



*Petra, Temple of the Winged Lions (foreground) and Great Temple (background).
Image from the USAID SCHEP photographic collection.*



ACOR
أكور

المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث

AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

American Center of Research

Annual Report 2020

October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020

Jordan Office: P.O. Box 2470, Amman 11181, Jordan

Jordan Office Phone: (+962-6) 534-6117

U.S. Office: 209 Commerce Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2909

U.S. Office Phone: (+1) 703-789-9231

www.acorjordan.org

acor@acorjordan.org



OUR MISSION

Image: Participants in the ACOR-CAORC Faculty Development Seminar "Sustainability at the Margins" (see p. 5) exploring the Umm al-Jimal archaeological site in northern Jordan. Jan. 7, 2020.

"Established in 1968, the **American Center of Research (ACOR)** is an international, non-profit academic organization that advances our understanding of Jordan and the interconnected Middle East, past and present. ACOR facilitates the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge through an extensive library and archive, fellowship and scholarship programs, and residential facilities. ACOR promotes archaeological research, cultural heritage preservation, and knowledge-sharing through lectures, digital resources, publications, workshops, and training programs. ACOR serves as a conduit for cultural exchange among students, professionals, and the public in Jordan and beyond."

ACOR is a U.S. nonprofit registered with the government of Jordan and recognized as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization by the United States Internal Revenue Service. ACOR is supported by grants, contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals, as well as by endowments.



ACOR's center in Amman is currently undergoing a major renovation, funded by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS). Owing to the pandemic, the intended start of this project was delayed from June 2020 to November 2020. We are pleased to report that the project is now moving forward, with expected completion in fall 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

At the outset of this year, few could have guessed what the future held in store. For an organization focused on learning about and engaging people, 2020 has been a challenging, often frustrating, year. For the first time in ages, our hostel was virtually empty in the summer, the library was closed for extended periods, and since March 2020 we held no in-person events. As we continue to acclimate to the new status quo resulting from COVID-19, please know we remain engaged in our mission, thanks especially to the innovation and flexibility of our staff and the steadfast support of our donors and board.

Indeed, it has been a banner year for sharing information about Jordan's past and present. We published *Petra: The North Ridge* and made available online thousands of images in our photo archive, dozens of new *Insights* articles, web portals, and photo essays, in addition to scholarly lectures. Virtually all of this content is freely available from anywhere in the world. Even through seasons of remote work, we are doing our best to support scholars, students, and projects that have proven to be resilient and forward-thinking. Indeed, we all must find new ways to maneuver in the virtual field while engaging diverse audiences. I am proud of the steps we have taken to do so—together.



Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us directly if you have ideas or specific inquiries about our work.

With best wishes for health and safety,

Pearce Paul Creasman, Ph.D.; Director



ACOR
إس آر
 المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث
 AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH
 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

BY THE NUMBERS

Figures below reflect achievements during the period October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020.

- In FY 2020, ACOR awarded **22 fellowships and scholarships**, including **7** to Jordanians (see p. 6).
- ACOR held **6 public lectures**, enjoyed by **over 700 attendees**, among them academics, students, diplomats, heritage professionals, and interested members of the public. **Two** of these lectures were presented entirely online (see p. 7).
- We welcomed **1,200 in-person library visitors**, largely before the COVID-19 outbreak and associated lockdowns. Our library contains over **45,000 publications** and is one of the premier research resources in the region. We have continued to engage users for in-person and remote access to items in our catalog, despite partial closures to the public (see p. 5).
- A total of **330 Jordanian students, young professionals, community members, and employees in the heritage and tourism sectors** participated in SCHEP workshops and training courses (see p. 4).
- The ACOR Photo Archive team **digitized and described 9,456 images** from Jordan and the Middle East, bringing the year-end total to just over **30,000 photographs** freely available and searchable online at acor.digitalrehab.com (see p. 5).

PUBLICATION UPDATES

- ***Petra: The North Ridge***: Published in July 2020, *Petra: The North Ridge*, by P. M. Bikai, M. A. Perry, and C. Kanellopoulos, discusses archaeological excavations of the Ridge Church and the Blue Chapel at Petra (Jordan). It represents the culmination of decades of work carried out by ACOR in coordination with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the Petra Park. The book includes perspectives from nineteen contributors and a foreword by His Royal Highness Prince Raad Bin Zeid.
- **Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project**: Since 2009, ACOR has led cultural resource management work at Petra's Temple of the Winged Lions. Researchers are currently advancing the project toward final publication. In FY 2020, publications fellow Pauline Piraud-Fournet conducted a bibliographic study of the earlier American Expedition to Petra and collated digital archives, leading to reassessment of earlier interpretations about the site. Project interns Safa' Joudeh (2019) and Nora Al-Omari (2019–2020), with undergraduate study-abroad interns Fabiola Garcia and Nick Cleveland-Stout (2020), helped document hundreds of fragmentary objects and materials from the site and digitized and organized these collections.
- **New Digital Publications Website**: In July 2020, we launched a new addition to our website with the goal of better supporting authors and readers alike through new, high-quality web publication offerings (see publications.acorjordan.org). Digital readers can now access our newsletter archive, electronic copies of open-access books, the new and improved *Insights*, and more on our unified searchable platform.

Images at right: Top: Nora al-Omari and Pauline Piraud-Fournet (left and right) studying objects from the American Expedition to Petra. Middle: White-spectacled bulbuls at Petra as viewed through the lens of ecologist Marjolein Schat, faculty-development seminar participant. Below: Photo of the honorary Greek epigram found within the Ridge Church complex at Petra. Photo by B. Zuckerman and M. Lundberg. West Semitic Research Project.



The Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), funded by USAID and implemented by ACOR, carried out significant programming and made progress toward project goals. Capacity-building was a primary focus for SCHEP in FY 2020, with a total of **330 Jordanian students, young professionals, community members, and employees** in the heritage and tourism sectors (approximately half of them women) participating in SCHEP workshops and training courses this year.

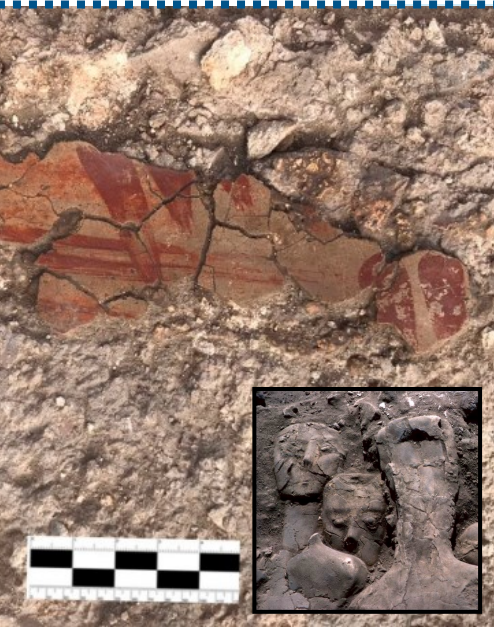
In-Person Capacity-Building: Initially, the project conducted a **needs assessment of governmental bodies** involved in the protection of archaeological heritage, including the Department of Antiquities (DoA), Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA), Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA), and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)/Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA). This assessment involved detailed meetings with area directors and departmental heads, in addition to a survey completed by **255 employees** of these institutions regarding their experience, education level, interests, technical skills in heritage management, communication skills, and more. SCHEP worked with AMIDEAST to conduct **English-language assessments** for **177 employees** of the DoA, the Jordan Museum, PDTRA, ASEZA/WRPA, and SCHEP-supported enterprises. The employees were sorted into appropriate groups for English-language training (see image at right). This program began in February 2020: **149 heritage- and tourism-sector employees** had received English-language training through the ACOR-AMIDEAST partnership by September 30, 2020.



Online Capacity-Building: During summer months, SCHEP sought to make the most of the COVID-19 curfew in Jordan by offering scholarships for selected online courses. With SCHEP support, **seven Jordanian students and young professionals** attended a **University of Oxford** online course on “Archaeology in Practice.” An additional **fifty Jordanian tourism professionals** received SCHEP scholarships to attend a special online **Sustainable Tourism Training Program**, organized by SCHEP in partnership with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

Tourism MSEs: A significant component of SCHEP’s mission is supporting the development of sustainable, community-based tourism in Jordan. In FY 2020, SCHEP continued work with **four micro to small enterprises (MSEs)**, all of which were established with project support. One step taken to help mitigate the effects of cancelled international tourism seasons, SCHEP helped ensure that three of these enterprises were included in the “Urdonna Jannah” domestic tourism program initiated by the Jordanian government.

Youth Awareness: During FY 2020, SCHEP engaged a total of **393 Jordanian youth** in hands-on activities to raise their awareness of and appreciation for cultural heritage, both directly and through the project’s partnership with the Jordan Friends of Archaeology and Heritage.



SITE STORY | Applied Capacity-Building at Ayn Ghazal

In October 2019, Jordan’s Department of Antiquities (DoA) began **rescue excavations** at the Neolithic archaeological site of Ayn Ghazal to protect the site from construction (see image above). In order to develop the skills of employees assigned to the project and impart to them new technical experience, SCHEP designed an applied capacity-building program to accompany rescue excavation work, including 60 hours of training activities. A three-day intensive session was organized through which 19 participants gained specialized skills and key information from local and international heritage experts. SCHEP offered technical and financial support to the DoA and contracted Prof. Gary Rollefson (Whitman College, one of the site’s original excavators) as key support. Learn more about the amazing history of Ayn Ghazal, including its famed statues, on our website. *Immediately above: Rescue excavations at Ayn Ghazal, December 2019. Left: A trace of colored stucco floor dating to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period, uncovered during the emergency fieldwork. Inset: some of the remarkable Neolithic statues recovered during earlier site excavations, in situ. 1983. (ACOR Digital Archive. Rami Khouri Collection.)*

Library and Archive



The Library is one of the region's **largest and richest** English-language collections. Our catalog contains over 45,000 titles and continues to grow. Despite closing to the public on March 18, we still saw **1,200 visitors** during FY 2020. We reopened to scholars by appointment in summer, having developed and implemented **ongoing health and safety precautions**. New collaborative initiatives were launched with the Jordan Open Source Association and Wikimedia Levant, including a **Wikimedian-in-Residence** volunteer program and **three edit-a-thon events**, through which over 50,000 words were added to online articles about cultural heritage. As part of our increasing commitment to information accessibility, more than **3,000 open-access titles** were identified for future inclusion in our catalog by library intern Anna Rose McGoldrick (DePaul University).

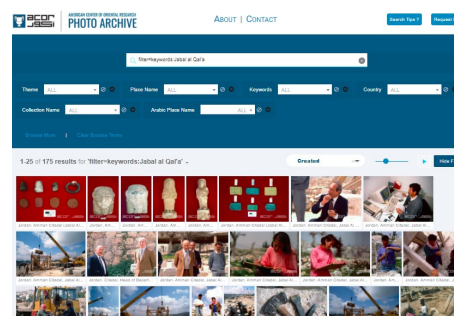
"ACOR offers key resources for the Middle East. Its holdings of visual resources, particularly the photo archive, is a significant resource for scholars worldwide."—Peer review feedback when ACOR was awarded a new 2020–2024 Title VI AORC grant for a multimedia digital archive project (see below).

Archives

The ACOR Photographic Archive project, supported by the U.S. Department of Education (Title VI, 2016–2020) exceeded its target of uploading **30,000 images online** in September, having added 9,456 images during its final year for a total of 31,028. These digitized images are freely accessible online at acor.digitalrelab.com (see sample at right).

In addition to collections management and digitization, in FY 2020 we published **photo essays**, an **exhibit**, and **public lectures** and engaged on topics of media and metadata with the **Open Jordanian Heritage** initiative (bit.ly/2DEKBmQ).

This summer, we launched a new effort to catalog thousands of high-quality, born-digital images from the **USAID SCHEP project** (publication expected Feb. 2021). In August we were awarded a new grant from the Department of Education for another four-year project (2020–2024), **"The ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource."** The new project will focus on digitizing and describing more than 18,600 images and multimedia files from existing and newly acquired collections while engaging U.S. faculty to help develop associated open educational resources (OERs). To learn more, see photoarchive.acorjordan.org.



Retirement of Head Librarian

In February 2020, longstanding head librarian **Carmen "Humi" Ayoubi** (pictured at right) announced her retirement. During her thirty-two years at ACOR, Humi facilitated astronomical growth of our collections, from just 3,000 titles in 1988 to over 45,000 today. You can read a fuller tribute in *ACOR Newsletter* 32.1. We thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best.

"Sustainability at the Margins" Faculty Development Seminar

From January 2 to 17, 2020, ACOR hosted **twelve faculty members** visiting from North America for a **faculty development seminar** planned in conjunction with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), called **"Sustainability at the Margins."** Participants all teach at community colleges and minority-serving institutions and represent a wide range of academic and professional expertise, from ecology to business to literature. CAORC's faculty development seminar program is designed to connect historically under-resourced academic communities with advanced opportunities for global education through networking events held at international research centers. While at ACOR, participants had the chance to learn from local scholars and stakeholders about Jordanian perspectives toward and experiences of sustainable development. ACOR facilitated opportunities to meet with community leaders all across the country, including day and overnight trips to Petra, Umm al-Jimal, Ghor as-Safi, and more. Through structured interactions with Jordanian researchers and tourism professionals, participants were able to discuss the theory of sustainability while incorporating the vital perspectives of those engaged in its day-to-day practice. Faculty have since brought this awareness back to their campuses, where they are developing new Jordan-themed curricular modules and publishing open educational resources.



ACOR Fellowships Awarded 2020–2021

National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Amy Karoll (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles), “Shifting Landscapes: Analyzing Changes in Power and Society in the Southern Levant, c. 3300–1100 B.C.”

Allison Mickel (Sociology and Anthropology, Lehigh University), “Turning over the Spade: Start-up Approaches to Transforming Labor Relations in Jordanian Archaeology”

ACOR-CAORC Postdoctoral Fellowship

Joel Burnett (Religion, Baylor University), “The Monumentality of Kings and Gods: Sourcing the Basalts of Iron Age Monuments and Inscriptions in Jordan”

Ian Jones (Anthropology, University of California, San Diego), “Analysis and Final Publication of the Ceramics from the ‘Abbasid Family Residence’ (Field F103) at al-Humayma, Southern Jordan”

ACOR-CAORC Predoctoral Fellowship

Morgen Chalmiers (Medical Scientist Training Program, University of California, San Diego), “Local Intermediaries as Translators in Humanitarian Settings: An Ethnographic Study of Transformations in Gendered and Religious Subjectivities”

Julia Gettle (History, Brown University), “Beyond Nationalism, Marxism, and Islamism: A Social History of Popular Politics in Greater Syria, 1940–1975”

Jeremy Reed (Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington), “The Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts as Indicator of Jordanian National Well-Being”

Renee Spellman (School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies, University of Arizona), “Palestinian Women’s Activism through Social Media: A Connective Ethnographic Study of the Taal’aat Movement”

Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

Fadhiah Ghrieganah (Archaeology and Museology, Masaryk University), “Settlement Patterns and Material Culture in PPN Sadr Yarqa”

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship

Katarina Mokranova (Archaeology, Leiden University), “Analysis of the Early Islamic Pottery from Tell Abu Sarbut, Jordan (700–1000 CE)”

Sarah Wenner (Classics, University of Cincinnati), “Petraen Refuse Reuse”

ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

Sodod Abdel-Hakeem Aljamahneh (Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University), “Ancient North Arabian Inscriptions from Bayir—South-Eastern Jordan”

Muhammad Ibraheem Mahmoud Allami (Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University), “The Dated Greek Inscriptions from Ajloun Governate”

Nidhal Jarrar (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University), “Evaluation and Future Management of Jordan’s Architectural/Industrial Heritage of Modernity: The Case of Rutenberg Power Plant, Baqoura, Jordan”

Raneen Kighsro Rustom Naimi (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University), “Studying the Building Techniques of Capitolias Theater—Bayt Ras, North Jordan”

ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship for ASOR Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.*

Dana Salameen (Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa: EAMENA Project), “The Documentation of Amman Heritage Houses Using EAMENA Methodology”

Mohammad Al-Shebli (Department of Antiquities, Jordan), “The Conservation Project of Al-Qatranah Archaeological Site: Restoration of Ottoman Fort, Rehabilitation of the Ancient Water System, and New Insights on Its Historical Urban Context”

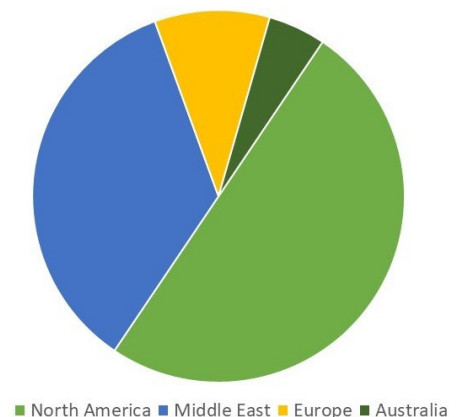


Christine Sargent at ACOR, NEH fellow in residence, winter 2020.



Ian Jones, 2020 ACOR-CAORC fellow, in the lower library in 2017.

Nationalities of Awardees



“[M]y ethnographic fieldwork and clinical practice are informed by ... a commitment to addressing health disparities through an intersectional feminist framework.... It’s a very exciting time to be a student.”

—Morgen Chalmiers (CAORC predoctoral fellow in residence, fall 2020) for our “Ask a Scholar” series in *Insights* (bit.ly/3pX8YPf)

*Fellowships (continued from previous page)***Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship**

Veronika Poier (History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University),
 “Human Mobility and the Technical Parameters of Transmitting Traditional
 Syrian Stone Carving Methods”

Harrell Family Fellowship

Luiza Silva (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of
 Chicago), “Petra Terraces Archaeological Project”

Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship

Broderick C. McDonald (Oriental Studies, University of Oxford),
 “Comparative Religion Research and Language Training”

James A. Sauer Fellowship

Ana Silkatcheva (Oriental Studies, University of Oxford), “Geometric
 Patterns on Floor Mosaics of the Byzantine and Islamic Periods”

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship

Fadwa Hussein Al-Hasanat (Tourism Management, Al-Hussein Bin Talal
 University), “The Impact of Tourist Guides’ Cultural Intelligence on Tourist
 Satisfaction: A Study of Local Tourist Guides in Petra City”

*“... could I determine the extent of
 potential cosmetic adornment in
 ancient Jordan?”*

—Betty Adams (La Sierra University), spring
 fellow in residence 2020.

*“Now having pottery and textile
 evidence dating to the Roman
 period, our discovery in Jordan
 took on a different dimension and
 became a matter of urgent
 rescue.”*

—Konstantinos D. Politis, 2020 fellow in
 residence, discussing the site of Khirbet
 Qazone, for which he is now working on
 the final publication.

***COVID-19 Update:** The list above contains all fellowships and scholarships awarded in May 2020. However, many of our fellows have been affected by the pandemic and were unable to carry out field research this year. We are working closely to facilitate the individual circumstances of each recipient. ASOR Travel Scholar Dana Salameen, for example, presented her project virtually, and we made her remarks available on YouTube for wider availability. Indeed, thanks to the virtual nature of conferences this season, we have been able to make a number of research presentations and panels available on ACOR’s channel (see screenshots, below), including sessions from annual meetings of the **Middle East Librarians Association** and **Middle East Studies Association of North America**.

Scholar Rescue Fund: We are pleased to report that ACOR has become a **commitment partner** with the **Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund**. More information is available on our website (bit.ly/3kbW7XH).



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities



Middle East
 Studies
 Association



New Donor-Funded Award: The Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship

In 2019, the Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship was established thanks to a generous eponymous donation, with the intended first award cycle planned for 2021–2022. This annual grant is intended to assist in travel costs and/or accommodation at ACOR for a student to conduct ASOR CAP-affiliated excavation or research in Jordan, based on need. The fellowship is named for former ASOR president, former ACOR vice president, and former Madaba Plains Project director Lawrence T. Geraty, PhD, who also served as past president of La Sierra University. Dr. Geraty grew up in Lebanon and visited Jordan for the first time as a teenager. During graduate studies at Harvard in the biblical studies program, he helped plan the first season of excavation at Hisban, through which he became involved in the early years of ACOR. Geraty formally joined the board in 1976 and stayed on until 2002, when he became president of ASOR. He served as dig director of the Hisban/Madaba Plains Project from 1973 to 2000 and thereby supported the early careers of many major names in Jordanian archaeological research today. We are grateful for Dr. Geraty’s generosity and ongoing support for students and researchers in Jordan.



Left: Geraty lecturing at ACOR in 1989. (Bert de Vries Collection. ACOR Digital Archive.) Right: Geraty at ACOR in summer 2018, soon after the Hisban fiftieth anniversary celebrations.



ACOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES (June 2020)

Image: Board members and staff in Washington, D.C., April 2019. The board met in person in San Diego in November 2019, while the summer 2020 meeting was held online.

Officers

H.E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. (President)
 H.E. Mr. Abdelalah Al Khatib (First Vice President)
 Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President)
 Ms. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary)
 Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer)

Class of 2021

Prof. Betty S. Anderson (Boston, Massachusetts)
 Dr. Björn Anderson (Iowa City, Iowa)*
 H.E. Mr. Mohammed Asfour (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Moawiyah M. Ibrahim (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Øystein S. LaBianca (Berrien Springs, Michigan)
 Mr. Hazem Malhas (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. John P. Oleson (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada)
 Dr. Megan A. Perry (Greenville, North Carolina)
 Dr. Seteney Shami (Beirut, Lebanon)
 Dr. Bethany J. Walker (Bonn, Germany)

Class of 2022

Prof. Thomas Davis (Thompsons Station, Tennessee)*
 Prof. Bert de Vries (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
 Dr. Debra Foran (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)
 Mr. Claus Gielisch (Düsseldorf, Germany)
 Mrs. Reem Atalla Habayeb (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Morag Kersel (Chicago, Illinois)
 H.E. Mr. Abdelalah Al Khatib (Amman, Jordan)
 Mrs. Nina J. Köprülü (New York, New York)
 Mr. Guillaume Malle (New York, New York)

Dr. Jennifer Ramsay (Brockport, New York)

Class of 2023

Ms. Anne H. Aarnes (Washington, D.C.)
 Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh (Amman, Jordan)
 Mr. Geoffrey H. Coll (Washington, D.C.)
 H.E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. (Washington, D.C.)
 Mr. Hani Al Kurdi (Amman, Jordan)*
 H.E. Ms. Hala Bsaisu Lattouf (Amman, Jordan)*
 Mrs. Jenna de Vries Morton (Las Vegas, Nevada)
 Mr. David Nickols (Surrey, U.K.)
 Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Raleigh, North Carolina)
 Mr. Laith Al-Qasem (Amman, Jordan) *

Trustee Emeriti

Mr. Artemis A. W. Joukowsky, President Emeritus
 (Providence, Rhode Island)
 Mrs. Widad Kawar (Amman, Jordan)
 Prof. Nancy Lapp (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
 Mr. Randolph B. Old (Vero Beach, Florida)
 Prof. David McCreery (Salem, Oregon)
 H.E. Senator Leila Sharaf (Amman, Jordan)
 Prof. James R. Wiseman (Glen Allen, Virginia)
 H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid (Amman, Jordan)

Ex officio / Director

Dr. Barbara A. Porter; Dr. Pearce Paul Creasman (Amman, Jordan)

**Indicates new membership during FY 2020.*

New President of the Board: Ambassador Edward “Skip” W. Gnehm

Ambassador Edward “Skip” W. Gnehm (pictured at right) assumed the presidency of ACOR in December 2020. He brings to ACOR decades of international leadership experience in government, academic, and nonprofit institutions. Following an esteemed career with the U.S. Foreign Service (including as ambassador to Jordan from 2001 to 2004), he currently teaches at George Washington University. We thank Amb. Gnehm, and outgoing president Randolph B. Old, for their service.



ACOR celebrates the life and legacy of our long-serving board member, His Excellency Mohammed Asfour (pictured at left). Mr. Asfour was a business leader residing in Amman, Jordan, and member of ACOR’s board of trustees from 1988 until his passing in 2020. His friendship and support are deeply missed.





ACOR STAFF (September 2020)

Photo from director Barbara A. Porter's farewell gathering (Feb. 2020), one of the last times staff were gathered together before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Director	Pearce Paul Creasman, Barbara A. Porter
Deputy Director, CFO	Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh
Associate Director	John D.M. (Jack) Green
Assistant Director, Amman	Akemi Horii (to May 2020)
Assistant Director, U.S.	China P. Shelton
Accountant	Danah Al Shanteer
Administrative Assistant	Saja Adawi
Administrator	Zovi Mananian
Archival Assistant	Razan Ahmad (to Sept. 2020)
Archivist	Jessica Holland
Assistant Librarian	Samya Khalaf Kafafi
Building Maintenance Manager	Abed Adawi
Conservation Technician	Naif Zaban
Development & Communications Officer	Jacqueline Salzinger
Facilitator	Sa'id Adawi
Grants Support & Publications Specialist	Noreen Doyle (from March 2020)
Head Chef	Ghassan Adawi
Head Librarian	Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi (see p. 5)
Housekeeping	Nilda Canada Onsing
Housekeeping	Cesar Octavio
Housekeeping	Judy Flores
IT Specialist	Ashraf Darwish
Library & Archives Assistant	Eslam Dawodieh (to Sept. 2020)
Library Assistant (Saturdays)	Yousef Abu Ali
Project Archivist	Ashley Lumb (to May 2020)
Project Archivist	Rachael McGlensey (to Dec. 2019)
TWL Publication Intern	Nora Al Omari

USAID SCHEP Team:

Chief of Party	Nizar Al Adarbeh
Deputy Chief of Party;	Jehad Haron
CHR Development Lead	
Tourism Development Lead	Hussein Khirfan
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	Zaid Kashour
Institutional Development Lead	Hanadi Taher
Institutional Development	Farah Abu Naser
Coordinator	
Accounts & Administration Manager	Rawan Abu Salhieh
CHR Field Manager	Hisham Al Majali
Capacity Building Manager	Balqees AlMohaisen
Communications Manager	Shatha Abu Aballi
Communications Specialist	Starling Carter
Awareness & Outreach Coordinator	Raneen Naimi
Creative Producer & Editor	Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb
Architecture & Design Officer	Ala' Badareen
Marketing & Promotion Officer	Dina Al Majali
SCHEP Photo Archivist	Ashley Lumb (from June 2020)

ACOR is proud to be represented by a diverse team of staff members, based in our center in Amman, Jordan, and office in Alexandria, Virginia. We are also pleased to receive support from various project interns and external consultants around the world.

*Pearce Paul Creasman succeeded Barbara A. Porter as director on February 29, 2020. For more information on this transition, see *ACOR Newsletter* 31.2 (publications.acorjordan.org/newsletter).

Pictured below, from left to right: Barbara A. Porter, Pearce Paul Creasman, Balqees AlMohaisen, Nizar Al Adarbeh, and Ashley Lumb.



DONATIONS IN FY 2020

In FY 2020, ACOR received donations from **262** individuals. We are grateful for our wide circle of supporters and their generosity. For information on how you can support us, please see our donate page (acorjordan.org/donate).

\$10,000 and Above

Lawrence T. Geraty through the auspices of La Sierra University
Joy Hebert † (legacy gift)

ACOR expresses deepest gratitude to Barbara A. Porter for her donation of hundreds of rare and valuable volumes to the library.

\$5,000–\$9,999

Jenna de Vries Morton
Thomas Pickering in memory of Alice S. Pickering

\$2,500–\$4,999

Isabel and Pearce Paul Creasman
Anne and Stewart Dunn in honor of Randolph B. Old
Reem Atalla Habayeb
John G. Turner and Jerry G. Fischer
Linda K. Jacobs through The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust*

Carol Landes in memory of George Landes
Guillaume Malle
James Michener
Peter and Penelope West in memory of Jennifer C. Groot

\$1,000–\$2,499

Anne H. Aarnes
Ahmad and Sirine Abu Ghazaleh
Mary Joan Barker*
Karen Borstad*
Connie and Roger Brummel in honor of Sally and Bert de Vries
Joyce E. Chelberg
Connie Christensen
Douglas R. Clark and Carmen L. Clark
Bert and Sally de Vries
Miriam and Ralston Deffenbaugh
Claus Gielisch
Edward Gnehm, Jr.
Nikolas Granger in memory of Paul R. Malik
Gemma S. Hall*
Carol Harper*

Edgar and Paula Harrell
Charles O. and Ellen Porter Honnet*
Morag M. Kersel*
Cecily Klingman in memory of Anne C. Ogilvy
Øystein LaBianca (Andrews University)
D. Patrick Maley and Nancy B. Turck*
Moors Myers in memory of Anne C. Ogilvy
David Nickols
Randolph B. and Josephine Old
John P. Oleson
S. Thomas Parker*
Barbara A. Porter in memory of Mary Ellen Lane, Nan Frederick, Gil Homan, and Tom and Marilyn Schaub, and in honor of Moawiyah Ibrahim
Molly and Joe Seiler*
Bethany J. Walker
Amb. And Mrs. C. David Welch

\$500–\$999

Susan Ackerman
Hani Al Kurdi
Roger S. Bagnall
William G. and Penelope K. Bardel
Kim Benzel*
Laurie A. Brand
Joseph A. Bruder IV in memory of Paul R. Malik
Thomas D. Cabot in memory of Anne C. Ogilvy
Geoffrey H. Coll
Jonathan and Emme Deland*
Wesley and Virginia Egan
Paul Fitzpatrick
Jo Jagoda
Abdelelah Khatib
Nancy L. Lapp
Richard LeBaron and Zoe Ingalls in honor of Roger Boraas
Albert Leonard
William Morgan

Joan Porter MacIver and David MacIver in honor of Moawiyah Ibrahim, Barbara A. Porter, and Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh*
Meg Pickering and John Schmidt
James Pokines (The Bucky Dent Foundation)
Jennifer Ramsay
Benjamin Rauch and Margaret Scott
Suzanne Richard
Bonnie M. Sampsell*
Peter and Sylvia Sauer
Susan Sauer
Edwin Schick
Lita and Lola Semerad*
Doug and Catherine Silliman
Sandra R. Smith
Benjamin P. Unger
Lou Werner*
Malcolm Wiener through the auspices of the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation

Continued on next page.

Donations received in FY 2020 (continued from previous page)

\$250–\$499

Mitchell Allen	Jennifer Olmsted
Betty Anderson	Megan A. Perry
Björn Anderson	Jane Peterson
Talitha Arnold*	Joan Polaschik
James Callahan in memory of Suzan Long Callahan	Barbara Reeves
Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)	Anne and Charles Roos
Bonnie Lee Crosfield	Daniel Rubinstein in honor of Barbara A. Porter and Henry
Michel de Konkoly Thege and Harriette I. Resnick*	Wooster
Debra Foran	Mohammed Sawaie
Robert J. and Jane F. Geniesse*	James Schryver in honor of Fawwaz Ishakat
Anna Gonosová	Dana Shell
Spencer Harper III*	Steven Simms (the Steven and Hadley Simms Giving Fund)
Elizabeth Lowe and Matthew Harrell	in memory of Kenneth W. Russell
Jill K. and Nelson G. Harris	Joab Simon
Timothy P. Harrison	Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron
Ray Anita Hemphill*	Pamela H. Smith
Randall L. Hoffman	Donald B. Spanel*
Thomas and Alina Levy in honor of Pierre Bikai	Nicholas and Patricia Veliotis
Stephen Lintner and Pamela Johnson	Theresa and Thomas Whetstine in memory of Donald
Helen Lovejoy	Wimmer
Lysbeth A. Marigold	Lucy Wilson
Gretchen Morgenson	

*Donations marked with an asterisk were made in honor of ACOR Ambassador Barbara A. Porter (see insert below).

Kindly note that donors who gave in amounts under \$250 and in-kind donors are listed on our website (bit.ly/honorroll2020).

DEVELOPMENT

ACOR relies on multiple funding sources, including governmental and foundation grants with a sizeable portion of our activities covered by donations (see previous section). We are grateful to our donors and generous grantors but are also looking to new sources of funding for program expansion and long-term support. A significant portion of our funding comes from grants, primarily from U.S. federal agencies and affiliates, which support specific program activities, such as fellowships, the photo archive digitization project, and USAID SCHEP. Since our founding in 1968, ACOR has received over \$20 million in grants and other contributions from U.S. federal agencies. ACOR is proud of this long history of collaboration, and we extend our gratitude especially to the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the U.S. Agency for International Development for their support.

Key Development Figures FY 2020

Number of individual donors : **222**

Number of in-kind donors to the library: **40**

Number of first-time donors : **27**

Average Gift : **\$677**

Median Gift : **\$250**



Barbara A. Porter named ACOR Ambassador

In a unanimous decision by the board of trustees on June 11, 2020, former director Barbara A. Porter, PhD, was asked to be the first—and only—“ACOR Ambassador.” The role of ACOR ambassador could not be more appropriate for anyone else in ACOR’s history. In her last official function, on March 4, 2020, Dr. Porter guided His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway through Petra (see image at left). The tour and meal were further graced by the company of H.R.H. Prince Rashid Bin El Hassan, H.R.H. Princess Zeina Rashid, H.E. the Norwegian ambassador to Jordan Tone Baekkevold Allers, and new ACOR director Prof. Pearce Paul Creasman, among others. Of course, this is just one of the many high-profile events Dr. Porter oversaw in her tenure. In her service to ACOR as director for fourteen years, Dr. Porter achieved what all organizations hope from their leaders: she guided it through the times, raised its profile, increased its reach and ability to address its mission, and set it on a path for future successes. With Dr. Porter now in the role of Ambassador Porter, ACOR is truly fortunate to be able to continue to benefit from this fruitful collaboration.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ending September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2019.

	Year Ended September 30, 2020	Year Ended September 30, 2019
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	381,629	255,312
Investments	7,265,612	7,163,673
Grants remaining (unspent amounts)	3,894,101	5,015,929
Other current assets	<u>267,360</u>	<u>266,775</u>
Total current assets	<u>\$11,808,702</u>	<u>\$12,701,689</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant, and equipment	<u>526,350</u>	<u>542,400</u>
Total assets	<u>\$12,335,052</u>	<u>\$13,244,089</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Total liabilities	<u>\$150,731</u>	<u>\$106,573</u>
<u>Net assets</u>		
Unrestricted	6,261,071	6,196,588
Temporarily restricted (including grants remaining)	4,309,403	5,375,384
Permanently restricted	<u>1,613,847</u>	<u>1,565,544</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$12,184,321</u>	<u>\$13,137,516</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

	Year Ended September 30, 2020	Year Ended September 30, 2019
Income		
Grants revenues	1,717,082	1,392,326
Contributions	234,873	219,247
Local revenues	61,822	145,624
Investment income	426,572	170,440
Other	<u>40,494</u>	<u>26,161</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$2,480,843</u>	<u>\$1,953,798</u>
Expenses		
Grants expenses	(1,172,774)	(947,660)
Occupancy	(75,147)	(88,314)
Management and general expenses	(920,707)	(754,613)
Depreciation	(73,312)	(115,038)
Fundraising and program development	<u>(85,445)</u>	<u>(114,414)</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$(2,327,385)</u>	<u>\$(2,020,039)</u>
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year	\$153,458	\$(66,241)
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year excluding unrealized investment and depreciation	\$(487,490)	\$(2,955)

ACOR'S STRATEGIC PILLARS

In 2018, the ACOR board of trustees spearheaded a strategic planning process to ensure fulfillment of long-term goals. Both Arabic and English surveys were distributed to incorporate feedback from hundreds of diverse stakeholders. Fiscal year 2020 falls within strategy enactment as outlined by the pillars below, and a new round of strategic planning is expected for 2021.

Pillar I: Advancing Knowledge

ACOR is a center for scholarly excellence in the field of archaeology and in other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. ACOR serves a diverse set of scholars and students from North America, Jordan, and other regional countries and has strong cooperative relationships with North American universities.

Pillar II: Preserving Jordan's Cultural Heritage with Communities in Jordan

Through externally funded programs, ACOR fosters cultural heritage activities as a significant part of its mission, by assisting the national government and local communities in preservation of significant sites through training and knowledge-sharing with cultural heritage/tourism scholars, and shares Jordan's rich history with global audiences.

Pillar III: Engaging Our Host Nation

ACOR has broad relationships in Jordan as well as deep relationships with key Jordanian national and local governmental agencies and academic institutions. ACOR strategically communicates with these agencies/institutions and more broadly in Jordan to ensure its mission and activities are understood by a diverse set of stakeholders. ACOR reaches out to and engages with many Jordanian academics and universities. Public outreach is focused on ACOR's lecture program. While ACOR communicates primarily in English, ACOR also communicates in Arabic with some local audiences.

Pillar IV: Information Services — Library and Archive

ACOR's library and archive are key resources for visiting scholars and students, Jordanian scholars and students and remote users. ACOR has a solid infrastructure, including high-speed internet connections, appropriate digital tools, investments in scholarly materials and select staff, concise and up-to-date policies on acquiring and preserving materials, and well-designed research/learning spaces.

Pillar V: Supporting Our Future Needs

ACOR has the necessary financial, human, and other resources (including infrastructure) to underpin its programs and needs to allow ACOR to serve its diverse stakeholders in Jordan and elsewhere.



Image: Hana' Hijjawi of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (left), Ala' Al Badareen of USAID SCHEP (center), and Ahmad Al Shami of the Department of Antiquities (right) converse at a Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy (JAHS) workshop in fall 2019. ACOR, through USAID SCHEP, has served as a key supporter for the strategy, which is being written by a wide coalition of governmental, non-governmental, and private-sector stakeholders, with drafting workshops held in early FY 2020.

Advancing knowledge of Jordan, past and present.

ACOR warmly invites you to join us in carrying forth this mission. Please learn more about our current initiatives and how you can become a supporter at acorjordan.org. To receive **electronic and print newsletters**, input your preferred address at acorjordan.org/mailling-list/. You can also find us across social media platforms.

"As a result of my trip to Jordan, I now see and understand more about the wider world."

—Blaine D. Pope (California State University, Northridge) reflecting on the ACOR-CAORC Faculty Development Seminar held in January 2020 (see p. 5)

"I am inspired by the resilience of the ACOR and USAID SCHEP teams, and of the local communities we serve. I was proud to see how we refocused our programming to meet the crisis, and how our local partners made the best of the situation to improve their skills and plan for the future."

—Nizar al Adarbeh, SCHEP chief of party (see p. 4)

"Even with the challenges of this year, our community rose to the occasion. I'm proud of our team's innovation to bring Jordan to new online audiences. With the right support, the sky's the limit!"

—Jackie Salzinger, development and communications officer

"This [field visit] was also unique because I was coming with a new view of the place, having gained knowledge during my internship.... Without a doubt, I will be saying yes to future opportunities in the archaeological field."

—Nora Al Omari, Temple of Winged Lions Publication Project intern, describing her visit to Petra in August 2020 (see p. 3)

"It was inspiring ... knowing that I was working along with a team of people around the world who are intent on providing accurate, accessible information about Jordan's multi-layered heritage."

—Ruth Folmar, fellowships program research assistant (see p. 9)

"I've always wanted to figure out how to write and edit a Wikipedia page.... I can safely say the Open Jordanian Heritage edit-a-thon was the highlight of my COVID-19 quarantine!"

—Kariman Mango, volunteer Wikimedian and history teacher at the Ahliyyah School for Girls (see p. 5)

"Fortunately, ACOR had a strong foundation to build upon in these strange times.... The investment in a digital humanities project ... meant that ACOR as a whole was in a much better position to cope with the sudden shift...."

—Jessica Holland, archivist (see p. 5)



Seminar participants (see p. 5) with staff and SCHEP-supported tourism-entrepreneurs at Ghor as Safi, Jordan. January 2020. Photo by Abed al Fatah Ghareeb.