# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. A Message from the Chair
2. Student Spotlights
3. Recent Graduates
4. Student Updates
7. A New Kind of Field Trip in Egyptology
8. First Year of a Flagship
10. A New Professor, A New Topic
12. Faculty Updates
16. This Year’s Events
18. Alumni and Friend Updates
19. About the Editors/Photo Credits

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A Message from the Chair

An eventful year has gone by for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC). We are now settled into our new quarters, and have consolidated into our teaching forces our new colleagues, Professor Asaad Al-Saleh in Modern Arabic Literature, Professor Daniel Caner, our specialist on the history and civilizations of the Middle East in Byzantine times, and Professor Said Hannuchi, our new Arabic Lecturer who has been hired to augment the Arabic Flagship faculty. We have also been joined by a cohort of new graduate and undergraduate students who stand to benefit from the increasingly more diverse fields of specializations to enrich their learning in added spheres to seek to specialize as they proceed with their studies.

And though we lost Prof. Kevin Martin, our Modern Middle East historian, we continue to hope that the position will soon be renewed once our dean allows us to begin a search for a fitting candidate. This will also assure that our students benefit from the (required) courses in the modern Middle East, add to our enrollment numbers and draw on student interest in the field. We continue to hope that losses of past years will also be renewed so that NELC can offer a fuller range of disciplines that make this department among the leaders in the field.

And, as I have noted above, our Arabic Flagship Program is well on its way. After some months of being ushered and administratively supported by Connie S. May, our Program Specialist, and our able and talented Graduate Assistants, Brendan Devine and Justine Galambus, it now has its own offices, staff and students which render it a more independent arm of NELC’s teaching of Arabic aimed at greater proficiency for a number of students greater than anticipated. This program, headed by its Director, Professor Salman Alani and Professor Nader Morkus, its Academic Director and Director of our Modern Arabic Language Program, offers a variety of cultural events to enrich student, faculty and community awareness about the diverse features of Arab civilization.

The department has also benefitted in the past fall semester from a lecture by Professor Malika Zeghal of Harvard, who delivered a talk in our fifteenth annual Wadie Jwaideh Memorial Program on November 10, 2016. Her subject, “Absent Secularists: Islam in the 2014 Tunisian Constitution,” focused on the religious and political factors in Tunisian political culture. The event brought in an audience of faculty from several departments, community members and students.

Our upcoming lecture, “The Arabic Historical Novel in Morocco (and Elsewhere): The Power of Corruption and the Corruption of Power,” will be a keynote presentation by Professor Roger Allen on February 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room of the University Club of the Memorial Union. Professor Allen, of the University of Pennsylvania, is considered the doyen of Modern Arabic literary studies in the USA, one who has educated many students in this field. His lecture will mark the inauguration of NELC’s Modern Arabic Literature Program, as we welcome our new colleague, Professor Asaad Al-Saleh (who has been with us since the previous year). It is our hope that with him on board NELC will develop an active program of teaching and research in this field to educate our under/graduate students.

On Friday, April 14th, we plan to hold our Victor Danner Memorial Lecture. It will be delivered by Professor Khaled Abu El-Fadl of the UCLA School of Law. The lecture, whose title is to be finalized soon, is expected to focus on legal aspects in Islamic law and should draw a considerable audience to hear this highly-respected scholar of Islam.

A series of lectures in a lecture series planned for the fall 2017 season, initiated by our colleagues, Professors Asma Afsaruddin and Abdulkader Sinno, on Muslims in the United States is being planned, which will aim to enlighten as well as familiarize all with a host of aspects of America’s Islamic communities and their role in the USA, a matter in dire need in light of contemporary developments in our country.
### RECENT GRADUATES

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<tr>
<th>SUMMER 2016</th>
<th>FALL 2016</th>
<th>EXPECTED SPRING 2017</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Austyn Board, B.A.</td>
<td>Matthew Babcock, B.A.</td>
<td>Niloofer Asgari, B.A.</td>
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<td>Austin Brewer, Minor</td>
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<td>Dana Khabbaz, Minor</td>
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<td>Hilo Sugita, M.A.</td>
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Congratulations to Niloofer Asgari for her induction into Phi Beta Kappa!
Seyed Asghari joined NELC as a Ph.D student in the Fall of 2014, and is expected to graduate in 2019. Seyed has been a prolific student who has enthusiastically embraced his scholarly endeavors, presenting his work at various conferences. He has not only won NELC’s travel award for Fall 2016, but also the Graduate Conference Travel Award from the College Arts and Humanities Institutes in Fall 2016, the travel award from the College of Art and Sciences as well as the travel award from the...

Benjamin Priest started his M.A. in Arabic and Persian in Fall 2012, and went on to his Ph. D. coursework in Islamic Studies in Fall 2014. He lived in Istanbul, Turkey from May 15, 2016 to July 21, 2016 in order to study Turkish and Kurmanji Kurdish as well as do some preliminary scouting for his dissertation. Prior to this, he was an Associate Instructor for the Arabic program from 2012 to 2015. He has been an inspiration-al student and productive scholar who has had the opportunity to...

Michael Bevers joined NELC as a Ph.D. student in Fall 2011. He served NELC as a valuable associate instructor teaching Arabic as well as the graduate assistant to the former NELC chair, Asma Afsaruddin. This past year, he travelled to Morocco to work on his dissertation. His dissertation examines the understudied Moroccan philosopher Taha Abderra...
STUDENT UPDATES

Two NELC students were appointed by President McRobbie among a total of five presendential interns. Lauren Ehrmann, a freshman studying Arabic, and Kyra Treibold, a junior studying NELC and English will have the honor of assisting and directing IU in important topics and special projects.

Kylie Thomsen and Ryan Lipp joined NELC’s Egyptology program this past fall. They enjoyed travelling to Brooklyn and Boston over spring break where they did photogrammetry in the Brooklyn Museum and were able to visit the MFA and the MET. [For more information, see page 10.]

They also participated in an Independent Study with Professor Bernard Frischer, in which they visited the Cincinnati Art Museum in order to do photogrammetry on a their Egyptian and Nabatean collections.

[cont. from pg.2] travel award from the Islamic Studies Program in Spring 2016. Using this funding, he has been able to present his work at a variety of conferences to present his work at places like Islamic College for Advanced Studies in London and Al-Mustafa International University in Tehran and MESA conference in Boston.

His dissertation will “trace back the continuation of intellectual and spiritual traditions in Shia (Islam) Seminaries since mid-19th century onward. While focusing on a particular chain of the religious intellectuals, [he also studies] their opponents and their efforts to fight back intellectual and spiritual traditions as not a pure Islamic science and rather a heritage and influence of Greek philosophy.”
Yasin Ramazan Basaran, Pouyan Shahidi Marnani, and Huseyin Ongan Arslan presented their work at “History, Memory, Identity,” a graduate student colloquium on middle eastern and islamic studies. It was sponsored by and held at the Diyanet Center of America, located in Lanham, Maryland. We are proud to have our graduate students presenting their work and representing NELC!

[cont from pg. 2] present his work at conferences and in various publications, which includes “Islamic Identity and the Ka‘ba” in the University of Chicago publication Lights. He also presented his work “Saintly Paradigms” at the Religious Studies Graduate Conference at Indiana University, April 14, 2016.

He was initially interested in researching modern shrine practices in Turkey. However, he found it difficult to conduct interviews with the worshippers there as most of those praying were women. He has instead explored a new topic, Kurdish nationalism and religiosity, which is was his “(ethnographic) dissertation is going to be on - Islamic Sacred Spaces as Conduits for Kurdish Nationalism. The title is temporary, but the basis is solid, and I’ve been working on it since this summer. My travels this summer yielded some rich narratives to use, and I [have conducted] my first official interview… in Nashville, TN with a member of the diaspora community there.” He has continued his studies in Turkish through a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to study Turkish from the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center. He is currently in his last semester of classes. After which, he will be travelling to Sulaimaniya, Iraq in Fall 2017; Mardin, Turkey Spring 2018; and Germany during the Summer and Fall 2018 to continue his language training and conduct his dissertation research.

His achievements within and outside of the department have merited him the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, April 6, 2016.
Xiaofan Zhao was one of the Egyptology students who went to New York during Spring Break. She reports, “The Brooklyn trip was amazing to me. It was my first time staying with a flock of Americans for the whole week! The museums really impressed me, especially the Temple of Dendera in the Metropolitan Museum.” Xiaofan Zhao joined the Egyptology program this fall (2016) and has greatly enjoyed her time in Bloomington thus far.

NELC was proud to honor Philip Raad as this year’s Outstanding Graduate Student, Ashley Bisutti as this year’s Outstanding Associate Instructor, and Richard Solomon as this year’s Outstanding Senior! All three have shown exemplary performance in the classroom in addition to making active strides in the department and community as a whole! We look forward to the continued accomplishments of these three!

[cont from pg 2] publication Lights. He also presented his work “Saintly Paradigms” at the Religious Studies Graduate Conference at Indiana University, April 14, 2016. His achievements within and outside of the department have merited him the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, April 6, 2016. He was also awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to study Turkish from the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center.

Michael explains, “This trip has been an overall success for me and my project. It has been an honor representing NELC and Indiana University abroad. NELC has become such an important part of my life. My association with this marvelous department and its stellar humans that make it work has only enriched me more than I thought it would when I entered NELC for the first time. I hope to continue to represent NELC as a graduate in the near future.” With his invaluable contributions to the field and his already exemplary work, we are honored to have him as a student, and eagerly look forward to his successful career.
NELC Egyptology students were excited to head to the Brooklyn Museum of Art during Spring Break as part of a new course designed to engage students in the digital 3D modelling of Ancient Egyptian objects. This class was designed by Professor Steve Vinson, and the research trip was partly funded by a New Frontiers grant from Indiana University’s Office of the Vice Provost for Research. The class was offered to both graduate and undergraduate students.

The class was largely inspired by the Digital Heritage program in IU’s School of Informatics and Computing. The program, led by Prof. Bernie Frischer, is one of the leading programs in the country in applying digital modeling and restoration to archaeological objects. An advantage of 3D modelling is that the current state of the object can be documented, and then students can non-destructively attempt to restore the objects in model editing software. The skills developed in this class are valuable assets for students who want to do field work or work in museums, as many museums are moving toward using 3D models for viewing their collections online, as well as for conservation and documentation.

The class worked closely with the Brooklyn Museum and were given private access to the objects that were on display. Nearly 40 objects were photographed, and are in the process of being modelled. While the class was in New York, they also visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art. During one day, the class drove up to Boston and were able to view Harvard’s Digital Giza Project. They then visited the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and were able to have dinner with Harvard Egyptology Professor Peter Der Manuelian.

“I’m very excited about this project and this course,” said Prof. Vinson. “What I wanted to do is create a project that can involve both undergraduate and graduate students in real research, that can give them access to real ancient Egyptian objects, and that can also give them cutting-edge skills that they can apply to Egyptology or to other careers. The partnerships that we have created with both Bernie Frischer’s Virtual Heritage program and with the Brooklyn Museum have made it possible for us to do just that. Very few other Egyptology programs in the U.S. are able to offer anything like this.

Once the students got back to Bloomington, they began learning to use the modeling software from Matthew Brennan, a doctoral student in the Virtual Heritage program. Once the models are completed, students will publish the models to a hosting platform called Sketchfab. Professor Vinson plans to continue this class, and continue working on collections in Boston as well as at the Indiana University Eskenazi Museum of Art, once it reopens.
Indiana University got the news last winter that it would be designated a flagship institution for the Arabic language. In various ways, IU has been preparing for this opportunity for decades. Salman Al-Ani, program director of the new flagship, noted that the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures revised its teaching methods two decades ago. “In the 90s, we had a change in the process of teaching Arabic, from grammar oriented, just reading and analyzing text, to a proficiency-oriented approach where we focused on speaking. Teachers today are not supposed to say a word of English from day one. If they do, then they will be corrected, and that is why our students really learn the language.”

Nader Morkus, academic director of the new flagship, came to IU in 2012 to direct and further develop Arabic language instruction. “The program has strengthened greatly,” he said. “Four years ago, we had five hours of first-year and three hours of second-year Arabic. Now we have six contact hours in the first and second years, and five contact hours in the third and fourth years, the most of any IU foreign language program. In the last three years, we added important curricular components—a weekly conversation hour, weekly writing and reading components, and a weekly listening component. Outside of class, we have cultural activities that did not exist before, including the Arabic talent show, Arabic poetry night, Arabic dinner, Arabic music night and Arabic film series. Now with the flagship, we are adding even more clubs—a journalism club, a Quran club, a Bible club, cinema club, literature club, and music club. Dialect tables provide students with practice in and exposure to Egyptian, Levantine, and Moroccan dialects. We...
have a guest speaker series, and field trips to places like Dearborn, Michigan, where Arabic is spoken.”

Morkus added that the flagship makes it possible to provide a graduate assistant to each Arabic lecturer. “That frees up time for the lecturer to prepare more activities, to engage students outside of class, to do more office hours, and to participate in the cultural activities.”

Morkus described the arduous schedule for students wishing to complete the program. “Students have to finish four years of Arabic in two years by taking Arabic classes over the summer. Each student is assigned a tutor and conversation instructor; they meet four additional hours weekly. In their third year, they take content classes. At the end of that year, they will have reached advanced proficiency. They take an exam designed by the Language Flagship in Washington to determine if they are ready to spend a capstone year of total immersion in the Moroccan city of Meknes.” In Meknes at the Arab American Language Institute, students continue extensive study of Arabic—Modern Standard Arabic and the Moroccan and Egyptian dialects. Students take credit courses at Moulay Ismail University and live with local families. “They sleep there, they have their own room. They eat with the family and play with the kids; it’s a wonderful arrangement,” said Al-Ani. Students in their capstone year in Morocco also complete an internship in the local community. “Students can work in the banking sector, in an NGO, or in the media,” Morkus said. “Some may prefer the manual labor of artisans, learning the art of pottery and other skills.”

Students interested in this program are not necessarily Arabic majors. “We ask students in a survey why they want to study Arabic, and the majority say they are doing it for their careers and for academic and career goals,” said Morkus. “Some of our students major in neuroscience, or business, or music, but I would say the majority have majors in the humanities; many of them major in international studies at the School of Global and International Studies.”

Alumni of the IU Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures “now occupy really important positions,” said Al-Ani. “They are ministers, professors, deans—not only in the Middle East, but also in North Africa and Pakistan. One of our students, the deputy minister of information in Saudi Arabia, received the distinguished alumni award two years ago.” The deputy minister encouraged a student to attend IU, and through that student’s connections, Prince Mansour, grandson of the first king of Saudi Arabia, visited Indiana University in October. “Prince Mansour has had a lifelong commitment to developing education in Saudi Arabia and to enhancing international university cooperation,” said Al-Ani.

Educating students to fulfill effective and productive roles in communities around the world is one of the chief goals of the U.S. Language Flagship. Kahn notes how well the flagship philosophy fits with what the School of Global and International Studies wants to provide: “That student who is proficient at languages, deeply understands different areas of the world, and has been engaged through deep cultural immersion, but has a practical edge to their studies as well, applying their skills and knowledge. The idea that you are creating someone who has a sense of responsibility, who can work across cultural differences, who understands trans-border issues both with a practical and deeply academic edge—in many ways the Language Flagship goals are perfectly aligned with the goals of SGIS.”

Adapted from IU’s International, Fall 2016, published by the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs.
In Fall 2016, Daniel Caner joined NELC as an Associate Professor. Graduate Assistant Brendan Devine had the pleasure of interviewing him.

Professor Caner previously held a joint appointment for sixteen years in the Department of History and Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Connecticut. During this time he regularly taught ancient Greek and Medieval Latin as well as Greek History, Roman History, Early Church History, Late Antique History, and various courses on Western Civilization. Although he is primarily considered a historian (he received his PhD in 1998 from the Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology at UC Berkeley), he excels in teaching languages, particularly Greek and Latin. He describes himself as a specialist in Late Antique society and culture, taking interest in the transition from the classical to the medieval world. He has a deep fascination with different notions of holiness. His work will bring a new historical dimension to the NELC department by offering an array of courses on the Greek, Roman and Late Antique Near East. As an author of two monographs—one about early monastic history, the other about literature pertaining to the Christianization of the Sinai peninsula—his research has focused on the social structures and ideologies of the late Roman, “early Byzantine,” pre-Islamic Near East. This includes the swath of territory in northern Mesopotamia currently claimed by ISIS.

He plans to offer a regular sequence of courses for NELC that will focus on the Greco-Roman and the Early Byzantine Near East, as well as on Late Antiquity in general. This spring, he is teaching “World of Late Antiquity,” in which he explores the fusion of Roman imperialism with Christian monotheism and its impact on communities throughout Europe and the Near East from the fourth to seventh centuries CE. His other course offered this spring is “The Rise of Eastern Rome,” which deals more specifically with the political, social and religious transformation of the Near East on the [cont. on pg. 15]
Steve Vinson published two articles: “Good and Bad Women in Egyptian and Greek Fiction,” in I. Rutherford (ed.), Graeco-Aegyptiaca/Aegypto Graeca: Literary Interactions between Greece and Egypt, 700BCE-300CE (Oxford: Oxford University Press), and “Behind closed doors: architectural and spatial images and metaphors in ancient Egyptian erotic poetic and narrative literature,” in H. Navrátilová and R. Landgráfová (eds.), Sex and the Golden Goddess II: The World of the Love Songs. He was also awarded a New Frontiers Experimental Fellowship from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research for a project to produce three-dimensional models of the ancient Egyptian objects in Indiana University’s Eskenazi Museum of Art. Vinson also welcomed three new Egyptology graduate students to Indiana University in the fall of 2016: Ryan Lipp, Kylie Thomsen, and Xiaofan Zhao.


Alani also had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of ACTFUL in Boston in November 2016 and continuing his membership of the IUB Faculty Council and the International Committee of Council.

Professor Afsaruddin delivered the third annual Siddiqi Lecture at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on Oct. 25, 2016. During 2016, she also gave invited lectures at the University of Leiden, Holland; at Louvain University, Belgium; the University of Cyprus, Nicosia; Hamad bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar; the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne; the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany; and the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Germany. Domestically, she gave invited talks at the Levan Institute, University of Southern California; Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts; and Georgetown University, Washington DC. She was also a panelist at the roundtable “ISIS and the Challenge of Interpreting Islam,” at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2016.

During summer 2016, Professor Afsaruddin was a member of a State Department working group on ISIL charged with making policy recommendations directly to then Secretary of State John Kerry.

Abdulkular Sinno published an article on public attitudes toward immigrants in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies as well as two encyclopedia articles. He and Prof. Asma Afsaruddin were awarded a Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society Seminar Grant for a lecture series titled “Islam in the American Public Sphere”. He gave an invited talk on the securitization and the integration of British Muslims at Science Po in Paris and participated by invitation in a book panel at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) in New York City. He was also contributed by invitation to a workshop on “Europe’s Refugee Crisis,” that was organized by the Tällberg Foundation in Lesbos, Greece. He also gave a half dozen national and international media interviews.

Said Hannouchi completed his PhD program at the Department of African Languages and Literature, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a specialization on Second Language Acquisition. He taught as a lecturer at the Arabic Persian Turkish Language Immersion Institute, Summer 2017.

In the Fall of 2016, he started a teaching position at NELC. In the same semester, he designed a course on Arabic Media for students of Arabic at the Advanced Level. He also developed a new syllabus for an existing course on Contemporary Arabic Cinema.
Guadalupe Gonzalez Dieguez, Zaineb Istrabadi, Aziza Khazzoom, and Nader Morkus continue to teach and inspire the wonderful students in NELC!

John Walbridge’s chapter “Suhrawardi’s (d. 1191) Intimations of the Tablet and the Throne: The Relationship of Illuminationism and Peripatetic Philosophy,” appeared in The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy. In March he was the keynote speaker at a conference on al-Ghazali at Zaytuna College in California. In October he delivered a lecture “Suhrwardi on Providence: The Best and Only Possible World,” Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. In November he presented a paper “Is God Really Light? Al-Ghazali and his Interlocutors,” at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Boston. He has also developed a new course, “World War I in the Middle East.”

[cont. from pg. 10] eve of Islam in the third century. In Spring 2018 he will offer another course in this sequence, “Byzantium between East and West,” a survey of the Medieval Roman Empire up to the fifteenth century. In addition, he will also offer courses on the Hellenistic Near East, the conception of the Holy Land, pilgrimage, martyrdom, and other such topics.

Last summer he finished two articles. One of the articles focused on a fourth-century institution called the “Basilias,” often regarded as the first known example of a Christian hospital. Caner argues that rather than a hospital, it was a leprosarium that made caring for lepers central to monastic life. His article will serve as background to a chapter of a book that he is writing about the evolution of philanthropy in the Early Byzantine world. Its working title is “The Rich and the Poor: Christian Gifts and Religious Society in Early Byzantium.”

Professor Caner offers a new area of study for current and future NELC students interested in the Byzantine era and pre-Islamic Near East. We welcome him to the department and look forward to his contributions!
Iman Alramadan was awarded the IU Trustees Teaching Award. She was thrilled to get this award. She was one of only four recipients in the School of Global and International Studies. This award demonstrates her passion and efficacy in teaching our students, particularly our undergraduates.

She also completed an online course on teaching second language, where she worked through 75 hours of intensive coursework of StartTalk, ClassRoad: (Advancing TELL with Comprehensible Input) and another workshop on Oral Proficiency Interviews at the Center for Language Excellence at Indiana University.

Asaad Al-Saleh finished a 7-month Fellowship in Washington DC and is now back to teaching classes at NELC. His Fellowship during 2016 was at International Institute of Islamic Thought. He won a CAHI grant to do research in Jordan, but his plans might be halted due to the President’s Executive Order, which affects Al-Saleh as his country of origin is Syria--though he is a permanent resident in the USA. His recent publication “The Ministry of Culture in Syria: History, Production and Restrictions” has appeared in the Journal for Cultural Research last year, and he is revising a book chapter to be published in 2017 on the Sudanese novelist Tayeb Salih.

Stephen Katz continued to serve as Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures. Professor Katz, as Chair, composed a recommendation that resulted in Connie S. May, NELC’s Program Specialist, to be selected for an Outstanding Staff Award. Although his research pace has slowed due to the increased responsibilities of being Chair, his article, “Strange Language: Estrangement and Curiosity in American Modern Hebrew Literature,” in Hebrew, is forthcoming (in June, 2017) as a chapter in the Festschrift in honor of Moshe Pelli. Stephen Katz is also co-editor of that festschrift and has been overseeing many aspects toward the volume’s publication by Israel’s Hakibbutz Hame’uhad. He also continues to make progress in his preparation of a study of the representation of the Holocaust in early literature (in Hebrew, Yiddish and other languages) that was composed prior to 1960. His paper, “A Hebrew Literary Response to the Holocaust in Fortress America,” was scheduled to be delivered at the December, 2016 conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, in San Diego California. Due to inclement weather, his flight was cancelled and his paper remained undelivered. Another paper, this one in Hebrew, on the representation of rabbis in Hebrew Holocaust literature, is due to be delivered at the annual international conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in June, 2017, at New York University. He has also worked hard to organize the “Authors Talk” project conceived by Professor Dov-Ber Kerler and himself, and to bring to IUB Mr. David Grossman, one of Israel’s leading novelists.
NELC’s annual Danner Lecture in 2016 continued the tradition of an engaging lecture with great attendance. We welcomed Professor Charles Butterworth from the University of Maryland at College Park. He gave an engaging lecture titled, “Between Practice and Theory: Alfarabi’s Political Teaching.” This was the fourteenth Danner Lecture.

During the same night, students were given certificates and awards for outstanding performance throughout the year.

As part of NELC’s Annual Jwaideh Lecture, on November 10, 2016, NELC welcomed Harvard professor, Malika Zehgal, for her lecture “The Absent Secularists: Islam in the 2014 Tunisian Constitution.” For the first time, the Jwaideh lecture was hosted in the Federal Room at the Indiana Memorial Union. The event was well attended, requiring additional chairs and tables to accommodate the guests! Dr. Zehgal’s lecture was well attended and followed by a thorough and engaging discussion.

On February 27, 2017, distinguished Professor Roger Allen from the University of Pennsylvania came to Indiana University for his first time to present his lecture “The Arabic Historical Novel in Morocco (and Elsewhere).” The event was very well attended by our faculty.

In his lecture, Allen discussed how recent historical fiction not only reflects on the historical time setting, but also the recent political atmosphere. Using well-known proverbs about the [continued on page 18]
As part of NELC’s focus on its students, NELC spearheaded the first **Graduate Student Appreciation Days** event. Working in conjunction with nearby departments including the Center for the Study of the Middle East, the African Studies Program, the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, and the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, NELC hosted two days which offered thematic food and networking for graduate students of these departments. This event was a great success and fostered new paths for discussion among the many different graduate students.

NELC was proud to lead the project, and is even prouder of the graduate students we support!

NELC was able to participate in two **Islamophobia** panels during this academic year. As part of the Elimination of Prejudice Week during the fall, NELC co-sponsored an event with the Center for the Study of the Middle East and the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity. One of our professors, Zaineb Istrabadi, served on the four-person panel. Another related event was another Islamophobia panel, which took place approximately one month later. Again, one of our professors, Guadalupe Gonzalez-Dieguez, served on the panel. The School of Global and International Studies Dean, Lee A. Feinstein, served as moderator for the engaging discussion, in which media clips were punctuated by Q&A sessions with the panel. Much like the former, this panel had an excellent student turnout.

[continued from page 17]

process of change and history Professor Allen examined the recording of historical narratives and their fictional expressions in historical novels. The historical novel in Arabic is considered with particular emphasis on the uses and abuses of power and the modern tradition of the Moroccan novel. While this lecture was initially an inaugural lecture for our newest Professor, Asaad Al-Saleh, NELC is hoping to make this an annual lecture.

**The Arabic Dinner** is an annual event hosted by NELC which began in the fall of 2014. We proudly continued the event, with students bringing their own Middle Eastern dishes in a potluck style event! This event welcomes students to experience not only the food but also the culture of the Arab world. We welcomed many students and our Arabic language instructors. Many of photos of the food are featured throughout the newsletter!

As a member of the Borns Jewish Studies Program, Professor Katz has worked hard to organize and bring to Indiana University Bloomington Mr. David Grossman, one of Israel’s leading novelists, under the “**Authors Talk**” project conceived by Professor Dov-Ber Kerler and himself. Previous writers under this program include Assaf Gavron and the poet Hava Pinhas-Cohen (both in 2016). In the spring, 2017 term, current plans are to bring the author Nava Semel at the end of the spring, 2017, semester.
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS UPDATES


Christopher Anzalone (M.A. 2010) is currently a Ph.D. (ABD) candidate at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, and, this year, is a research fellow with the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He also published a major report with Hate Speech International, a European NGO, on the Somali jihadi-insurgent movement Al-Shabab, which was launched at an event held at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. in November.

Robert Olson’s (Ph.D. 1973) The Siege of Mosul and Ottoman-Persian Relations, 1718-1743: A Study of Rebellion in the Capital and War in the Provinces of the Ottoman Empire has been reprinted with a new introduction by Professor Olson. The first battle for Mosul place 274 years ago!

Professor Olson was the featured speaker on MESA panel “Fifty Years with the Kurds”. Professor Olson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey from 1963-1965 and travels extensively in Kurdistan-Turkey in the summer of 1964.

Hilo Sugita (M.A. 2016) became the second person to complete a Master of Arts degree in Egyptology at Indiana University, writing her MA thesis on: Uncovering the Dead: An Extensive Study of the Late Period Coffin Lid of Qnw-pw-s at the Indiana University Art Museum. In the Fall of 2016, she began her first semester as a Ph.D. student in Egyptology at Harvard University.

Basem Al-Raba’a (Ph.D. 2016) was hired as a visiting instructor of Arabic at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, where he started working Fall 2016. He is be the primary instructor of the Arabic program at Oberlin, teaching both Arabic language and content courses. He hopes to build a strong Arabic program and to expand extracurricular activities. Basem explains, “My expertise and the excellent professional training I received in the NELC Department will serve me greatly in developing the Arabic program there.” He defended his dissertation in March 2017.
Brendan Devine is a Master’s student in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies where he studies Sino-Mongolian history, culture, and religion. Working with Justine Galambus, he has helped to update NELC’s image and publicity. This began with the design of a new departmental logo and a banner to hang in the NELC office and at events. He and Justine have worked hard to create a template for future GAs for the advertisement of NELC’s course offerings. Brendan was heavily involved in the planning, scheduling, and implementation of NELC’s three major lectures during the 2016–2017 school year which featured Malika Zeghal (Harvard University), Roger Allen (University of Pennsylvania), and Khaled Abou El Fadl (UCLA). In addition, he helped design the flyers for the three lectures. Overall, he and Justine have striven to work with the NELC faculty and staff to create a better environment for NELC’s students.

In his free time, Brendan enjoys reading books and watching baseball. He plans on graduating after the upcoming summer and intends to pursue a PhD after graduation.

Justine Galambus is a Master’s Student in NELC’s Egyptology program. She was thrilled to take on this position and support the department. Along with Brendan Devine, she advocated a push for publicity for the department, starting with course flyers for almost all undergraduate courses, as well as select graduate courses. This was the first time in NELC’s history that such an undertaking was executed. Further, she continued to aid the department in updating the extensive digital and physical filing and archival systems, as well as periodic website maintenance. Finally, her largest ongoing project was the updated announcements system and social media presence. In the past year, NELC social media has doubled in its audience and interactions. Further, the updated announcements have not only refreshed the image of NELC, but also reduce the amount of email going to faculty and student while still conveying important event information.

In her free time, Justine is an active seamstress and loving pet owner. She plans on graduating after this coming summer. Her plans after graduation are yet undecided.

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Table of Contents (top) food from Arabic dinner; Table of Contents (middle) city of Amman as viewed from the citadel, submitted by Lydia Lahey; Table of Contents (bottom) sand surfing in the Wadi Rum, submitted by Lydia Lahey; Page 1 (top) Stephen Katz, reprinted with permission from the School of Global and International Studies; Page 3 (top) Seyed Asghari; Page 3 (middle) a sufi shrine in Turkey, submitted by Benjamin Priest; Page 3 (bottom) Michael Bevers (center) in Morocco, submitted by Michael Bevers ; Page 4 (top left) food from Arabic Dinner; Page 4 (top right) Lydia Lahey riding a camel in Petra, submitted by Lydia Lahey; Page 4 (bottom) submitted by Seyed Asghari; Page 5 (top) Dushanbe, Tajikistan, submitted by Jermaine Butler; Page 5 (middle) Dushanbe, Tajikistan, submitted by Jermaine Butler; Page 5 (bottom) Jermaine Butler playing an instrument in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, submitted by Jermaine Butler; Page 6 (top) sunset in Rabat, Morocco, submitted by Arielle Moss; Page 6 (bottom), Kashan, Iran, submitted by Seyed Asghari; Page 7 (top left) 3D model of a Senwasret Statue, submitted by Justine Galambus; Page 7 (top right) 3D model of a head of a Pharaoh, submitted by Justine Galambus; Page 7 (bottom) Professor Steven Vinson and students at the Brooklyn Museum, submitted by Kylie Thomsen; Page 8 (top) teaching in Morocco, submitted by Nader Morkus; Page 8 (bottom), Salman Alani and Nader Morkus in Morocco, submitted by Salman Alani; Page 10 (left) Choziba Mon Wadi Qelt, submitted by Daniel Caner; Page 10 (top right) Daniel Caner, submitted by Daniel Caner; Page 11 (top) taken in Morocco, submitted by Michael Bevers; Page 11 (middle) faculty at the Arabic dinner; Page 11 (bottom) Tajikistan, submitted by Jermaine Butler; Page 12 (top) Salman Alani at the Arabic dinner; Page 12 (middle) submitted by Steve Vinson; Page 12 (bottom) Karnak, submitted by Steve Vinson; Page 13 (top) Jerusalem, submitted by Lydia Lahey; Page 13 (bottom) submitted by Stephen Katz; Page 14 (top) Michaeal Bevers (far right) in Morocco, submitted by Michael Bevers; Page 14 (bottom) graffiti in Istanbul, submitted by Benjamin Priest; Page 15 (top) Iman Alramadan with her Arabic Valentine’s day class activity, submitted by Iman Alramadan; Page 15 (middle) Syria-Jordan border, submitted by Lydia Lahey; Page 16 (bottom) Roger Allen lecturing; Page 17 (top) Egyptology student at the Brooklyn Museum, submitted by Kylie Thomsen; Page 17 (middle) Egyptology students at the Brooklyn Museum, submitted by Kylie Thomsen; Page 18 (bottom left) Hilo Sugita at Giza, submitted by Steve Vinson
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