make a tax-deductible contribution to NELC; detailed information is provided at the back of this newsletter.

Warm regards for the summer and beyond,
Asma Afsaruddin
Chair and Professor
NELC

Book Nook

(The following books have been published by NELC core and adjunct faculty in 2013.)

Striving in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought.
Asma Afsaruddin

Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women.
Ed. by Natana J. Delong-Bas, Asma Afsaruddin, Hibba AbuGideiri, Heba Ezat, and John L. Esposito

Palestinian Music and Song: Expression and Resistance since 1900
Ed. by Moslih Kanaaneh, Stig-Magnus Thorsén, Heather Bursheh, and David A. McDonald
(Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013)

(Book Nook continues on p. 7)
ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

NEW STAFF

We would like to offer a warm welcome to Alexis Williams, who began as our new full-time graduate secretary in January 2014. She has quickly become valuable in handling the needs of our current graduate students and in overseeing graduate admissions during a very busy time. Finally, we would like to acknowledge Erica Summe and Sara Sowers-Willis, who were hired as our graduate assistants for the 2013–2014 academic year. We are grateful for our office staff and all that they do!

FALL 2013 DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

To begin the Fall 2013 semester on a festive note, NELC held its first departmental picnic on September 5, 2013, at Bryan Park. The picnic provided graduate students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to get together before launching into the business of the semester. A highlight of this potluck-style event was the great variety of foods that students and faculty contributed. We look forward to next year’s picnic!

ELEVENTH ANNUAL VICTOR DANNER MEMORIAL LECTURE

In April 2013, NELC welcomed Dr. Khaled El-Rouayheb, Gardner Cowles Professor of Islamic Intellectual History in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations at Harvard University, for its eleventh annual Victor Danner Memorial Lecture. His lecture, titled “Rethinking the Canons of Islamic Intellectual History”, examined modern research on Islamic intellectual history in consideration of which figures are and are not selected to become part of what is considered to be the canon and how this contributes to the development of the Islamic intellectual tradition.

TWELFTH ANNUAL WADIE JWAIDEH MEMORIAL LECTURE

In October 2013, NELC held its twelfth annual Wadie Jwaideh Memorial Lecture. This year’s lecture was given by Dr. Zachary Lockman, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and History at New York University, and was titled “Adventures in Field-Building: On the Origins and Trajectory of Middle East Studies in the United States.” Held at the University Club President's Room, the lecture presented a study of the history of area studies and Middle East studies in the United States. The lecture was very well attended, and we are delighted that many members of the Jwaideh family were able to attend.

ARABIC LITERATURE WORKSHOP

In December 2013, Professor Suzanne Stetkevych directed and organized the Indiana Arabic Literature Workshop, which was generously supported by the late Professor Alice Reid Jwaideh, Dr. Robert C. and Bridget McKinney, and Al-Babtain Central Library for Poetry, Kuwait. Following an opening reception, the workshop featured fifteen research presentations on Classical and Modern Arabic literature, given by graduate students and faculty members from Indiana University and the Georgetown University. The workshop was conducted entirely in Arabic and was free and open to the public. Concluding remarks were delivered by Professor Hussain Abulfaraj, King Abdulaziz University, and Professor Stetkevych.

ARABIC PEDAGOGY LECTURE AND WORKSHOP

In March 2014, Dr. Mahmoud Abdalla, Director of the Middlebury Arabic School and Associate Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, visited IU Bloomington to present a lecture on the topic of Arabic pedagogy, titled “Building Strong Intensive and Immersion Arabic Programs”. During his visit, Dr. Abdalla also conducted a workshop, titled “Effectiveness of the Content-based Approach in Arabic Language Education”, which provided graduate students with an opportunity to hone their approach to Arabic language instruction. Dr. Abdalla’s visit was made possible through funding from the Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching, and Collaboration Award Program under the Offices of the Provost and the Vice Provost for Research at IU Bloomington.

ARABIC TALENT SHOW 2013

During the Spring 2013 semester, NELC’s Arabic Language Program held its first Arabic Talent Show, showcasing a variety of performances by students enrolled in Arabic classes. The talent show was held in Morrison Hall on March 28, 2013. MCs for the event were Jackson Goldberg, at the time a student of third-year Arabic, and Rebecca Payne, at the time a student of fourth-year Arabic. The first half of the show included a flute performance, singing, poetry reading, recitation from the Koran, and skits in Arabic. Following an intermission, the show ended with a clarinet performance, poetry and fiction reading, recitations from the Bible, singing, and a puppet show. In addition, food contributing to the cultural festivities was prepared for the event by several students. This year’s talent show will take place on April 9, 2014.

ARABIC TALENT SHOW 2013

As part of the Arabic Talent Show, NELC student Katie Larson and Folklore and Ethnomusicology student Shaun Williams perform Bukthub Limak Ya Habibi, Yammi Ma B’ref Kayf Hakani by Fayrouz.

Photo taken by Yasser Sultan.

Professor Afsaruddin was a co-primary investigator for the proposal to establish the Indiana University Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society (IUCSRES), which received funding from the Office of the Vice- President for Research; she now serves on its Executive Committee. She also received (along with Prof. Nader Morkus) a Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching and Collaboration (MIIRT) award from the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research for the project “Understanding Arab Societies in a Globalizing World” for 2013-14. Her other honors include being elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Liberal Education (2013-2016) and invitation to a meeting on April 22, 2013 with King Abdullah of Jordan in Washington DC along with a select group of prominent American Muslims and Arab-Americans to discuss current events.

Since Spring 2013, Professor Afsaruddin has given seven invited lectures and panel presentations in the US and overseas, including a keynote address at the symposium on “Religion and the Idea of a Research University,” at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, April 5, 2013. She was a consultant for UNICEF in Fall, 2013 and led a group discussion at the workshop on “Religion and Foreign Policy” hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, June 25, 2013. Professor Afsaruddin also gave three conference presentations: two at the American Academy of Religion, November 23-25, 2013 and one at the Middle East Studies Association’s annual conference on October 12, 2013. She continues to serve on the Faculty Advisory Board of the School of Global and International Studies and as a member of the Academic Council of the Prince al-Waleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University.

On October 2013 Professor Salman Al-Alani was invited by the National Center for Assessment in Higher Education, whose aims concern the Standardized Test of Arabic Proficiency in Speakers of Other Languages, to participate in the symposium for the Assessment of Higher Education, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Professor Alani presented a research paper on how students’ proficiency is measured through Arabic proficiency tests.

On December 2013, he and a team of three professors were invited by The Academic Consortium Board (ACB) of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) to evaluate the Arabic program in Rabat Morocco. The evaluation focused on the courses offered by the CIEE Study Center, which includes required Modern Standard Arabic coursework along with a core course on contemporary Morocco. In addition, courses are offered in colloquial Moroccan Arabic (Darija). Professor Alani was also appointed the new NELC Director of Undergraduate Studies.


Professor Stephen Katz continued to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies for NELC until the end of 2013, and served on a number of its committees, including the Learning Assessment Committee. He is a member of the Borns Jewish Studies Program and an affiliated faculty member of the Department of Religious Studies and the International Studies program at IU. Professor Katz is also a member of the editorial board of *Ayin Gimel: the Journal for the Study of the Work of S.Y. Agnon*, housed at Israel’s Bar-Ilan University.

His current research continues to be on primitivism and American Hebrew literature as well as early responses to the Holocaust in world literature. His study, “Power and Powerlessness: Niagara, Primitivism, and the Hebrew Literary Imagination,” is forthcoming in *Modern Judaism*, February, 2014. He also is the author of “In Memoriam: James S. Diamond.” In *Iggeret*, 85 (Fall 2013): 25–27; and “Yehudah Leib Gordon,” an article in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. He is also co-author, with Mira Wasserman, on “Memorial Resolution for Professor Henry Fischel” (2012), for the IUB community.

Professor Katz also translated and published two short stories: “Haunted by God,” by Avshalom Kaveh, which appeared in *Jewish Fiction.net* (an e-journal), issue 11 (September 4, 2013); and “Emigrants,” by A. L. Arieli, also for *JewishFiction.net*, issue 12 (December 3, 2013). Finally, he published a re-

(Faculty Updates continued on p. 6)
NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
GUADALUPE GONZÁLEZ-DIÉGUEZ

Professor González-Diéguez joined NELC in Fall 2013 as Assistant Professor. This interview was conducted by Sara Sowers-Wills, graduate assistant in NELC.

How did you become interested in Jewish and Arabic philosophy?

I come from Spain, and I study the history of philosophy. I believe it is accurate to say that the most brilliant philosophers in the history of Spain were the Jewish and Muslim thinkers of medieval Iberia (such as Maimonides or Averroes). This is what initially brought my attention to Jewish and Muslim philosophy.

What drew your focus to the medieval period in your research?

From very early on in my studies I have been intrigued by the period of Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula, a period often forgotten, suppressed, or seen through an idyllic, orientalist lens. It constitutes a truly interesting moment in history: an unprecedented cultural explosion took place in medieval Europe under the rule of Islam. In this period, despite the existence of conflicts on social, political, or religious grounds, Muslims and Jews participated to a considerable extent in a shared culture. The Hebrew poetry written in medieval Iberia following Arabic models is often referred to as the Golden Age of Hebrew verse. Not only outstanding poetry came out of this shared cultural matrix, but also works of grammar, biblical commentaries, and philosophical and mystical treatises.

Some of your research concerns Spinoza. What do you find most interesting about this figure, and how does it inform your larger area of study?

When I first attended college for my B.A. in Philosophy, I worked on Spinoza for my final thesis. He has remained one of my interests and is a very magnetic and intriguing figure. Of Sephardic origin, but living in 17th-century Holland, he stands out for his strongly monistic philosophy and his criticism of religious intolerance. He engaged in the critical study of the Bible and of biblical exegesis, and his critical attitude towards the religious Scriptures and the recognition of their relevance in social and political terms has been a decisive influence on my own trajectory.

What attracted you to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University?

Indiana University is an outstanding place for the teaching and research that I develop, which is at the crossroads of two fields of studies: Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Jewish Studies. The opportunity to be part of both the NELC department and the Jewish Studies Program is a rare and extremely felicitous occurrence for me. I consider myself very lucky to be at IU, where I can also benefit from exchanges with many excellent researchers in related fields, and I can be part of a thriving academic community.

Could you tell us about your current research?

My current research project deals with notions of spatiality in the three religious cultures of medieval Iberia. I focus on the development of a simultaneous awareness of the distance and the closeness between East and West in texts composed in medieval Iberia. The nearness between East and West is expressed in a transposition of the East into the West, an overlapping of the two extreme ends of the Mediterranean that makes of al-Andalus a surrogate “East in the West.” The distance between the East and the West is shown in the element of nostalgia that pervades the descriptions and representations of the East.

What topics would you like to investigate in the future?

I would like to continue my research on the shared elements in philosophical and religious thought in the cultures of medieval Iberia, with projects on topics such as the itinerant mystics of medieval Spain, and the translation of religious texts, and the knowledge that each religious community had about the faith of the others.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
NASER AL-HUJELAN

Dr. Nasr al-Hujelan, who received his PhD from NELC in 2008, has been selected by the College Alumni Board to receive a 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. In his doctoral work, he focused on modern Arabic literature, with a minor in folklore. Professor Hasan El-Shamy, Adjunct Professor in NELC, supervised his dissertation. In 2009, Dr. al-Hujelan published a book titled al-Shakhsiyyah Fi Qisas al-Amthal al-Arabiyah and has, over the years, published many papers concerning topics in folklore. He has also translated several books on theory in folklore studies into Arabic. Having served as Director of Academic Advising and the Dean of Libraries at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dr. al-Hujelan is currently Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Information in Saudi Arabia. On Thursday April 3, 2014, Dr. al-Hujelan delivered a talk, along with his wife Dr. Maha al-Anzi, titled “Current Events in Saudi Arabia”, at the Indiana Memorial Union. The Distinguished Alumni Award was conferred during the College’s Annual Recognition Banquet on Friday, April 4, 2014.
Indiana University is especially fortunate to have Dr. Moaz as a resource during the political crisis in Syria. The IU community has benefitted from his knowledge through various presentations on campus. On October 31st, Dr. Moaz presented a lecture titled “Crisis in the Middle East: The Case of Syria” at the Center for Constitutional Democracy at the Maurer School of Law. He also delivered a talk on November 15th titled “Destruction of the Cultural Heritage of Syria” as part of an event in conjunction with the Ancient Studies Program, a topic about which he is particularly passionate and knowledgeable.

NELC students who have yet to take a course with Professor Moaz or attend one of his lectures will have the opportunity to enroll in “Cities in the Islamic World” to be offered during the Fall semester, 2014.

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

ABDALRAZZAQ MOAZ

Professor Abdalrazzaq Moaz, Adjunct Professor in NELC and SGIS. This article was written by Erica Summe, graduate assistant in NELC.

In 2013–2014, NELC and the School of Global and International Studies (SGIS) have been fortunate to host Dr. Abdal-Razzaq Moaz through the Institute of International Education’s Scholar Rescue Fund. This Fund provides valuable financial assistance to scholars whose lives and work are threatened in their homeland so that they may continue to work, research, and teach in a safe haven. Dr. Moaz is a notable expert on Syrian architecture and art, and is appointed as Adjunct Professor in SGIS until 2015.

Many NELC students have been able to take advantage of his time at Indiana University and learn from his expertise and unique perspectives. In Fall 2013, Dr. Moaz taught a course titled “History of Islamic Architecture,” which provided a survey of the history of Islamic architecture from the seventh century to the present, from countries including Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Turkey. The course examined the Islamic visual culture of the most important monuments in the region and emphasized their impact on the historical, political, social, and cultural life of the Middle East.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Moaz has delivered lectures in NELC and elsewhere on campus in conjunction with other departments at IU. Among them was a lecture titled, “Housing and Lifestyle in Damascus and Cairo (15th–17th Centuries): A View from the Shari’a Court Records of the City,” given on September 25th. The lecture included photos of Syrian and Egyptian courtyards, living quarters, and government buildings, providing his audience with a vivid picture of daily life in this time period.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO A BELOVED PROFESSOR AND SCHOLAR

With the end of the Fall 2013 semester, NELC saw Professor Suzanne Stetkevych take early retirement. Having taught at Indiana University since 1985, Stetkevych’s last day was December 12, 2013. Her absence will be deeply felt, as she will be taking with her invaluable expertise in the field of classical Arabic literature.

Since 1985, Stetkevych has filled many shoes in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. From 1987-1995 she served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and also as the Honors Adviser in NELC from 1988-1995. From 1997-1999, she was Chair of NELC and at the same time held the position of the Director of the Middle East Studies Program. She was Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature in NELC from 1986-1992 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992, gaining full professorship in 1995. In addition, from 1994-1999, she carried the title Ruth N. Halls Professor of NELC.

Professor Stetkevych regularly taught popular graduate seminars covering a range of topics in Arabic literature, including Poetry as Performance, Poetry and Empire, and The Mantle Odes: Arabic Praise Poetry to the Prophet Muhammad. In addition to her reputation as a world-renowned scholar and professor of classical Arabic literature, Stetkevych served on many dissertation and thesis committees over the years. Her many graduate students now currently teach in various institutions in the US and abroad, particularly in the Middle East. Upon retirement from IU, Stetkevych however has assumed a new position as the Sultan Qaboos Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University.
view of Place and Ideology in Contemporary Hebrew Literature, by Karen Grumberg (Syracuse University Press, 2012), which appeared in H-JUDAIC, an online listserv for scholars.

Professor Katz is on sabbatical leave for the Spring 2014, semester, during which he is writing a book-length study on early literary responses to the Holocaust.

Among other things, Professor David McDonald published two books and a major article this year. The first is a monograph based on his independent field research in the Palestinian territories: My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance (Durham, NC: Duke University Press). The second is an edited volume: Palestinian Music and Song: Expression and Resistance since 1900 (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press). In addition, his article “Imaginaries of Exile and Emergence in Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Hip-Hop” was published last fall in the flagship journal for performance studies, The Drama Review 57/3: 69–87.


In addition, he was invited to give a talk, “Politics and Performance in an Early Modern Empire: Ottoman Public Ceremonies in the Reign of Suleiman the Magnificent,” at Northwestern University, Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies Faculty and Fellows Series, on November 11, 2013. He also co-organized with Hendrik Spruyt the workshop Asian Early Modernities: Empires, Bureaucrats, Confessions, Borders, Merchants, which was part of the Conference on Inter-Asian Connections IV, Istanbul, October 2–5, 2013.

In 2013, Professor Abdulkader Sinno published a special edited section of the Review of Middle Eastern Studies titled “Researching Western Muslims”, as well as a peer-reviewed article in this edited section titled “Researching the Politics of Western Muslims”. He also published an article in the Oxford Islamic Studies Online and two book reviews. He received a grant from the Political Science Association and was invited to become an International Scholar by the Open Society Foundations (the position came with a $10,000 grant). He was keynote speaker at a conference at the University of Illinois and presented papers at the PSA meeting in Cardiff and the MESA meeting in New Orleans. In addition to his many service activities at IU, he was a member of MESAs Albert Hourani Book Award Committee.

Steve Vinson spent the Fall of 2013 working on the manuscript for his forthcoming book, The Craft of a Good Scribe: History, Narrative and Meaning in the ‘First Tale of Setne Khaemwas’ and other Ancient Egyptian Fiction, with a teaching leave funded by a faculty fellowship from the College Arts and Humanities Institute. In September, he presented a paper on the popular reception of the tale at a conference on the history of Egyptology at the University of Hull in September, and gave a noon lecture at the Indiana University Art Museum on interconnections between Egypt, the Mediterranean world, and Africa during the Ptolemaic period. In March 2014, Vinson presented the lecture “Studies in Esoteric Syntax: The Enigmatic Friendship of Aleister Crowley and Battiscombe Gunn” for the Chicago chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt.

Vinson’s publications in the past year include the encyclopedia articles “Transportation Technology” and “Boats” for the peer-reviewed UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology, and an article entitled “Go Figure: Metaphor, Metonymy and the Practice of Translation in the ‘First Tale of Setne Khaemwas’ “ in a Festschrift for the British Egyptologist John Tait.

Vinson has continued serving as Director of Graduate Studies in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and in the Fall of 2013 he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the African Studies Program. Vinson has also been heading up NELC’s undergraduate program assessment team, attending (along with Salman Alani, Stephen Katz and Nader Morkus) a number of workshops on the mandatory assessment program to be implemented for all undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In December 2013, the Indiana University Board of Trustees gave final approval to NELC’s MA track in Egyptology, a proposal that Vinson submitted last year. Our first Egyptology student, Lingxin Zhang, is set to graduate at the end of the Spring semester of 2014.

Inci Aksu presented her paper “The Evolution of Kurdish Nationalism within the Turkish State Discourse” at the conference The PKK, Kurdish Nationalism and the Future of Turkey. Her paper was a part of the Kurdish Nationalism and Imperial Legacy panel.

Basem Al-Raba’a published his article in the refereed journal, International Journal of English Linguistics, titled “The Generic and Register Features of Facebook Apology Messages Written by Americans and Jordanians.”

Ashley Bisutti has been awarded a highly competitive Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellowship to continue her study of Arabic in the Middle East during 2014-15.

Troy Cummins, Zach Wilkinson, and Lindsey Pullum led a delegation representing Libya at the Ohio Valley Model Arab League Conference in February 2014. Troy and Lindsey won Outstanding Delegates in Social Affairs; and the delegation representing Libya won Honorable Mention overall at the conference.
John Dechant has won a dissertation fellowship from the Graduate School for 2014-15.

John Radez was awarded the 2013–14 University of Southern Indiana Foundation award for outstanding teaching by an adjunct faculty member.

Lingsin (Bell) Zhang will be the first student to graduate from the NELC MA track in Egyptology in Spring 2014, and has been accepted with full funding into the Ph.D. programs at Brown University and Johns Hopkins University.

Mohammad Al-Qanaei (PhD, 2013) is an Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature at Kuwait University.

Ahmad N. Al-Qinai (PhD, 2013) is teaching in the Department of History at the University of Kuwait.

Amein Al-Shereif (PhD, 2013) is teaching at the University of the United Arab Emirates and specializes in Arabic poetry.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Waed Athamneh (PhD 2012) is Assistant Professor of Arabic in the Department of Classics at Connecticut College, where she teaches courses on Arabic language and literature. She is currently completing a book on the politics and aesthetics of modern Arabic poetry.

Abdulmueen Hassan A. Balfas is Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature at King Abd al-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Essam Fahim (MA 2012) has been accepted into the PhD programs at Oxford and Cambridge universities, UK starting Fall 2014.

Boutheina Khaldi wrote a book titled Egypt Awakening in the Early Twentieth Century: Mayy Ziyādah’s Intellectual Circles, published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. The book provides a detailed study of Mayy Ziyādah’s literary salon, thereby shedding light on salon and epistolary culture in early-twentieth-century Egypt and its role in Egypt’s Nahdah (Awakening). Bringing together history, women’s studies, Arabic literature, post-colonial literature, and media studies, Khaldi highlights the important and previously little-discussed contribution of Arabic women to the project of modernity.

Katrin Jomaa (PhD, 2012) developed two new courses “Intro to Islam and Politics of the Middle East” and “Islamism and Secularism in the Modern World” in her first year of teaching in the Department of Political Science and Philosophy at the University of Rhode Island.

Alumna Rabbi Valerie Joseph became a Board Certified Chaplain, BCC, through NAVAC in the spring of 2013.

Eiyad Salman Al-Kutubi (PhD 2013) is Visiting Arabic Lecturer in the Middle East Institute at Georgia State University.

Lori Lunt was awarded a SUNY Chancellor’s award in support of a three-week travel course to Morocco, May–June 2014 on the theme of “Women and Democracy”, in collaboration with sociologist Jacqueline Goodman at Eastern Michigan University. At SUNY Potsdam, she has helped develop an Arabic Studies Minor program while also teaching French and English as Second Language.

Ahmad Yasir Al-Mallah (PhD 2013) is Assistant Professor of Arabic at Middlebury College.

Nasser Nabhan (BA 2012 ) completed his Teach for America commitment and received a Master of Science in Education in 2013. He is currently teaching kindergarten in Ramallah, Palestine.

Feriha Perekli (PhD 2013) is working at the SETA Foundation.

Mohammad Al-Qanaei (PhD, 2013) is an Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature at Kuwait University.

Ahmad N. Al-Qinai (PhD, 2013) is teaching in the Department of History at the University of Kuwait.

Amein Al-Shereif (PhD, 2013) is teaching at the University of the United Arab Emirates and specializes in Arabic poetry.

STUDENT NEWS

Phi Beta Kappa

NELC would like to extend congratulations to our NELC seniors who were inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa society. They are Andrew George McLaren; Elizabeth Christine Shariat Panahi; and Brian Scott Fitzgerald. They were recognized at the official conferral ceremony and dinner held on the IU Bloomington campus on December 10, 2013. We wish them the very best and take pride in their considerable achievements.

NELC Graduates

We congratulate the following NELC students who have obtained their PhD degrees in 2013-14:

Ahmad Yasir Almallah
Elham Ismail Alzoubi
Abdulmueen Hassan A. Balfas
Mustafa Muhammad Binmayaba
Eiyad Salman Al-Kutubi
Feriha Perekli
Mohammad Al-Qanaei
Ahmad N. Al-Qinai
Amein Al-Shereif

Book Nook (continued from p.1)

My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance
David McDonald
(Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013)

Empire and Power in the Reign of Süleyman: Narrating the Sixteenth-Century Ottoman World
Kaya Sahin
(New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013)
The Department is grateful to those who have made donations to support its activities in the past. Your donations help us to produce this newsletter and finance many of the events that we tell you about. We appreciate gifts to support fellowships, conference travel, and language study abroad for students; visiting speakers and adjunct lecturers for mini-courses and special events.

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