



ACOR  
أخبار أكور

AMERICAN CENTER OF  
ORIENTAL RESEARCH  
المركز الأمريكي  
للأبحاث الشرقية

# أخبار أكور NEWSLETTER

Volume 28.2 Winter 2016

## A Temple Transformed: The TWLCRM Initiative Hits Its Stride

*Glenn J. Corbett*

When the TWLCRM project was first launched in 2009, ACOR and its cooperating partners, the Department of Antiquities (DOA) and the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP), had the ambitious goal of transforming the previously excavated and long-neglected Temple of the Winged Lions into one of Petra's premier and best preserved attractions. By applying state-of-the-art conservation, documentation, site presentation, and community engagement strategies, ACOR and its partners hoped to set new standards for the sustainable preservation and management of ancient monuments within Petra. By the end of 2016, after more than five years of nearly continuous on-site work, and with sustained financial support from both the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), as implemented by ACOR, the temple's transformation into a preserved, accessible, and presented site is finally taking shape.



View of the Temple of the Winged Lions site within Petra showing the Nabataean temple after the creation of paths and platforms to make the structure more accessible and at the stage where the southwest quadrant has undergone conservation prior to backfilling to stabilize the building (photo by Qais Tweissi). Follow the project on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TWLCRM](http://www.facebook.com/TWLCRM)



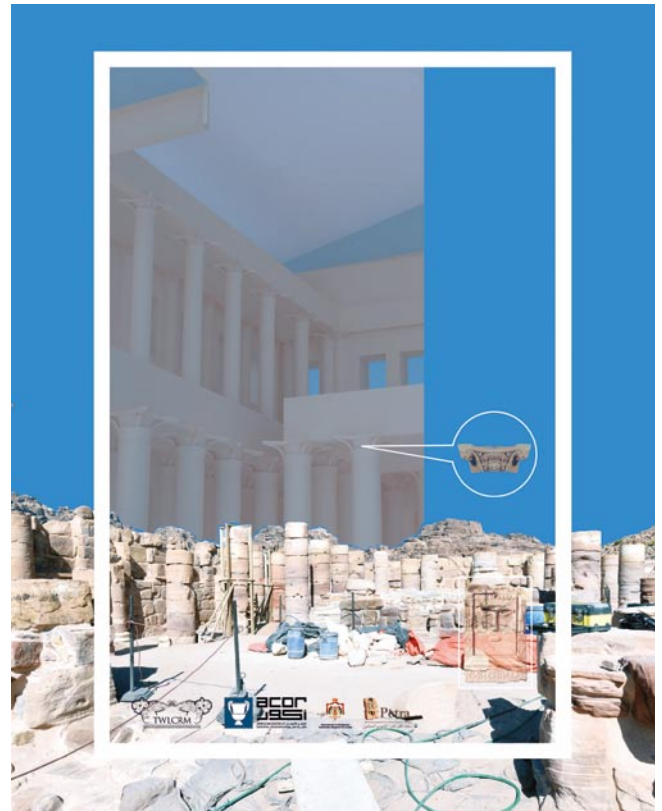
### Site Presentation

Without question, the most visible changes to the site have resulted from continued improvements to the site's overall presentation and accessibility. In particular, the project completed a new entrance platform that provides visitors with easy access to the temple's colonnaded inner sanctuary (or cella), an area that could be entered previously only by jumping over walls or scrambling across heaps of tumbled stones. With the new platform in place, visitors also gain a better perspective on the massive foundation walls and supporting piers of the temple's forecourt, along with the collapsed drums of the two monumental columns that once stood at the entrance to the temple. A similar platform was constructed lower down the slope to give visitors access to the corridors and "workshops" located below the temple's forecourt. These new entryways, along with a whole network of improved site paths made with recycled ashlar blocks found scattered across the site, have already made the temple and its surrounding areas much more inviting and accessible to tourists and locals alike.



The new platform that allows visitors improved access to the temple's inner sanctuary as well as better views of the collapsed giant columns that once stood at the entrance to the forecourt (photo by Glenn J. Corbett)

Most exciting, however, will be the installation atop the new cella platform of an innovative interpretive sign that, if successful, could serve as a model for future signage within the site and perhaps across Petra. The sign will feature a transparent glass plane through which visitors view a to-scale graphic reconstruction of the cella's interior modeled atop the extant remains, along with a text panel describing the cella and how it functioned. If the sign withstands the elements (and vandalism), the project plans to install similar signs at strategic locations around the site, offering views of the temple from different perspectives. The graphic reconstructions, drawn by Qais Tweissi, are based on the measurements and studies of the temple's architecture by project architect Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, while the interpretive text has been compiled by project co-director Glenn Corbett, with the support of Elena Ronza, former project director Christopher Tuttle, and DOA site management director Hanadi Al Taher. The sign will be manufactured by Al Asri company in Amman.



Concept design of transparent interpretive sign to be installed on site, showing to-scale reconstruction of the cella interior as seen from the new entrance platform (concept drawing courtesy of Qais Tweissi, Petra Archaeological Park)

### Conservation and Preservation

More subtle but critical to the temple's long-term preservation were the major strides made in 2016 to conserve the monument's exceedingly fragile walls and features. From March, the conservation team, led by lead conservator Franco Sciorilli and senior assistants Baha' Jankhot, Khaled Wahkyan, and Marwan Jamaliah, continued the laborious but essential work of cleaning the building's soft sandstones of imbedded salts that can be highly destructive to the stone if not properly removed. As the stones were cleaned, the team then applied layers of historically accurate mortar to the temple's walls, thereby filling the deep cavities and voids that had formed between the stones in the decades since the walls of the temple were first exposed. By November, when the conservation team had completed its work, almost all of



Conservation trainee Ghadeer Jdeilat applying a new layer of mortar between the stones of the cella's south wall (photo by Halemah Nawafleh)



Exterior face of the cella's southwest wall after completion of conservation treatment and application of final mortar layers (photo by Eman Abdessalam)

the building's front-facing architecture, including the monumental walls of the temple's entrance and forecourt, had been preserved. What is more, while the new mortar provides the monument with far greater aesthetic and structural cohesion, it was also applied in such a way as to channel rainwater gently away from the structure, thereby promoting the site's preservation.

To further support the temple's long-term preservation and accessibility, the project also focused attention on stabilizing and backfilling earlier and now quite hazardous excavation areas immediately adjacent to the main temple complex, including the problematic southwest quadrant (see below) and the long excavation trench below the temple's east corridor. For the latter, after essential documentation and conservation work was completed, the project team covered all exposed architecture with protective geotextile and then proceeded to backfill the area with alternating layers of soil and rubble. The team also reburied large numbers of the already documented ashlar blocks from the temple, thereby not only providing voluminous backfilling material but also making good use of scores of ashlars that had previously been scattered around the site. While there is still work to be done, the project expects to complete this important backfilling job during 2017.

As in previous years, much of the soil and rubble for the project's backfilling efforts were generated through the clearing and sifting of the earlier archaeological spoil heaps of the American Expedition to Petra (AEP) led by Philip Hammond from 1974 to 2005. In addition to producing large quantities of "clean" sifted soil and sorted stone rubble that could be recycled for backfilling or to fill stabilizing sandbags (see below), the sifting of the largest of Hammond's dumps (located immediately northwest of the temple) continued to produce fascinating finds from the temple's Nabataean and Roman past, including a miniature silver spoon that was likely used to scoop minute quantities of precious powders, liquids, or ointments from small, long-necked vessels.



Silver spoon (L. 4cm) found during sifting of the earlier AEP spoil heaps, cleaned by ACOR conservation technician Naif Zaban (photo by Barbara A. Porter)

### Community Partnership

Throughout the year, the TWLCRM continued to cooperate with its new local partner, Sela for Vocational Training and Protection of Cultural Heritage, to implement critical conservation and stabilization work in the temple's southwest quadrant. This deep and expansive AEP excavation area, while revealing the beautiful subterranean arched corridors that once supported the temple complex, also seriously compromised the building's structural integrity and, likewise, created high, unstable sections of loose soil and rubble that are now in danger of collapse.

With technical oversight provided by project co-director Elena Ronza, lead conservator Franco Sciorilli, and engineering geologist Giuseppe Delmonaco, the Sela team, which is headed by long-time TWLCRM local team members Eman Abdessalam and Ahmad Mowasa, provided nearly 70 members of Petra's host communities with hands-on experience in essential documentation, conservation, and backfilling techniques. Thanks to Sela's team of local trainees, who are being supported by USAID SCHEP, the bulk of the southwest quadrant's architecture was documented, previous excavation squares were backfilled, and its deteriorating walls and archways were properly conserved to ensure their long-term preservation once reburied. To create an added layer of protection, all of the area's architectural elements were wrapped in gray geotextile mesh to slow the accumulation of moisture and mold and then buttressed with a layer of clean sifted soil reinforced by stabilizing sandbag barriers. Indeed, there was such a need for sandbags, both to buttress the southwest quadrant architecture and to build the new entrance platforms mentioned above, that the project team had to create more than 2000 geotextile bags that were then filled with soil and rubble recovered during sifting of the AEP spoil heaps.



The architecture of the temple's deep southwest quadrant wrapped in gray geotextile and buttressed with soil and protective sandbags to prevent the accumulation of damaging moisture once the area is backfilled (photo by Eman Abdessalam)

Although it is hoped that final backfilling of the southwest quadrant will commence in 2017, initial stabilization efforts—supported through the project's AFCP award—began in November, as a number of critical measures needed to be taken before the onset of Jordan's winter rains. In particular, the team cleaned the southwest quadrant's high rubble section of loose stones and debris and then covered the entire slope with a thin layer of white plaster to provide greater stability. The work concluded by building a buttressing wall of geotextile bags and soil fill against the lowest and weakest part of the rubble section.





Team member Agelah Jmeidi stitching closed geotextile bags filled with sifted soil and rubble used to stabilize major on-site features (photo by Eman Abdessalam)



Documentation assistant Halemah Nawafleh completing the documentation for the temple's southwest quadrant (photo by Sofia Smith, USAID SCHEP)

### Documentation

As conservation and preservation work increased, so did the need to complete the pre-intervention documentation of the walls and areas to be conserved and backfilled. This documentation, particularly detailed elevation drawings, provides the essential “state of facts” used to record and detail the condition of the temple’s walls and features prior to conservation.

While much of this information has already been recorded across the temple’s various quarters, previously undocumented or partially documented areas (such as the walls of the temple’s forecourt) became a priority as the conservation team moved to conserve these important remains. As such, documentation specialist Eman Abdessalam and draftsperson Halemah Nawafleh worked to complete the required “state of facts” documentation, while simultaneously producing hand drawings of all implemented conservation work which, in many cases, had dramatically changed a wall’s appearance.

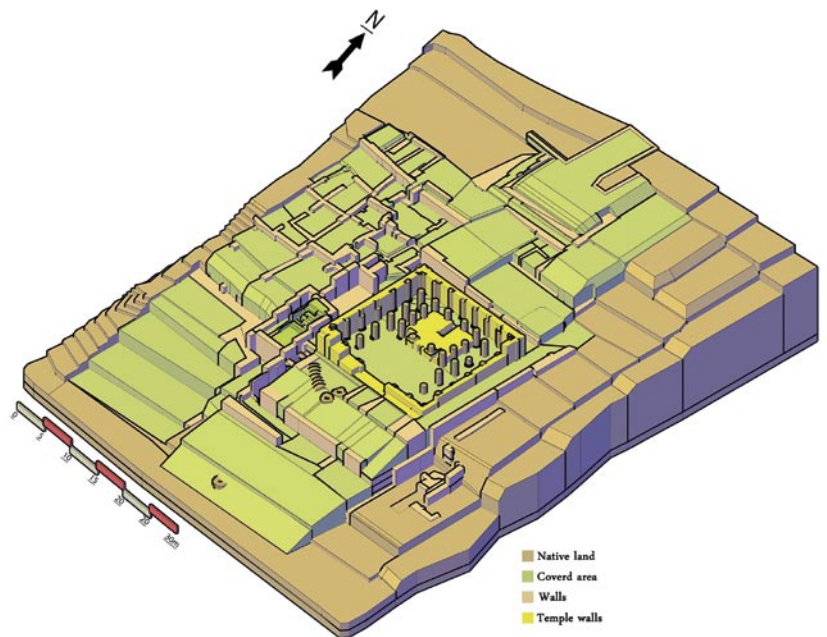
In support of the project’s critical backfilling and stabilization efforts, engineering geologist Giuseppe Delmonaco, along with Italian colleague Francesco Traversa, visited the site in October 2016 to take further geophysical measurements for their ongoing assessment of the temple’s overall structural stability. They were joined by project surveyor Qutaiba Dasouqi who used ACOR’s total station

to capture critical spatial and elevation data for the geophysical analysis. ACOR and the TWLCRM Initiative are extremely grateful to Royal Jordanian Airlines for providing complementary flights to these and other specialist team members who often come from abroad to ensure that the project’s conservation and preservation efforts meet the highest international standards.

Finally, former TWLCRM team member and current PAP employee Ahmad Hasanat worked with the project to finalize a preliminary three-dimensional digital model of what the temple and its surrounding landscape will look like after all backfilling has been completed. Generated with AutoCAD software, Hasanat’s model has provided the project with not just an overall schematic three-dimensional view of the intended project outcome, but also very useful section and plan renderings that will help inform practical decisions regarding the project’s backfilling and presentation strategy.

### Outreach and Awareness

In November, in an effort to increase public awareness about the project and the importance of cultural heritage preservation, the TWLCRM Initiative launched the Experience Petra program. Modeled after the project’s youth engagement initiatives, the new program allows tourists the opportunity to participate in the activities of preserving and protecting the temple. The program’s formal launch, held on November 5, invited families and friends of team members and special guests to participate in the approximately two-hour-long program, which introduces visitors to the major components of on-site work and allows them to do hands-on activities like sifting, pottery sorting, and conservation. In addition to offering visitors the chance to participate in preservation activities twice a week, the Experience Petra program also includes a daily 45-minute tour of the site—led by USAID SCHEP site stewards Eman Abdessalam and Ahmad Mowasa—that provides visitors with a more general introduction to the project. Since the launch, several tourist and local school groups have already participated, with additional groups scheduled to participate throughout 2017.



Schematic three-dimensional reconstruction of temple complex and environs after proposed backfilling interventions are completed (model by Ahmad Hasanat).

## ACOR's New Library Photographic Archive Project

ACOR is delighted to announce that in October 2016 it obtained funding from the U.S. Department of Education through the competitive American Overseas Research Centers program to digitize and make available its photographic archive. The new grant will support the ACOR Library Photographic Archive project with an award of \$260,000 to be disbursed over a four-year period. ACOR Associate Director Glenn Corbett and ACOR Library Director Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi will oversee the project.

The ACOR Library holds a remarkable photographic archive. The complete collection, estimated to number more than 100,000 images, provides visual documentation of ACOR's presence and activities in Jordan since its founding in 1968. The collection includes the photo collections of the five long-term directors who have served the institution since 1975, as well as the prints, slides, negatives, and digital images of several archaeologists, journalists,

travelers, and photographers who have donated their personal collections to ACOR over the years.

Senior Archivist Diane Ryan will advise the ACOR Library as they develop a strategic four-year workplan for processing, digitizing, and making available online ACOR's photographic collections. Diane Ryan is an American librarian and archivist with more than 30 years of experience in archival processing and digitization and she served as a consulting archivist for ACOR in 2012.

ACOR's photographic collections will be a key resource for scholars involved in cultural and natural heritage preservation and management. In 2017, ACOR will begin to make high-quality scans of these photographs available online, and thus the ACOR Library will better equip researchers and policy makers to monitor and assess the numerous threats facing heritage sites in the Middle East and Jordan in particular.

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## Wadi Ramm Survey Archive Gifted to ACOR

In September 2016, ACOR happily received the project archive of the 'Aqaba-Ma'an Archaeological and Epigraphic Survey (AMAES), directed by the late William (Bill) Jobling of the University of Sydney from 1980 to 1990. The pathbreaking survey, which documented Wadi Ramm's exceptional landscapes and archaeological remains with thousands of color and black and white photographs, was the first research project to comprehensively explore this vast desert region in Jordan's far south. The important collection was gifted to ACOR by Jobling's daughters, Rebecca and Kate, who often visited Jordan as children with their father.

During the course of its nine field seasons, the AMAES documented with photographs, maps, and drawings a desert landscape that was rich with undiscovered archaeological treasures. In addition to identifying small but remarkable desert settlements, including prehistoric stone enclosures, rock shelters, and an early Islamic village and open-air mosque, the survey recorded the archaeology of extensive wadi (valley) systems that were intensively used and settled in the past. Amid these wadis, Jobling's team discovered numerous springs, pools, wells, cisterns, and dams that made life in the desert possible, but perhaps more importantly, thousands of boulders and rock faces carved with rock drawings and inscriptions that were a visual and textual testament to the human experience of this bleak desert environment.

Jobling, who was the ACOR Annual Professor in 1989, passed away in December 1994 at age 53, just as he was beginning the work of publishing and making available the important results of the AMAES. As the years passed, his widow, the late Lee Jobling, transferred the survey's impressive archive of photographs, notes, and maps to Richard Morgan, who had joined the survey for several seasons as photographer and field assistant. Housed at the Morgan family estate in the town of Bathurst, outside of Sydney, the archive was made available to researchers interested in continuing Jobling's important work. In 2005, when I was a young Ph.D. student, I made my first visit to Bathurst to learn more about the survey. Over the next five years, I used the archive to develop a geographic and contextual study of the inscriptions and rock drawings found within Wadi Hafir, one of the richest epigraphic and rock art sites identified by Jobling (see *ACOR Newsletter* 26.1—Summer 2014).

This year, I began working with Richard Morgan and Rebecca and Kate Jobling to transfer the AMAES archive to the ACOR facility in Amman where it could be properly cataloged, digitized, and ultimately made available to the broader scholarly community interested in Wadi Ramm. In September, nearly 20 boxes of the survey's photographs and records were shipped to ACOR, where they are now being stored and processed for eventual scanning. During 2017, thanks to a supporting grant from the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, given in honor of long-time University of Sydney administrator and AMAES photographer and field assistant Michael Bannigan, ACOR's archival technicians under my direction will create high-resolution scans of nearly half of the survey's 5000 color slides, an important first step in preserving the collection for posterity.

As the digitization project grows and secures additional funding, the survey's invaluable photographic data will be linked with scans of Jobling's field notes and on-site readings, maps showing the locations where inscriptions were found, and even the tracings that were

occasionally made of the inscribed stone surfaces. Using the latest digital technologies, it is hoped that the results of Jobling's important survey can ultimately be made available through a robust and user-friendly online database that will reveal the wealth of Wadi Ramm's little known archaeology to the world.

*Glenn J. Corbett*



Bill Jobling on survey in 1984 (photo by Richard Morgan)



## Carmen Ayoubi's ASOR Award Citation

### *American Schools of Oriental Research* **The W. F. Albright Service Award**

2016

*Carmen Matsuno Ayoubi*  
(*Humi*)

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers, ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees—the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee.

Carmen (Humi) Matsuno Ayoubi, Head Librarian, American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), has directed the ACOR Library since 1988 with extraordinary and dedicated service. The oversight that Humi Ayoubi has provided has allowed the ACOR Library to become one of the premier research libraries in the region in a wide range of fields, with archaeology at its core. She has provided guidance to scholars and students for almost 30 years and played a critical role in the development of ACOR's "jewel in the crown." Under her stewardship the ACOR Library has grown from a modest collection of fewer than 3,000 books to what is today one of the best libraries in Jordan with a collection of nearly 50,000 books and journals. Additionally, the ACOR Library serves as a meeting place among cultures, with an increasing number of Jordanian students, teachers, and scholars using the library and interacting with ACOR's foreign visitors. ACOR's stated mission "to advance knowledge of Jordan past and present" is encapsulated in all that Humi has done to keep the ACOR Library up-to-date and relevant in so many scholarly fields. Her dedication and acumen cannot be underestimated.

## In Memoriam: George Landes, Sr. (1928–2016)



Photo courtesy of Carol M. Landes

The Reverend Dr. George M. Landes, Sr. died in Allentown, Pennsylvania on April 7, 2016 at the age of 87. He was an important part of ACOR's early history as one of the three original, official incorporators of ACOR who signed the May 8, 1970 State of Delaware Certificate of Incorporation for The American Center of Oriental Research in Amman—along with

John H. Marks (Princeton University) and Roger S. Boraas (Upsala College). He was also part of the Amman Committee formed by ASOR in 1970 which directed ACOR in the 1970s and served as ACOR Board Vice President from 1969 to 1979.

He received his B.A. in philosophy in 1949 from the University of Missouri (his home state) and then went to McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago for his M.Div. degree (1952). His Ph.D. in Old Testament and Semitic Studies was received from The Johns Hopkins University (1956) in Baltimore where

he studied with Professor W. F. Albright. That same year he started his distinguished teaching career at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. In 1981, he was named to the Davenport Chair in Hebrew and Cognate Languages and when he retired in 1995, he held the title Davenport Professor Emeritus. He and his wife Carol moved to the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania.

During a 1962 sabbatical, he joined the expedition to Tell Balata (ancient Shechem) and studied the pottery while his wife conserved the ceramic material; together they were part of the Drew-McCormick team. In his next sabbatical year, 1967–68, he was the Annual Professor of the School in Jerusalem for ASOR and was involved in archaeological projects. He joined the ASOR Board of Trustees in 1972 and served as the Secretary of that Board until 1994 (an impressive 22 years) when he was nominated Honorary Trustee. He was known for his diligent and mindful stewardship.

His main research focused on the Old Testament (particularly the Book of Jonah), Hebrew, and Hebrew exegesis. He was clearly a much loved teacher and colleague as expressed in the Festschrift in his honor—*On the Way to Nineveh: Studies in Honor of George M. Landes* (ASOR Books Volume 4), edited by S. L. Cook and S. C. Winter (1999); many of the contributors to this volume were part of the Columbia University Seminar for the Study of the Hebrew Bible, for which he was a founding member. Professor Landes is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol Marie, and their children George M. Landes, Jr., Peggy Centanni, and Christopher J. Landes and their families. ACOR extends its deep sympathy to his family members and friends and herewith acknowledges the role of this founding father who continued to care about ACOR in his retirement and to reach out with words of encouragement as well as thoughtful donations.

## USAID SCHEP Communications' Update

The Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), funded by USAID and implemented by ACOR, has been led by Nizar Al Adarbeh as Chief of Party since September 2015. In 2016, a new logo was designed with the team thanks to Communications Officer Sofia Smith who worked in close collaboration with Emad Salameh of SADD, the company engaged for design. The logo that was chosen is based on the game of Seven Stones (*Saba' Ihjar*). Sofia provided this insightful explanation for the choice:

“First, it’s simple, it’s rooted in the community, it’s easily accessible. It is a game that everyone in Jordan played growing up. The feeling of nostalgia feeds into our core mission: rediscovering the past and investing in the future. People in host communities remember a time they played Seven Stones, maybe even with some of the loose stones from the sites themselves. It makes them think of running around with their friends and siblings, their first ties to their homes and communities. At the same time, it makes them think of the legacy they want for their children and their children’s children—one that is connected to their heritage but also brightened by the economic possibility that the skills learned from SCHEP and increased tourism can provide.

Second, for those outside the region who may not know the game, the logo also works. The shape is similar to a cairn or the pile of stones that hikers and travelers assemble when they reach the summit of a mountain or visit a remote location. It taps into the adventuresome spirit of the ideal visitor to a SCHEP site—someone



who wants to get off the beaten path and hear the less-told stories of the place they are visiting. It is also a perfect jumping off point for the visitor to learn more about the everyday lives of those who live in the host communities and gives them a perfect story to take home with them—perhaps about the ancient sugar trade or the incense route.

In my mind, this image of seven stones perfectly encapsulates SCHEP and its mission to celebrate history and empower communities; while at first glance it may just appear to be a pile of rocks, as you peel back the layers you learn about the people, their history, and their stories so it becomes much more.”

SCHEP has been active since November 2014 and you can meet the people involved and explore the programs and projects via:

Website: [www.usaidschep.org](http://www.usaidschep.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/USAIDSCHEP/](https://www.facebook.com/USAIDSCHEP/)

Instagram: [@usaidschep](https://www.instagram.com/usaidschep)

Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/141818365@N03/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/141818365@N03/)

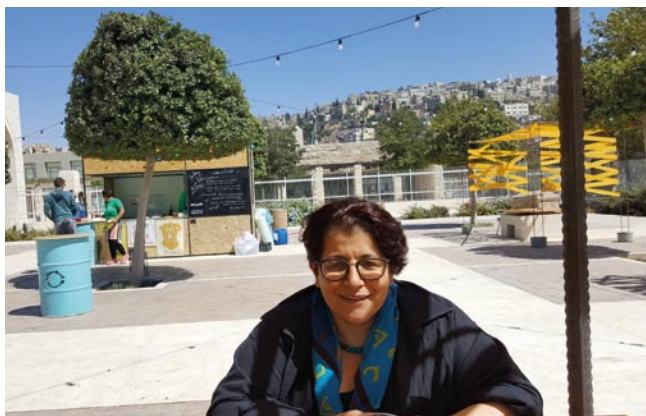
### Fellows in Residence (July–December 2016)

*National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)*

**Aseel Sawalha**, Anthropology, Fordham University; Amman’s Art Scene and the Changing Urban Landscape

*Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC)*  
*Post-Graduate Fellowship*

**Michael Vicente Pérez**, Anthropology, University of Washington; Surviving Statelessness: Gaza Refugees and the Politics of Living in Jordan



NEH Fellow Aseel Sawalha during Amman Design week in September 2016 in the garden of the Jordan Museum

### CAORC Fellows

**Brittany Barrineau**, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky; Exporting Heritage and Highlighting Politics: Extra Virgin Olive Oil Production in Jordan

**Sarah Islam**, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University; The Evolution of Blasphemy as Legal Category in Medieval Islamic History

**Rana Khoury**, Political Science, Northwestern University; Blurred Boundaries: External and Local Determinants of Social Order in Syria’s Civil War



CAORC Fellows, standing from left: Michael Pérez, Brittany Barrineau, Sarah Islam, Suzanne Richard, and seated: Rana Khoury and CAORC Executive Director Christopher Tuttle

Blogs written about their research in Jordan by these ACOR Fellows are available on the ACOR Website, [www.acojordan.org](http://www.acojordan.org)

## American Center of Oriental Research 2017–2018 Fellowship Awardees Announcement

*National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship*

**Gary Rollefson** (Anthropology, Whitman College) Lithic Technologies and Social Identities: A Comparative Analysis of Chipped Stone Tool Production in Jordan's Badia

*ACOR-CAORC Post-Graduate Fellowship*

**Omar Attum** (Biology, Indiana University Southeast) The Biodiversity Value of Cultural and Archaeological Landscapes in Northern Jordan

**Frances Hasso** (Sociology and History, Duke University) Palestinian Young Child and Pre-Natal Death during the British Mandate

*ACOR-CAORC Fellowship*

**Rawan Arar** (Sociology, University of California, San Diego) Shouldering the Refugee Burden: Jordan and the Global Refugee Crisis

**Allison Spencer Hartnett** (Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford) Land, Property Rights, and Distributive Politics in Jordan

**Ian Jones** (Anthropology, University of California, San Diego) Settlement and Movement on the Karak Plateau in the Middle Islamic Period: The Case of Khirbat al-Balu'a

**Steven Dean Schaaf** (Political Science, George Washington University) Lawful Resistance: Legal and Political Contention in Jordan

**Patricia Ward** (Sociology, Boston University) How Humanitarian Relief Really 'Works': Examining International Organizations' Use of Local Labor in Crisis Contexts

*Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship*

**Vivian Laughlin** (Graduate Student, Archaeology, Andrews University) Serapis in Hisban: A Historical Narrative of Enculturation of an Ancient Jordanian City

*Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship*

**Craig Harvey** (Graduate Student, Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Michigan) The Roman Baths of Jordan: A Study of their Construction Materials and Techniques

*Harrell Family Fellowship*

**Jeremy Beller** (Graduate Student, Archaeology/Anthropology, University of Victoria) Neanderthal Resource Procurement and Survival at a Levantine Refugium during Periods of Climatic Stress

*Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship*

**Ashley Paling** (Undergraduate Student, Near Eastern and Classical Archaeology, Wilfred Laurier University) Town of Nebo Archaeological Project (TNAP) or Khirbat al-Mukhayyat Archaeological Project (KMAP)

*Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship*

**Felicia de Pena** (Graduate Student, Archaeology/Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley) Reduction Sequences of the Epipaleolithic in the Levant: Communities of Practice and Knowledge Transmission

*ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship*

**Safa' Al Daajah** (Graduate Student, Archaeology of Ancient Arab Civilizations, The Hashemite University) Rock-Cut Architecture and Landscape in Nabataean Petra

**Rawan Hasan** (Graduate Student, Spatial Planning, German Jordanian University) Understanding the Urban Ambiance of Heritage Cities—Between Preservation and Change: The Case of Madaba Historic City Center

**Neda'a Al Khazali** (Graduate Student, Epigraphy, Yarmouk University) The Late Aramaic Tomb Inscriptions from Ghor al-Safi in their Historical, Religious and Linguistic Contexts

**Safa'a Younis** (Graduate Student, Educational Sciences, The Hashemite University) The Effect of Teaching Geography Using Modern Technologies on Developing Heritage Awareness of Jordan's Geographical and Archaeological Sites among 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

*Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship*

**Wafaa AlShalabi** (Undergraduate Student, Archaeology, University of Jordan) Archaeology

**Ruba Al Omary** (Graduate Student, Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources, Yarmouk University) Using Nanoparticles for Consolidation of Limestone in Jordan

*James A. Sauer Fellowship*

**Catrenea Hamarneh** (Graduate Student, Geoarchaeology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) Investigating Man-Made Terraces of Petra, Jordan

*ACOR Fellow MESA Award*

**José Ciro Martínez** (Graduate Student, Politics, University of Cambridge) Site of Resistance or Apparatus of Acquiescence? Everyday Tactics at the Bakery

### ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship Awardees for ASOR Annual Meetings

*San Antonio, November 2016*

**Husam Hijazeen** (Department of Antiquities) "Hercules Temple (Great Temple of Amman) Marcus Aurelius time (161–166 A.D.)"

**Hussein Al Sababha** (Bonn University) "Islamic Pottery and its Distribution in Agricultural Fields as a Marker of Land Use throughout the Islamic Period in Northern Jordan"

*Boston, November 2017*

**Sahar Al Khasawneh** (Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University) "Dating a Near Eastern Desert Hunting Trap (Kite) Using Luminescence Rock Surface Dating"

**Arwa Massa'deh** (Head of Publication, Registration, and Library, Department of Antiquities of Jordan) "Al Balu' Between the Site and People"

For ACOR Fellowship information see the ACOR website including for the new MESA Conference Award  
Applications due February 1, 2018



## Public Lectures at ACOR (Fall 2016)—Find now on YouTube and ACOR’s Website!

September 28—Suzanne Richard (Gannon University and ACOR-CAORC Fellow), “The Levantine Early Bronze Age: Reevaluation and New Vistas”



Moawiyah Ibrahim, Zeidan Kafafi, Suzanne Richard, and Khair Yassine after her lecture

October 26—Aseel Sawalha (Fordham University at Lincoln Center and ACOR-NEH Fellow), “An Anthropological Gaze at Art: Women, Art Markets, and Urban Space in Amman”



Fulbright Fellow Emily Robbins with Peggie Abujaber and Ann Sawalha before Aseel Sawalha’s lecture

## Forty Years with ACOR

*S. Thomas Parker, ACOR Board Second Vice President*

It’s hard to believe that more than forty years have passed since I first visited ACOR. It was the summer of 1975 and my first time in Jordan. Then a graduate student at UCLA, I had already done some fieldwork in Israel and Cyprus but had never been to Jordan. I was planning to join Philip Hammond’s excavation of the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra. My main contact was Jim Sauer, who was soon to become the ACOR Director. I hoped that Jim’s ground-breaking monograph on stratified ceramic evidence from



Tom Parker standing between Roman milestones along the Via Nova Traiana in Wadi Mujib in 1976, the year of his Limes Arabicus Survey (photo courtesy of Tom Parker)

Tell Hesban would offer the key tool for my proposed dissertation on the Roman military frontier in Jordan (the Limes Arabicus). Jim and his wonderful wife Sue welcomed me to lunch at ACOR’s rented facility near the Third Circle in Jabal Amman, where I enjoyed my first meal (certainly not my last!) prepared by Mohammed Adawi (Abu Ahmed), ACOR’s first cook who still heads the kitchen.

Jim was enthusiastic in his support for my proposed project, a survey of major Roman military sites in Jordan. He generously offered to analyze the pottery from this survey (I knew nothing of ceramics in those days) and, as ACOR Director, he was essential in persuading the Department of Antiquities to approve a permit for the next summer. The 1976 survey, during which I had my first extended stay at ACOR, was the basis for my doctoral dissertation, completed in 1979.

While visiting Los Angeles the next winter on a lecture tour, Jim persuaded me to become the ceramologist for Bert de Vries’ excavation at Umm el-Jimal for the following summer. I had by then learned a little about ceramics and I was ultimately persuaded to accept the job based on Jim’s offer to work closely with me in a crash course just prior to the field season in 1977. But, as they say, “stuff happens”. Upon my arrival in Amman, I learned that ACOR was being evicted from the Third Circle facility and was making an emergency move to a newly constructed building near the Fifth Circle. So, not only did Jim have no time for the promised crash course, but I was much needed to move stuff from the old ACOR to the new—along with other members of the Umm el-Jimal team! Somehow it all got done.

I returned to Jordan in 1979 to plan my first major excavation, focusing on the Roman legionary fortress at el-Lejjun, east of the Dead Sea. Jim was again a cheerleader, above all helping me obtain a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). We took to the field in 1980 and returned in alternate years through 1989, always using ACOR as a base. In 1981, Jim Sauer was succeeded as director by David McCreery, who served until 1988. In 1982, I was privileged to reside at ACOR for six months on an NEH fellowship. The highlight was driving solo

from Amman through Syria and eastern Turkey to the Black Sea and back for a month. David made sure that the little ACOR Toyota four-wheel drive was up to the task. One of my fond memories is of David on his back under an ACOR vehicle, covered in motor oil, as he was the one who kept those vehicles running.

While Jim Sauer had the vision of building a permanent facility for ACOR, David actually executed Jim's dream. The new ACOR opened in 1986 opposite the University of Jordan and remains a tribute to David's leadership. In 1987, I was invited to join ACOR's Board of Trustees. After all that ACOR had done for me, I was eager to accept and have served on the board to the present day. In 1988, David McCreery passed the directorship baton to Bert de Vries. By then Bert and I were already old friends and colleagues, having worked together at Hesban (1976), Umm el-Jimal (1977–84), and Lejjun (1980–89). Our different skills meshed together beautifully—I sometimes joked that together we comprised one archaeologist! We usually had our mid-season parties at ACOR and they tended to be real blowouts after a few weeks of living in tents in the desert at el-Lejjun.

A personal tragedy in that era was the unexpected death of Jennifer Groot who died of cancer in 1987 at age 36. She was a gifted archaeologist with whom I had worked at Hesban, Umm el-Jimal, and el-Lejjun. Engulfed in grief, I decided to launch a fundraising campaign to endow a fellowship in her honor and the response was overwhelming. The first Jennifer Groot Fellowship, which assists students who are beginners in archaeology, was awarded in 1989 and some 67 Groot Fellowships have been awarded to date. Some have gone on to careers in archaeology, with a few now directing their own field projects. This was ACOR's first named fellowship, the first of many to come.

Bert de Vries served with distinction for three years but his last (1990–91) was greatly complicated by the First Gulf War when most ACOR staff and all residents were evacuated and thus no income was generated while a substantial mortgage on the new building remained a daunting challenge. Into the breach stepped Pierre and Patricia Bikai, the first ACOR leaders with whom I had no prior personal acquaintance. The Bikais turned out to be the perfect choice for this crucial moment in time.

Pierre was Director but Patricia soon became Associate Director and their different skillsets meshed perfectly. Pierre focused on public relations, fundraising, and other matters while Patricia oversaw ACOR's newly launched publication program (she is a superb editor). Above all, they persuaded the U.S. government, through USAID, to fund a major excavation of a church in Petra, as envisioned by Ken Russell. Tragically, Ken died unexpectedly just days before the project was to begin, but Pierre and Patricia saw the project through to final publication.

Another achievement of the Bikai's was persuading Artemis Joukowsky in 1992 to become President of the ACOR Board of Trustees. Artie took on this job only after careful planning. I remember flying to New York twice for extensive meetings with Artie and other ACOR trustees. He listened carefully to all our views as he learned about ACOR. His extraordinary leadership and financial generosity, combined with successful fundraising by Pierre, soon led to paying off the mortgage, expanding the building, and creating an endowment for ACOR. Pierre and Patricia helped many field projects during their fifteen years directing ACOR, including my own excavations at Aqaba, conducted from 1994 to 2002.

In 2006, Barbara Porter became ACOR Director and has continued to lead ACOR with distinction, especially given the challenges posed by recent political developments in the region. Since 2012, Barbara has greatly assisted Megan Perry and me as co-directors of our current Petra North Ridge Project, which continues ACOR's work under Patricia Bikai on this part of this fabulous site. So after 40 years, I find myself digging once again at Petra, where it all began for me in Jordan. Randy Old, a long-time friend of ACOR, succeeded Artie as President of the Board of Trustees in 2011 and continues to provide effective and inspiring leadership.

Now as Second Vice President of the ACOR Board, chair of the Fellowship Committee, and member of the Executive Committee, I have a somewhat unique bird's eye view of ACOR. I continue to be impressed by the growth of the ACOR Library, its fellowship and publication programs, and the broadening of its academic mission beyond archaeology to other fields in the humanities and social sciences. This must be largely credited to an outstanding staff led by this series of superb directors and an engaged and committed Board of Trustees. Its service to Jordan is manifold, including academic scholarships for Jordanian students, an outstanding library which welcomes Jordanian students and academics, close cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, and its current ongoing program in promoting local engagement of Jordan's precious cultural heritage through USAID SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project).

It only seems like yesterday when I met Jim Sauer at ACOR to launch my archaeological career in Jordan. It has been a privilege and honor to be a part of this institution and its history. Throughout the past four decades, ACOR has always been a welcoming home for so many of us for our professional careers in Jordan. Whatever academic success I have achieved is due in no small measure to ACOR and its succession of extraordinary directors. It has quite literally framed my professional and personal life. ACOR has of course been transformed over the past four decades that I have known it. But, despite all the achievements and success ACOR has thus far enjoyed, I truly believe that the best is yet to come!



Tom Parker with Aphrodite head uncovered during the North Ridge Excavations in Petra in summer 2016 (photo courtesy of Tom Parker)



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### (July–December 2016)

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**Many donations were made by members of the newly formed group FAFA: Foreign Affairs Friends of ACOR established in December 2015. Many thanks!**

## ACOR Special Announcements



Humi Ayoubi and Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh at the Jordan Museum in May 2016

At the November 2016 ASOR Annual Meeting, ACOR Librarian Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi received The W. F. Albright Service Award (for citation see p. 6) for her dedicated service to ACOR since 1988. Two days later at the ACOR Board meeting, the ACOR Board President announced that Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh was promoted to ACOR Deputy Director. This was her first ASOR meeting and she also continues in her role as ACOR's Chief Financial Officer (for staff profiles and the initial announcements, see ACOR's website). We celebrate these two milestones in ACOR's staff history and offer our congratulations!

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To share your stories about ACOR  
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## November 2016 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees's fall meeting took place at La Cantera Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas, on November 19, 2016 at the time of the ASOR Annual Meeting. President Randolph B. Old presided. Morag Kersel was elected to the ACOR Board of Trustees as a member of the class of 2019. Associate Director Glenn Corbett provided information on a new archival grant and the TWLCRM Initiative. Barbara Porter's various reports to the Board included the Final Report for ACOR's Permanent Endowment as submitted to USAID in October 2016, in which she summarized the 20 years of activities made possible by this cooperative agreement (1997–2016). ACOR Assistant Director in the Boston Office, China Shelton, was the recording secretary.

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## Contents

A Temple Transformed: The TWLCRM Initiative Hits Its Stride .....	1
ACOR's New Library Photographic Archive Project .....	5
Wadi Ramm Survey Archive Gifted to ACOR.....	5
Carmen Ayoubi's ASOR Award Citation.....	6
In Memoriam: George Landes, Sr. (1928–2016) .....	6
USAID SCHEP Communications' Update.....	7
Fellows in Residence (July–December 2016).....	7
American Center of Oriental Research 2017–2018 Fellowship Awardees Announcement .....	8
ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship Awardees for ASOR Annual Meetings Public Lectures at ACOR (Fall 2016) .....	9
Forty Years with ACOR.....	9
Donations to ACOR (July–December 2016) .....	11
Donations to ACOR Library (July–December 2016).....	11
ACOR Special Announcements .....	12
November 2016 Board Meeting .....	12
ACOR Trustees .....	12

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