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NEWSLETTER

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Welcoming a New ACOR:

## The American Center of Research

*Pearce Paul Creasman and Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.*

After 52 years, ACOR is pleased to relay the news that, by the time you read this, we will have said “goodbye” to the American Center of *Oriental* Research and are proud to reintroduce ourselves to the world as “The American Center of Research”! Changing our name was not undertaken lightly but has become increasingly important in recent times, as contemporary meanings and connotations of certain terms have come to the fore. We are still “ACOR” and are still pursuing our mission (to advance knowledge of Jordan, past and present), but this updated name reflects a host of new possibilities for ACOR’s next half century. We know that this change reflects the shared values of our board members, staff, fellows, and colleagues, and we make it out of respect for all who make what we do possible and meaningful.

### How did we get here?

The term “orient” has been used in the English language to refer to lands along and beyond the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea since at least the 1300s, likely as an inheritance from the Roman Empire (as in the term *Dioecesis Orientis*, “Diocese of the East,” for example). Geoffrey Chaucer used it with this sense in “The Monk’s Tale.” The word was a geographical locator, and this was its intended use in ACOR’s establishment in 1968. However, as words often do over time, it has taken on considerable other meanings. Edward W. Saïd’s *Orientalism* (1978) sparked widespread discussion and critique of the concept. The negative connotations and implications associated with orient/oriental/orientalism have been the subject of an ongoing conversation for decades inside and outside academia, in fields of culture and history relevant to ACOR’s mission.

On May 20, 2016, then U.S. president Barack Obama signed H.R. 4238, which had passed unanimously in the U.S. House of Representatives (376-0) and Senate (unanimous consent) and eliminated use of the word “oriental” in U.S. federal law. This event was a powerful acknowledgement of the connection between the phrase and harmful stereotypes. The solution to the problem posed by this legacy is neither simple, clear, nor universally agreed upon, as demonstrated by ongoing discussion and debate of other significant scholarly entities, such as the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, the American Oriental Society, and the American Schools of Oriental Research.

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Especially during the past decade, ACOR has discussed the nature of its name informally on many occasions, but it was in November 2018 when matters turned toward resolution. Spurred by a session at the ASOR annual meeting (“What’s in a Name? Re-assessing the ‘Oriental’ in the American Schools of Oriental Research”), ACOR’s trustees formally broached the issue during the board meeting that week. It was followed by a December 2018 white paper on ACOR’s name, drafted by board members Morag Kersel and Bert de Vries. The white paper stated, in part, “While we cannot change the colonial origins of archaeological practice, we can change the everyday injustice that accompanies the continued use of ‘oriental.’”

Through the first few months of 2019, the legal and practical implications of changing ACOR’s name were pursued, mapped, and understood. At the next board meeting, on April 6, 2019, then board president Randy Old motioned and, with unanimous approval, the board resolved to change ACOR’s name. “The American Center of Research” was set on its future path. Owing in part to updates being made to laws that govern ACOR’s activities in Jordan, it was necessary to wait before attempting to change ACOR’s legal name. Doing otherwise would have potentially invalidated ACOR’s requisite agreements to work in Jordan. This process carried on until January 2020, when ACOR received official confirmation that all necessary updated and new forms of registration in Jordan had been completed. By this time, the new director had been selected and was scheduled to take the helm in February 2020, so the formalities of the name change were deferred until his arrival. Merely two weeks after this administrative transition, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered government offices in Jordan and the United States, further preventing implementation of the name change. Finally, on September 8, 2020, ACOR’s name change request with our primary state of incorporation was received and we officially became known as **The American Center of Research**. Propagating the new name across all of ACOR’s business matters will take time, but the most important step is now behind us. We are proud of our past and inspired by the future that lies ahead.

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## ACOR and the Pandemic

Pearce Paul Creasman

Well, it has been an interesting time to arrive at ACOR, to say the least! Would that my first communication to the extended ACOR family via this newsletter were of a different nature, but thus are the amazing times we find ourselves living in. It is a great honor to succeed Dr. Porter as director, as I formally did on February 29. Arriving at ACOR in the wee hours of March 1, I was to discover that “normal” would never really have a chance to set in. Still jetlagged, on March 3 and 4, I was fortunate to take my first tour of Petra—in the company of King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway (p. 7), no less! The next week was filled with paperwork and meetings (including the *last* pre-pandemic appointment permitted at the U.S. Embassy, with then USAID director Dr. Jim Barnhart), as the COVID-19 virus started to encroach on all corners of the world. By March 10, it was clear that the scheduled welcome/farewell directors’ reception at ACOR could not take place and had to be cancelled. On March 14, we closed the center in Amman to the public, and on March 17, Jordan entered a strict curfew, with virtually no one permitted to leave their home. Closure of the international borders that month further limited a large swath of ACOR-based activities, and the borders remain closed at the time of writing (September) to virtually all travel except repatriations.

All things considered, it is a pleasure to report that ACOR is stable and we continue to pursue our mission to the extent that we are able despite the challenges posed by the pandemic (such as by moving lectures online and meeting via Zoom). Foremost, all of our staff—current and of the recent past—are safe and healthy. It has taken a concerted effort among the officers, board, fellows, and staff alike to respond to the pandemic and keep ACOR in a relatively good state, and all should be acknowledged for their dedication and flexibility during this time. By May, most fellows had been evacuated from Jordan on emergency repatriation flights, and for months ACOR staff worked from home. We started returning to the office on alternating days in late May, and by August we were finally back to work in the office on a usual schedule and also able to reopen our library by appointment. Such measures were possible in Jordan thanks to the low caseload in the first half of 2020, totaling less than 1,250 registered cases through June for a population of approximately ten million.

Of course, closing all operations for months in the midst of our busiest time of year (spring and summer, AKA the “field season”) has had a significant impact on life at the center and on our finances. We have been fortunate to receive several pandemic-response grants and funds, including a CARES PPP loan and Virginia Humanities & National Endowment for the Humanities CARES grant, both in support of our U.S.-based operations. Accordingly, our U.S.-based operations



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

Virginia   
Humanities



The Easter lunch gathering: (left to right) Robert Schick, Ashley Lumb, Akemi Horii, Jack Green, Ayaka Horii-Green, Dino Politis. (Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)

have continued largely uninterrupted, if on slightly different daily schedules and primarily working from home. Donor responses to our mid-year request supported our Jordanian activities, for which we are exceedingly grateful.

Before the pandemic struck, we had some twenty residents at the center, but by the end of the summer we were down to permanent residents and a single scholar. Still, we made the best of this unique experience. The stalwart occupants of ACOR celebrated Easter with a proper meal and egg dyeing! Even Dr. Porter remained resident at ACOR, assisting with transitional matters and tending personal business, until May 6, when she departed on a repatriation flight to the United States.

For all the complications, the pandemic has provided a remarkable opportunity to tend a good deal of administrative, policy, and procedure matters that the usual day-to-day hustle and bustle might otherwise have overwhelmed. For example, for the first time we have a remote-working

policy and all ACOR staff working half-time or more are offered health insurance and retirement benefits (i.e., for our U.S.-based staff, we have a 401[k] matching plan). Staff used this quieter time to prepare and submit a dozen grant proposals, many of which are still pending (so keep your fingers crossed!).

It is a testament to the good management and direction of ACOR throughout its fifty-plus years that we have been able to withstand the challenges brought on by the pandemic so well. It is simply not possible to practically plan for an event of this magnitude, but working with the board, staff, and other colleagues in Jordan and elsewhere in response to it has been a privilege. We have much to be proud of—in our past and present—and, as a result, much to look forward to. There is little doubt that more challenges lurk amid the opportunities of the foreseeable future, but there are solutions to all and ACOR is well poised to address them.

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## USAID SCHEP Update

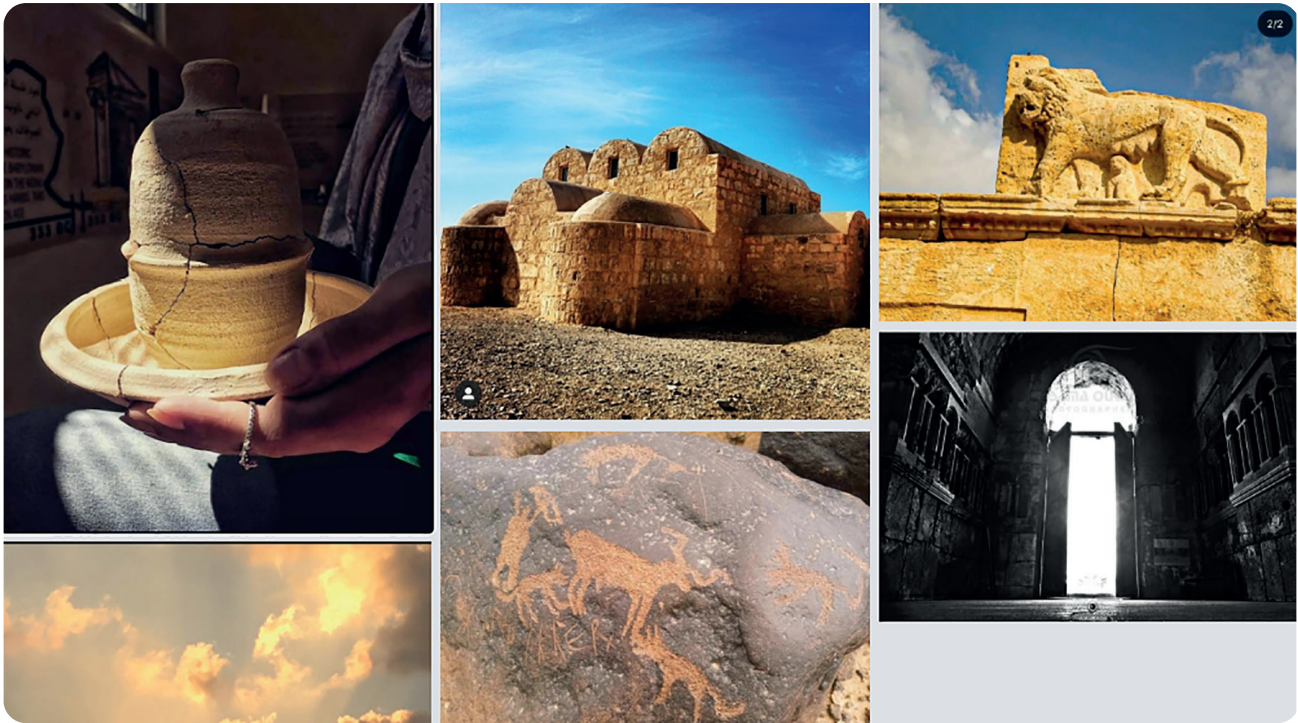
*Nizar Al Adarbeh, Starling Carter,  
and Shatha Abu Aballi*

In the first half of 2020, USAID SCHEP, along with many others, saw its activities hindered by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic (pp. 2–3). While activities proceeded as usual in January and February, by March it was clear that field-based actions would have to be put on hold for the foreseeable future, due to measures adopted by the Jordanian government to curtail the spread of the virus. Nevertheless, the SCHEP team worked quickly to adapt its programming to the situation, launching an online scholarship program, conducting outreach to the community, and continuing to support its partners in the tourism industry.

## Capacity-Building

SCHEP's English Language Capacity-Building Program, conducted in partnership with AMIDEAST, aims to equip Jordanian professionals in the fields of cultural heritage resource management and tourism with key English-language skills to enhance their work. Courses address a wide array of linguistic topics, including basic English communication skills, English for tour guides or museum professionals, technical writing in English, and more. Following preparatory arrangements and activities in late 2019, this program kicked off in early 2020 with several trainings and assessments. A total of 211 employees from the Department of Antiquities (DOA), Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)/Wadi





Screenshot of some of the winning entries in the “Heritage at Home” digital photo contest, organized by SCHEP in celebration of the ICOMOS International Day of Sites and Monuments in April 2020.

Rum Protected Area (WRPA), and SCHEP-supported micro- to small-sized enterprises (MSEs) were assessed and sorted into appropriate groups for training.

The English-language courses with AMIDEAST began with two trainings in English for tourism in Ghawr as Safi and Aqaba. In mid-March, these training sessions were put on hold until further notice. In order to ensure the project’s capacity-building efforts did not come to a complete stop due to COVID-19, SCHEP launched a scholarship program for participation in online courses related to cultural heritage management and sustainable tourism. Announced in May, the first scholarship offered seven Jordanian students and early-career professionals the opportunity to take part in the University of Oxford’s Archaeology in Practice online course, to be held in late summer 2020. SCHEP selected from among the applicants a talented group of young architects, aspiring archaeologists, and graduate students to receive this scholarship.

SCHEP also worked with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) to organize an online Sustainable Tourism Training Program (STTP) to equip Jordanian tourism professionals with knowledge about the basic principles of sustainable tourism. The GSTC had been coordinating with the SCHEP team to plan an in-person training in Jordan in summer 2020, but due to the pandemic the course was moved online, with SCHEP offering scholarships to twenty participants, including representatives of SCHEP’s partner MSEs and other local tourism organizations and companies. The course was held June 1–12, 2020.

#### Institutional Development

SCHEP conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the DOA and PDTRA through an intensive program of meetings and surveys in order to inform future institutional development and capacity-building efforts. Full reports on these assessments were submitted to the respective institutions in March and April. SCHEP also continued developing a draft of the Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy, based on a series of interactive workshops held with relevant stakeholders in fall 2019.

As part of its institutional development programming, SCHEP provided support for the Jordan Friends of Archaeology and Heritage (FoAH) to implement archaeology clubs in private and public schools and to plan the Second Archaeology Festival, which was expected to take place in early April in Al Hussein Gardens in Amman. However, all public gatherings were put on hold in mid-March as a safety precaution in response to COVID-19. SCHEP also approved an extension of the project’s grants to both the FoAH and ICOMOS-Jordan.

As part of the project’s efforts to promote the development of Jordan’s cultural heritage institutions, SCHEP supports the creation of open learning environments (OLEs) at different sites throughout Jordan. These OLEs can serve as sites for capacity-building programs, workshops, meetings, and other programming. At the beginning of 2020, renovation of a future OLE in Wadi Rum was completed and its equipment was provided. Also early in 2020, SCHEP received official approval from the DOA to begin renovating the selected space at the Bayt Ras office to serve



as an OLE. Renovation work set to begin in the first half of the year has been delayed due to COVID-19.

At the beginning of the year, SCHEP finalized plans for renovating a circular hall at the DOA office in Amman to serve as an additional OLE and to enhance the capacity of the DOA to host meetings and training sessions. In February, renovations began. Significant progress was made in February and March, and by late June, despite delays caused by the pandemic, the hall was nearly complete.

### Tourism and Economic Development

SCHEP planned trainings in tourism and economic development for its four affiliated MSEs, including a sales and pricing strategy training held in collaboration with the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Academy in early March. After restrictions on travel and tourism were imposed, SCHEP continued to find ways to support its partner MSEs and take advantage of the unexpected lull of activities. Training opportunities were offered, as were mentoring and development of the companies' programming and strategies. Once restrictions on traveling between governorates were eased, SCHEP worked with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Jordan Tourism Board to ensure that three of its affiliated MSEs were included in a national program called Urdonna Jannah (Jordan is Paradise), which promotes domestic tourism.

### Communications

During Jordan's comprehensive curfew, which lasted from mid-March until early June, SCHEP encouraged the project's online community, as well as new audiences, to engage with their cultural heritage from home by hosting a digital photo competition in partnership with ICOMOS-Jordan. The contest was held in celebration of the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites on April 18, taking part in the theme of "Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility." Participants were invited to submit photos of a Jordanian heritage site, a traditional art form or cultural practice, or anything else that reflected the theme. A total of six winners were selected and awarded prizes including gift certificates to local arts and culture shops and a Jordanian heritage coloring book. The winning photographs were shared across SCHEP's social media platforms.

SCHEP also helped to promote its partner MSEs by publishing a success-story video highlighting Aqabawi and its founder, Mustafa Al Ajlouni, a former SCHEP site steward. This video was filmed in February and released in June

2020 in an effort to draw the attention of the Jordanians and expatriates flocking to Aqaba after the lifting of travel restrictions. It tells the story of how SCHEP supported Mustafa throughout his journey to establish an enterprise that would support the local community and showcase Aqaba's traditions and culture to visitors from throughout Jordan and the world. The video can now be seen on SCHEP's YouTube and Facebook accounts.

### Conclusion

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has presented numerous challenges to SCHEP and its partners in Jordan's cultural heritage management and tourism sectors. While the SCHEP team is grateful that we were able to adapt our work to the situation, and that the outbreak was quickly contained in Jordan, we acknowledge the hardships that are facing our partners, especially the tourism-focused MSEs that we have supported since their establishment. We will continue to focus our efforts in coming months on building the capacities of local communities and heritage management organizations, including those focused on building sustainable and community-focused tourism in Jordan. For regular updates on the project and its activities, follow us on our social media channels:

Facebook: [USAID SCHEP](#)      Twitter: [@USAIDSCHEP](#)  
Instagram: [USAID\\_SCHEP](#)      LinkedIn: [USAID SCHEP](#)  
Flickr: [USAID SCHEP](#)      Snapchat: [USAIDSCHEP](#)  
YouTube: [USAID SCHEP](#)

### Note

The Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by ACOR.



Employees of the PDTRA participate in an assessment as part of SCHEP's English-Language Capacity-Building Program with AMIDEAST.

## Parting Memories and Thoughts on My Support for ACOR

Barbara A. Porter

These thoughts are being compiled in my new home in Washington, D.C., just four months after departing Amman in the midst of lockdown on a special RJ flight on May 6 to Chicago. Pearce Paul Creasman arrived on March 1 and took over the responsibilities of the ACOR directorship. Fortunately, we had the chance to pay formal calls in Amman on the Department of Antiquities, the Jordan Museum, and USAID before lockdown.

On March 4, at the invitation of the Norwegian Embassy, I had the privilege of accompanying the King and Queen of Norway, Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja, on a tour of Petra facilitated by the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA). For that unforgettable visit, both Pearce Paul and associate director Jack Green were in Petra, and that evening we three were invited to an event in my honor in front of the Petra Church thanks to the hospitality of H.E. Suleiman Farajat, the chief commissioner of the PDTRA, and in the presence of many involved in Petra's heritage, including the director general of antiquities, H.E. Yazid Elayyan. Having that day be my final formal goodbye to Petra after 14 years of professional involvement is something I shall always cherish.

In many ways, my last months in Jordan encapsulated so many elements of why I care and will always care about Jordan and ACOR. I have had the chance to share my reflections on directing ACOR at the time of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (*ACOR Newsletter* 30 [2], summer 2018). It meant a lot to me to preside over that milestone year, which included many celebrations well documented on the ACOR website. Putting together such events could not have been done without the efforts of talented and passionate people. For me, getting to know those who have been essential to ACOR's wellbeing over the decades (including former long-term directors) was one of the many privileges of the position. I worked with three board presidents—Artie Joukowsky, Randy Old, and Skip Gnehm—and many wonderful board members from Jordan and abroad.

Once it was confirmed at the November 2019 board meeting in San Diego that the new director would be arriving in spring 2020, I had to figure out how to start saying goodbye. The first farewell party that included ACOR board members and staff as well as special friends was hosted by board member Reem Habayeb and her husband, Adib. Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Princess Majda Raad attended, and, as they had hosted so many gatherings for ACOR, it was truly wonderful to have them there as honored guests. Former long-term board member Sami Habayeb and his wife, Lily, were also present, as were long-serving member Mohammed Asfour and his wife, Karen (p. 11). This gathering felt like a fitting finale, given that I had been introduced to all of them in my first official visit to ACOR in June 2005 in the Bikais' final year when I was director designate. A truly extraordinary occasion was a celebration at Mt. Nebo on February 29 in my honor hosted by the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum. It took place just as all of us were becoming aware of the COVID-19 virus, and the 180 people who attended will likely all remember it as I do, as a peaceful moment before our worlds changed so dramatically.

All who leave a beloved place know it is hard to say goodbye and not to be overwhelmed. The goodbye parties were intentionally paced out, and I shall ever be grateful for those who hosted them (too many to name, but truly, thank you). The final major official ACOR event was scheduled for March 18 but had to be canceled along with other gatherings due to the lockdown. Thus, the individual parties hosted by friends from late January until mid-March were all the more meaningful to me. Luckily, ACOR held a public lecture on March 11, so Pearce Paul and I were able to preside together, and it gave me the chance to say personal goodbyes to the many loyal ACOR fans whom I had gotten to know since spring 2006, when I became director.

In truth, this homage to ACOR and what it stands for is an acknowledgment of the many people involved in diverse ways. In terms of day-to-day connections, the staff members at ACOR were the ones who sustained the institution and me as director. Here I cannot enumerate all of the talented people within the ACOR family but want to single out two long-term, dedicated individuals who were part of my full 14-year tenure, namely Humi Ayoubi, the head librarian, who retired this spring (p. 8), and Nisreen Abu al-Shaikh, the deputy director/CFO, who continues in her key role. As a foreigner in Jordan, one needs to learn from others, and these two women provided me with counsel and friendship that made a huge difference to me personally and professionally. The whole Adawi clan (facilitator, building manager, head chef, office assistant) also need to be singled out for their incredible abilities and stewardship for the institution and general thoughtfulness to me and others, as well should Cesar Octavo, the dedicated head of housekeeping.



Humi Ayoubi and Nisreen Abu al-Shaikh.  
(Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)



## Dr. Barbara A. Porter—ACOR Ambassador

It is our great pleasure to relay that, in a unanimous decision by the board of trustees on June 11, 2020, former director Dr. Barbara A. Porter was asked to be the first—and only—“ACOR Ambassador.” In recognition of 14 years of exemplary service to the organization, the board wanted to ensure that Dr. Porter remains associated with ACOR in a formal capacity. Now resident in Washington, D.C., Dr. Porter accepted this honor, maintaining a long and rich bond.

The role of ACOR ambassador could not be more appropriate for anyone else in ACOR’s history. In her last official function as director, on March 4, 2020, Dr. Porter guided His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway through Petra. With a retinue comprising some thirty people, Dr. Porter spent several hours regaling all with stories of Petra’s rich history, followed by a formal luncheon. 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, but it was a fitting culmination.

The importance of Dr. Porter’s service to ACOR during her fourteen years as director cannot be overstated. With her welcoming nature and guidance, ACOR transformed. Dr. Porter has done what all organizations hope from their leaders: 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.

— Pearce Paul Creasman and Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.



King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway with Barbara Porter in the Petra Church, March 4, 2020.

So, in order to ask staff to care, one has to care passionately oneself, and I did and still do. My time in Jordan has enriched my life in so many ways. I was able to get to know many different people, from visiting foreign scholars to Jordanians all over the country. I believe in ACOR’s many programs and I am proud of the creation of USAID SCHEP, implemented by ACOR, and how it has evolved over time. In my last January in Jordan, through the CAORC faculty seminar (pp. 10–11) I was able to travel around the country and see first-hand the results of that program and also to say some farewells. I hope to return to Jordan and continue to support heritage activities and tourism efforts. ACOR’s role in preserving and protecting cultural heritage should be endorsed in every way possible, and I intend to do so and hope to be part of those endeavors for years to come.

As I first came to ACOR in spring 1977 as a graduate student who was invited to excavate in the Jordan Valley and then visited again in 1987 for a brief research trip, I am more than aware of how the center



Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Barbara Porter at a late January farewell party. (Photo by Jackie Salzinger.)

can assist individuals in significant ways, and thus I in turn tried to do the same in my own years as director. In June, when the board asked me to serve as ACOR ambassador, I accepted, as I planned in any case to promote the institution which has given so much to so many. There are challenges ahead, to be sure, so individual support remains essential for ACOR’s continued success.

## Carmen “Humi” Matsuno Ayoubi: A Career as ACOR’s Librarian

John D. M. Green and Samya Khalaf Kafafi

ACOR saw the end of an era this March as ACOR’s librarian, Humi Ayoubi, stepped down from a role that spanned more than three decades. Humi’s stewardship of the library and the welcoming atmosphere that she and her colleagues have cultivated over the years have had a positive impact on hundreds of students, researchers, and professionals.

Although the ACOR Library had earlier beginnings, it was on its way to becoming a major research library in the years following the completion of ACOR’s permanent center in 1986. Meryle Gaston first came to ACOR in 1988 from the Bobst Library at New York University on an American Library Association fellowship and played a key role in establishing the library in its current location. Humi joined ACOR in the same year as librarian, with a master’s degree from Indiana University. The stated goal at that time was “to develop it into a true research library, open and available to all scholars” (*ACOR Newsletter* 1 [1989], 5). For more about the development of the ACOR Library until 2008, see the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the newsletter (20 [1]).

Under Humi’s tenure, the library became an important hub and resource for U.S., Jordanian, and many international researchers, students, and professionals. Starting with just 3,000 titles when Humi began in her role, the library has grown to nearly 50,000 titles today. Among the major milestones and achievements that have taken place during her career are the addition of an electronic library database in 2007, the installation of compressed shelving in the lower library in 2015, and a major award from the U.S. Department of Education to support the ACOR Library Photographic Archive Project in 2016. This latter project has allowed the ACOR Library to further develop its archival holdings.

The specialized support provided by Humi and her ability to keep the library well stocked with relevant titles is also testimony to her excellent personal relations with ACOR fellows and many visiting researchers using the library. If anyone needed a title, she would make immediate efforts to obtain it.



Humi Ayoubi.  
(Photo by Steve Meyer.)

“Humi’s value as a person [is] matched by her expertise as a librarian. She never ceased to improve ACOR’s collection, making it into the finest in the region.”

—Konstantinos D. Politis,  
*Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies*

As ACOR’s librarian, Humi played an important role in shaping the careers of many Jordanian archaeologists and cultural heritage professionals, while providing support for Jordanian students and professors. Of the many student volunteers and interns who assisted the library over the years, most of whom are women, several have gone on to attain doctorates and positions at major universities or institutions. Humi also connected and collaborated with peer institutions in Amman, including the CBRL, GPIA, Ifpo, university libraries, and the National Library of Jordan. In 2016, Humi received a W. F. Albright Service Award from ASOR for outstanding service: “The oversight that Humi Ayoubi has provided 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 ... and played a critical role in the development of ACOR’s ‘jewel in the crown’” (*ACOR Newsletter* 28 [2], 6).

The achievements of ACOR’s library could not have taken place without support, including from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad, The Getty Foundation, the Department of State Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs through CAORC, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as private funding through the Roger and Aina Boraas Memorial Library Support Fund and other donations. Many book donations have also been stewarded through Humi to the library. Her floral arrangements always added a sense of color and life to the library. Most of all, Humi has been a great friend and colleague over the years to ACOR staff, board members, and visitors to Jordan. Her warmth and desire to connect people, to make them feel welcome, and to grow knowledge will long be associated with the ACOR Library.

Thank you, Humi, for your hard work and dedication—you will be greatly missed.

If you would like to consider a donation to ACOR in honor of Humi Ayoubi’s retirement, please use the enclosed form or go to [acorjordan.org/donate/](http://acorjordan.org/donate/).



## Petra: The North Ridge Published

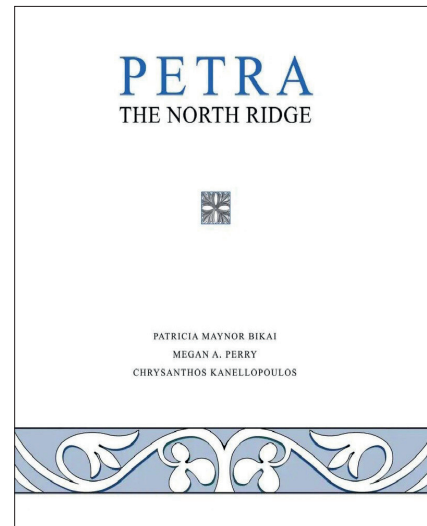
ACOR is proud to announce the publication in May 2020 of *Petra: The North Ridge*, by Patricia M. Bikai, Megan A. Perry, and Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos.

This volume details the archaeological excavations and conservation of the Ridge Church and the Blue Chapel at Petra (Jordan), which date to the Byzantine era, with earlier Nabataean and Roman remains. The excavations were directed by former ACOR associate director Patricia M. Bikai between 1994 and 2002. The book represents the culmination of many years of work carried out by ACOR in coordination with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the Petra Park. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and many others, including members of local communities, supported this work. ACOR is grateful to all involved with bringing this important project to fruition.

Contributors include D. G. Barrett, G. Bierenbroodspot, P. M. Bikai, G. W. Bowersock, J. M. C. Bowsher, R. W. Daniel, T. Gagos, A. Jabri, N. Khairy, L. A. Marigold, J. W. Myers and E. E. Myers, S. T. Parker, M. Piccirillo, O. Salomies, M. Sinibaldi, S. V. Tracy, and C. A. Tuttle. The foreword was written by His Royal Highness Prince Raad Bin Zeid.

Pp. 505; full color; available in softback and hardback.

You can order a copy on Amazon or by contacting us directly at [reservations@acorjordan.org](mailto:reservations@acorjordan.org).



## Staffing Updates

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about the retirements of long-time librarian Mrs. Carmen “Humi” Ayoubi (p. 8) and former director Dr. Barbara A. Porter (pp. 6–7). In the prior newsletter, the selection of the next director—Prof. Pearce Paul Creasman, formerly a professor at the University of Arizona—was announced. He assumed the directorship on February 29, 2020. On March 29, 2020, Ms. Noreen Doyle was hired as grant support and publications specialist, reflecting the increased emphasis on these matters foreseen for ACOR in the new directorship. Ms. Akemi Horii, the assistant director in Amman, resigned in the spring, with her last day of service on June 21. With the implications of the pandemic and governmentally mandated closure of ACOR’s physical facilities for months, we have delayed the hire of a new librarian and new assistant director. In late spring and early summer, Dr. Helen Malko

was contracted as collections consultant to help review our holdings, and Mr. Chad Bush was contracted as web page architect to create comprehensive new web pages for all ACOR publications (p. 12) and perform overall technical updates to the website. Effective June 7, Ms. Ashley Lumb was hired as SCHEP photo archivist to advance a pilot project to incorporate SCHEP photographs into the ACOR Digital Archive.



Noreen Doyle, grant support and publications specialist. (Photo by Greg R. Homel.)

## Annual Reports for Download

The many new resources offered on the website now include ACOR’s annual reports. Reports from fiscal years 2018 and 2019 may be now downloaded from:

[acorjordan.org/annualreports/](http://acorjordan.org/annualreports/)

## Renovation Update

As readers will recall from our winter 2019 newsletter, ACOR’s center in Amman is scheduled to undergo a major renovation, with a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to be implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS). Owing to the pandemic, the intended start of this project was pushed from June 2020 to November 2020. It is a pleasure to report that the project is now expected to be moved forward from November 2020 and to be completed by September 2021. We look forward to seeing you in our newly renovated facility sometime soon!

## Sustainability at the Margins: A Faculty Development Seminar in Jordan, January 2020

Jacqueline Salzinger and Starling Carter

In January 2020, ACOR kicked off the new decade in the company of twelve faculty members and administrators representing different institutions across the U.S. and elsewhere in North America. They visited Jordan for fifteen days to take part in a faculty development seminar program co-organized by ACOR and CAORC (the Council of American Overseas Research Centers). The theme under discussion was “Jordan: Sustainability at the Margins.”

This program was one in a series of such seminars that CAORC has put on in recent years. Planned and executed in partnership with American overseas research centers (such as ACOR), these courses are specifically designed for faculty from U.S. community colleges, two-year institutions, and minority-serving institutions (“MSIs”), including historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs). The seminars’ overarching goal is to provide more global perspectives to students through their instructors at these campuses, which have historically been left out of the experience of undergraduate study abroad. In the case of “Sustainability at the Margins” at ACOR, none of the dozen faculty participants had been to Jordan before, and most had never visited anywhere in the Middle East or Global South. Thus, this was an opportunity for them not only to explore Jordan but also to immerse themselves in discussions about regional and global issues from an entirely new perspective.

Chosen from more than eighty applicants, participants came from a wide array of academic and professional backgrounds, from sociology to philosophy to agricultural science. All reported that this diversity of disciplines within the group was one of the seminar’s greatest strengths. Topics addressed by program activities similarly enveloped a large range: national belonging and identity, environmental sustainability, urban politics and development, religious studies, migration and gender, tourism studies, regional and ancient history, higher education systems, and more. The theme of sustainability came up again and again, whether discussing long-term refugee assistance or preservation of cultural sites.

Seminar activities were not only lectures but also hands-on learning opportunities, including literally breaking bread with Jordanians in their homes. Much of the program took advantage of ACOR’s center of operations being located in the capital, Amman. Trips to other regions of Jordan put questions of sustainability into a wider context and allowed faculty members to connect with communities across the country.

Through their field visits, seminar participants were able to meet with representatives of local enterprises in Umm el-Jimal, Aqaba, and Ghawr as Safi to learn about how ACOR’s Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) has partnered

with communities in these areas to support sustainable cultural heritage management and tourism development (pp. 3–5). Each of these enterprises leverages the unique cultural and natural resources of each area. They work with local service providers to offer touristic experiences that both create opportunities for learning and cultural exchange and contribute to the community’s economic stability. During seminar visits, topics originally introduced in Amman returned again to the fore in discussions enriched by the insights offered by local interlocutors, who face questions of sustainability in practice in the field every day.

Not only were faculty members able to explore diverse landscapes of Jordan, visit heritage sites, and speak with representatives of local micro-enterprises, but they also had the opportunity to take part in hands-on activities. Whether through learning to cook a local seafood specialty with an Aqabawi family or getting their hands dirty picking fresh vegetables in the lush farms of Ghawr as Safi, seminar participants gained firsthand knowledge of the land, people, and cultural practices found throughout Jordan, enriching their understanding of what sustainability means to local communities and businesses. These experiences were especially meaningful in light of the global crisis that struck mere weeks after the seminar’s conclusion: the outbreak of COVID-19 has restricted travel to Jordan significantly and resulted in a troubling downturn for Jordan’s tourism industry.

Since the seminar, participants have stayed in touch with each other, with ACOR, and with their new contacts in Jordan. Several will have reflection articles on our online publication *Insights* and CAORC’s blog. In follow-up interviews, CAORC determined that participants’ most widely shared short-term goals following the seminar were to create new course materials and present their learning to fellow faculty and students. Nearly all reported by summer 2020 that they had successfully created new course units or had otherwise incorporated new knowledge of Jordan into their teaching practice. Some plan to pursue further expanded curricular offerings at



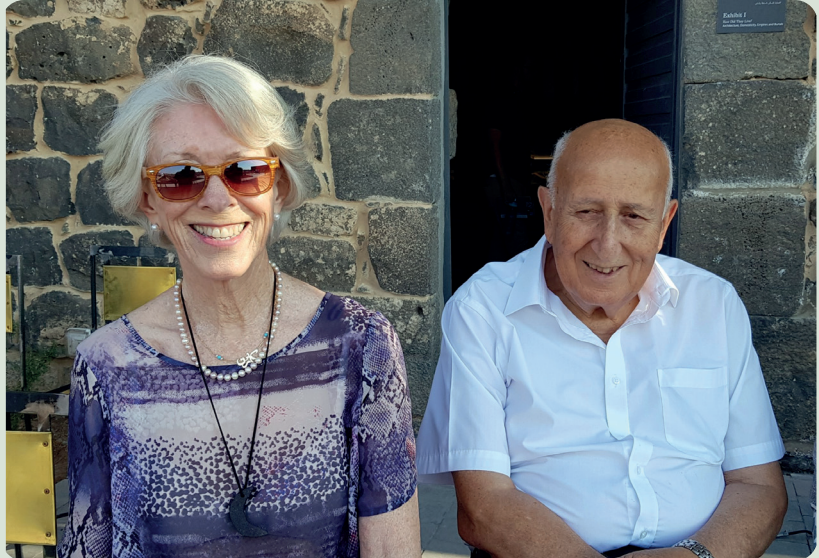
Participants and staff pose with tour guide Nasser Abu Al Khair of Petra Moon (3rd from left) and local site guide Samar Erman of Hand by Hand Heritage (far left) in Umm el-Jimal, January 7, 2020. (Photo courtesy of USAID SCHEP.)



**Mohammed Asfour,  
1935–2020**

Board Member 1988–2020

H.E. Mohammed Asfour was born into a family that cared deeply about Jordan and participated in its management and growth. Mohammed's grandfather was one of the country's first mayors, and Mohammed, following suit, was appointed minister of trade and industry, and he guided the local and International Chamber of Commerce. During his college years in Michigan, Mohammed met and married Karen Gex. Together with their four children they continue the family commitment to Jordan's future. In 1982, ACOR's vice president, H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid, asked Mohammed, who was a close friend, to join ACOR's effort to expand the organization's role in Jordan by constructing a building that could house its library, rooms for visiting scholars, and laboratories to analyze collections. Mohammed provided significant help by persuading many construction suppliers to donate material in kind, greatly reducing the need to raise funds for the total project. The team of Prince Raad, David McCreery, Ed Harrell, and Mohammed made it happen. Mohammed, in addition, continued to arrange donations for ACOR's benefit for a period of thirty-eight years. Mohammed showed his devotion to ACOR in many ways: by attending lectures, taking care of ACOR when the staff had to be evacuated due to the political situation, and generally being there when he was needed. He felt strongly about ACOR's mission and pushed to make it happen, using his community strengths. While we will miss him as a board member, surely, we will miss him most of all as a friend, and a man who personified the warm Jordanian welcome of "my house is your house." Finally, we cannot say enough about his legendary *mansaf* gatherings and his enduring devotion to Jordan. A close friend to many of us.



Mohammed and Karen at Umm el-Jimal on June 15, 2019 (Photo by Barbara A. Porter).

—Randy Old

their institutions, although several reported that funding and enrollment struggles brought on by the pandemic have hindered development of new course offerings, for the time being.

In May, seminar participant Laura Penman reached out to the SCHEP team again as she began to develop a virtual course on sustainability for the State University of New York. SCHEP was able to help provide Jordan-specific materials for inclusion in the course and agreed to serve as an NGO "client" for the program, connecting students to representatives of SCHEP's partner micro-enterprises for the purposes of virtual exchange. This still-developing collaboration is expected to provide a special opportunity for global education in a year otherwise plagued by challenges for fostering international connections. It is just one example of how seminar participants continue to apply what they learned in creative and innovative ways.

As ACOR continues to expand and enhance its programming to meet new and more diverse audiences, feedback from participants has proven invaluable. For example, our archival team benefited from an opportunity to ask the group about perceived applicability of the ACOR Digital Archive as a learning and teaching tool, including room for improvement of our program design.

Ultimately, we continue to ask and answer: how do the ideas and experiences these faculty had in Jordan translate

to diverse educational contexts in the U.S.? How can ACOR's contributions to global education better serve the upcoming generation of students and researchers, more diverse in background and, excitingly, larger in number? In addition to supporting the professional development of these seminar participants as global educators, we at ACOR greatly value the opportunity for our team to see Jordan and global education through their eyes.

This was not ACOR's first faculty seminar, nor will it be the last. Once the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic are resolved, ACOR looks forward to hosting more such knowledge-development opportunities for U.S. faculty in the future. We encourage you to read participants' reflection articles online at [publications.acorjordan.org/insights](https://publications.acorjordan.org/insights) and [caorc.org/blog](https://caorc.org/blog).

We would like to extend our gratitude to the partnering organizations that helped bring about the success of this initiative, as led by former director Barbara Porter, associate director Jack Green, and Glenn Corbett, program director at CAORC. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Petra Moon company in Jordan for their support, and to the partners of USAID SCHEP that warmly welcomed faculty members into their communities and shared their cultural heritage and traditions. This seminar was generously supported by funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

## Publications Update

Noreen Doyle

Publication is a core element in ACOR's mission to facilitate interdisciplinary research, the acquisition and sharing of knowledge, and cultural exchange. To better display ACOR's open-access periodicals and its existing catalog of in-print and out-of-print books, the ACOR website (which underwent improvements over the summer) now features a publications homepage. Details about ACOR's publications, information about purchasing printed volumes online and in Amman, and PDF downloads may be found at [publications.acorjordan.org](http://publications.acorjordan.org).

Early this summer ACOR published *Petra: The North Ridge*, by Patricia Maynor Bikai, Megan A. Perry, Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, and a number of other contributors, in two editions: hardback with dustjacket, produced in Jordan, and paperback in the U.S. (p. 9). Two booklets showcasing the work of ACOR's USAID SCHEP came into print over the winter. The vivid photographs and English and Arabic text of *Visit Safi* entice Jordanian and foreign tourists to explore the culture and natural environment of this region at the southern end of the Dead Sea. *Aqabawi: Community Based Cultural Experiences* showcases thirteen things to do in Aqaba: a variety of visual and culinary arts, fishing, diving, and even helping at a dog shelter. Both booklets are available at ACOR in Amman.

Production of ACOR's two periodicals, the semiannual *ACOR Newsletter* and the biennial *Archaeology in Jordan* remains on time. Look for *AIJ 2* on the website sometime in October. The publications webpages also make available (as high-quality PDFs) some of ACOR's printed books as either complete volumes or excerpts. As of the time of writing, *ACOR: The First 25 Years: The American Center of Oriental Research: 1968–1993*, edited by P. M. Bikai (1993), can be freely downloaded. Plans are in development to provide complete access to the full contents of ACOR's print catalog.



The cover of SCHEP's *Aqabawi: Community-Based Cultural Experiences*, published in February 2020.

The webpage is also now home to ACOR's renamed blog, *Insights*, which succeeds the quarterly email update of the same name. Through *Insights*, fellows, interns, staff, and others share their experiences working with ACOR, their scholarship, and life in Jordan. This is a multimedia platform, so videos of ACOR's public lectures, each about an hour long, are here as well.

### Public Lectures at ACOR\* (January–June 2020)

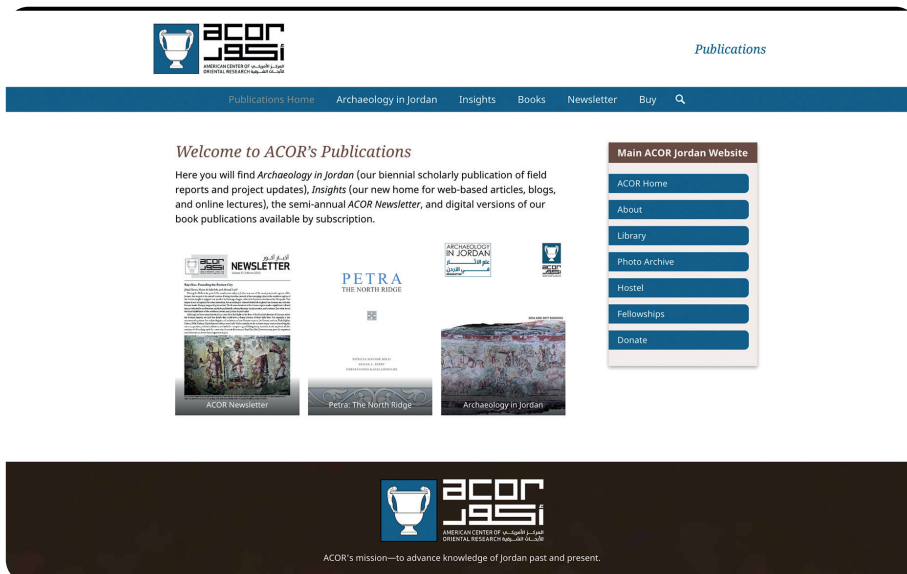


A photographic exhibit in the ACOR lobby, prepared by the archives team on the occasion of the February 2020 public lecture. (Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)

FEBRUARY 11: Jack Green and Jessica Holland (ACOR), "The ACOR Photo Archive: Mobilizing Digital Tools to Preserve Visual Heritage"

MARCH 10: Konstantinos D. Politis (CAORC Fellow; The Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies), "Nabataeans on the Shores of the Dead Sea"

\* Over 30 ACOR public lectures have been recorded and are freely available online. Please visit [youtube.com/acorjordan1968](https://youtube.com/acorjordan1968) to explore a wealth of recorded scholarly content, including the two presentations listed above. Subscribe directly to our channel to always receive updates on the latest videos.



Screenshot of ACOR's new publications homepage.



## Collaborative Wikipedia Editing: Digital Community Resources for an Online Era:

Jacqueline Salzinger



*Participants at the first in-person Wikipedia edit-a-thon hosted by ACOR, October 2019.*

Over the past year, ACOR has expanded our knowledge-sharing activities online through engagement with the largest open-access knowledge repository in the world: Wikipedia. All articles on Wikipedia.org are compiled exclusively by volunteers. Anyone with a device and an internet connection has the ability to edit or create articles. Our “Wiki” activities have included in-person workshop events, a new six-month volunteer program in the library, and, adapting to meet the times, online gatherings. Such activities have been conducted at ACOR thanks to the support of the Jordan Open Source Association, especially Raya Sharbain, program coordinator, and Wikimedia Levant, especially Abbad Diraneyya, knowledge management coordinator and an alumnus of ACOR’s Frederick-Wenger Memorial Jordanian Educational Fellowship, 2019–2020.

ACOR’s engagement with the Wikipedia editing community first began in 2019 through collaboration between ACOR archivists and “WikiGap” organizers. Later iterations of these activities have been grouped under the banner “Open Jordanian Heritage.”

Chief among expansion efforts was our initiation of Jordan’s first “Wikimedian in Residence” program, through which we invited two volunteers to edit Wikipedia in our library, with particular focus on adding scholarly citations using ACOR collections and researchers in residence. These volunteers also helped visitors to the library interested in learning how to edit Wikipedia for themselves. The inaugural program, which ran from January to June 2020, included Neal Feldman (MA. in anthropology, University of Arizona; Center for Arabic Study Abroad fellow at the Qasid Arabic Institute, 2019–2020) and Areen Abu Rumman (BPharm, Hashemite University).

A second workshop in February 2020 allowed Neal and Areen to get to know ongoing program participants

and best practices for linking ACOR’s library and archival resources to Wikipedia articles about Jordanian heritage. Dozens of scholars, students, writers, and translators became contributors to Open Jordanian Heritage, united by a common passion for local culture and history and for improving accessibility of academic resources.

The ACOR Wikimedian community maintained a growth trajectory even after the lockdown: pandemic conditions underscored the urgency of provisioning academic resources online. In late spring, the team arranged an online “gathering” for further collaboration and learning. The Open Jordanian Heritage Virtual Edit-a-thon took place on June 13, 2020, and lasted a full 24 hours, sustained by participation across both Jordan and North America. Facebook Live and YouTube Live presentations kicked off the event. The “Muredoon” network of anthropology graduate students from several governorates were among the day’s most enthusiastic participants.

The team had originally set a goal of having ACOR’s editing community add 20,000 words to Wikipedia during all of 2020—and the virtual edit-a-thon surpassed this number in a single day. At the time of this writing, Open Jordanian Heritage’s contribution has totaled nearly 40,000 words newly added to a total of 66 different English and Arabic Wikipedia articles, incorporating the contributions of 86 different editors. We are encouraged by the feedback from the participants. As one said: “the edit-a-thon was the highlight of my quarantine!”

Preparations are underway for another virtual edit-a-thon to take place in October 2020. To join our “Wiki” efforts, contact us at [acor@acorjordan.org](mailto:acor@acorjordan.org).

ACOR extends its sincere appreciation for the collaborative efforts of Raya Sharbain, Abbad Diraneyya, and the many others who made this program possible.

## Fellows in Residence (January–June 2020)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE HUMANITIES  
POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

**Christine Sargeant,**  
Anthropology, University of Colorado  
Denver: *Medicine, Technology, and  
Uncertainty: Navigating  
Pre-Natal Diagnosis in Jordan*



(Photo by Starling Carter.)

CAORC  
POST-DOCTORAL  
FELLOW

**Konstantinos D. Politis,**  
Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies:  
*Khirbet Qazone: A Nabataean to Early  
Christian Community on the  
South-Eastern Dead Sea Littoral*



(Photo by Veronica Blevins.)

PIERRE AND PATRICIA  
BIKAI  
FELLOW

**Betty Adams,**  
Near Eastern Archaeology,  
La Sierra University:  
*Cosmetic Adornment during the Iron Age  
in the Southern Levant*



(Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)

TWL  
PUBLICATION  
FELLOW

**Pauline Piraud Fournet,**  
University of Paris VI-Sorbonne/  
Institut français  
du Proche-Orient  
(resident in Amman)



(Photo by Jack Green.)

## The Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship

China Shelton

Created thanks to generous donations in 2019 and 2020, this scholarship is named for former ASOR president, former ACOR vice-president, and former Madaba Plains Project director Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty, who also served as president of La Sierra University in Riverside, California.

Lawrence T. 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 Professor Siegfried Horn plan the first season of excavation at Hisban (1967), through which he became involved in the early years of ACOR. Geraty joined the ACOR 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, many of whom cut their teeth at the sites of Hisban and Umayri. This group includes ACOR board members Bert de Vries, Øystein LaBianca, and Thomas Parker, as well as Jordanian archaeologists Ghazi Bisheh, Nabil Khairy, Lutfi Khalil, and Zeidan Kafafi, among many others. As Dr. Geraty puts it: “The generosity of those who have benefitted from ACOR and who believe in its mission remains necessary to further ACOR’s mentorship for future generations.”

This annual grant provides \$1,250 to an undergraduate or graduate student from an accredited institution to conduct ASOR- or CAP-affiliated excavation and/or research in Jordan. The award is intended to assist in travel costs and/or ACOR accommodation, based on need. Funding may be combined with other fellowships and must be spent within a calendar year.

## The Internship Program (January–June 2020)

Jacqueline Salzinger

ACOR is grateful to have hosted several resilient and creative interns this season, many of whom stayed with us even after lockdown necessitated remote working practices. Iva Junakovic Prazen, a master’s student in data analytics and marketing at Arden University (U.K.), continued her internship as started in fall 2019. She has been supporting the archive team’s grant-writing and outreach efforts. Recent Yarmouk University graduate Nora Al Omari supported the Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project with object classification and data management. In addition to our inaugural Wikimedian volunteer program (p. 13), undergraduate study-abroad students Nick Cleveland-Stout and Fabiola Pardo Garcia joined ACOR in early February and helped with the Temple of Winged Lions Publication Project, as well as public lecture events and social media drafting. Boren scholar Anna Rose McGoldrick also joined ACOR in 2020 as support for the library, making significant contributions to cataloguing open-access resources. Lastly, in late May, three summer interns were taken on for development and communications initiatives. Ruth Folmar of the University of Texas at Austin and Maura Doyle of Randolph-Macon College supported fellowships program research, and Aliya Boshnak of Yale University supported ACOR’s digital and newsletter communications. The first two completed all tasks remotely—we commend them for their diligence!—while Aliya was luckily able to join us in the office once we reopened (pp. 2–3), since Amman is where she calls home. For further updates on the latest internship opportunities at ACOR, please see [acorjordan.org](http://acorjordan.org), and to read about Nora Al Omari’s internship experience with the Temple of the Winged Lions, check out her recent article on *ACOR Insights* ([publications.acorjordan.org/insights/](http://publications.acorjordan.org/insights/)).



## Annual Appeals Summary

FUNDS, ENDOWMENTS, AND INITIATIVES	FISCAL YEAR 2019	FISCAL YEAR 2020
Annual Fund.....	*\$143,678	\$100,007
General Endowment.....	\$3,012	\$2,629
Library & Archive Support Fund.....	\$14,204	\$3,400
Petra Church Conservation Initiative.....	\$796	\$400
Temple of the Winged Lions CRM Initiative Fund.....	\$450	\$750
Anne C. Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment.....	\$200	\$600
Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment.....	\$1,625	\$1,100
Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship Endowment.....	\$25	\$0
Frederick-Wenger Memorial Jordanian Educational Fellowship Endowment.....	\$353	\$300
Harrell Family Fellowship Trust.....	\$1,200	\$1,400
James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment.....	\$3,150	\$5,400
Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Trust.....	\$5,987	\$4,111
Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund.....	\$1,785	\$4,140
Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship Trust.....	\$250	\$450
Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship Endowment.....	\$11,655	\$21,000
Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment.....	\$725	\$1,101
Roger and Aina Boraas Memorial Library Support Fund.....	\$30,000	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$219,095</b>	<b>\$149,288</b>

\* Including Marilyn M. Schaub's legacy gift of \$23,766.

### Donations to ACOR (January–June 2020)

#### DONATIONS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Anne Aarnes; Ahmad and Sirine Abu Ghazaleh; Susan Ackerman; Catherine Alexander; Betty Anderson; Jon W. Anderson; Robert and Mette Beecroft; Virginia Bennett; Martha Boling-Risser and Robert Risser in memory of Bob and Jean Boling; Eric Boswell; Bill Burns and Lisa Carty; James Callahan; Joyce E. Chelberg; Douglas R. Clark and Carmen L. Clark; Geoffrey H. Coll; Pearce Paul Creasman; Bonnie Lee Crosfield; Erin Darby; Thomas Davis; Paul Donnelly; Paul Fitzpatrick; Debra Foran; Logan Geeslin; Nikolas Granger; Bridget Guarasci and Mani Potnuru; Jill K. and Nelson G. Harris; Joy Hebert; Doris Heinemann in memory of Bruce M. Borthwick; Randall L. Hoffman; Jo Ann Hackett and John Huehnergard in memory of Jim Sauer; Jo Jagoda; Abdelelah Khatib; Albert Leonard; Stephen Lintner and Pamela Johnson; Connie Manning; Renee Menard; Robert E. Mittelstaedt; William Morgan; Jenna de Vries Morton; David Nickols; John P. Oleson; Jennifer Olmsted; Deborah Olszewski; Laura Penman; Jane Peterson; James Pokines; Gary O. Rollefson; Paul Salopek; Edwin Schick; James Schryver in honor of Fawwaz Ishakat; John Scott and Kelly Pool; Joe D. Seger; Maria-Louise Sidoroff; Doug and Catherine Silliman; Steven Simms; Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron; Timothy Snow; Elizabeth M. Ursic; Nicholas and Patricia Veliotis; Monique Vincent; Bethany J. Walker; Terry Walz; Theresa and Thomas Whetstine; Charles Wilkins; Lucy Wilson

#### ANNUAL FUND IN HONOR OF BARBARA A. PORTER

Mary Joan Barker; Karen Borstad; Julia R. Bradford; Nina Dodge; Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates; Gemma S. Hall; Morag M. Kersel; Don and Jeanette Nadler; Molly and Joe Seiler

#### ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS FOR LIBRARY SUPPORT

Council On International Educational Exchange (CIEE)

#### GENERAL ENDOWMENT

Barbara Reeves; Theresa and Thomas Whetstine in memory of Donald Wimmer

#### FREDERICK-WENGER MEMORIAL JORDANIAN EDUCATIONAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Nizar Al Adarbeh

#### JAMES A. SAUER MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Seymour Gitin; Barbara A. Porter in honor of Moawiyah Ibrahim

#### JENNIFER C. GROOT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Barbara Reeves; Peter and Penelope West in memory of Jennifer C. Groot

#### JORDANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joan Porter MacIver and David MacIver in honor of Moawiyah Ibrahim; James Michener

#### PETRA CHURCH CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Stanley Maxwell; Thomas Roby

#### ROGER AND AINA BORAAS MEMORIAL LIBRARY SUPPORT FUND

Richard LeBaron and Zoe Ingalls in honor of Roger Boraas

### Donations to the ACOR Library (January–June 2020)

Ala'a Adawi; Zaki Ayoubi; Pearce Paul Creasman; Japanese International Cooperation Agency; Jihad Haron; Tim Healing; Tewodros Aragie Kebede; Neda'a Al Khazali; Barbara A. Porter\*; Joan Porter MacIver; Michel Al-Maqdissi; James Michener; Michael Nazzal; Saeb Rawashdeh; Robert Schick; Seteney Shami; Abbas Shammari; Nadia Sukhtian; Bashar Tabbah.

\*The ACOR Library is grateful for the donation of over 900 books including titles related to Jordan, ancient and Islamic art, and Egyptology.



Outgoing director Barbara A. Porter and incoming director Pearce Paul Creasman at the Petra Museum, March 3, 2020. (Photo by J. Green.)

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### June 2020 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees meeting took place virtually on June 11 in lieu of the meeting originally scheduled to occur in Amman, with Ambassador Edward “Skip” Gnehm (Ret.) presiding. Skip noted the extraordinary circumstances under which the new director, Pearce Paul Creasman, had begun his tenure. Thomas Davis, Laith Al-Qasem, and Hani Kurdi were elected as new members of the board. Jenna Morton joined the nominations committee. Pearce Paul Creasman reported that ACOR’s status in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic is stable (pp. 2–3). Thomas Parker reported on the status of ACOR’s publications noting in particular that *Petra: The North Ridge* has been published (p. 9). Megan Perry reported on behalf of the Fellowship Committee that they were still able to offer most of ACOR’s 2020–2021 fellowships for research to take place when travel to Jordan becomes possible again. The UNOPS Oversight Committee was dissolved and in its place David Nickols was nominated to act as a liaison between staff and the board on matters related to the UNOPS renovation (p. 9). Former board president Randolph Old was elected trustee emeritus and thanked by all for his many years of service.

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