



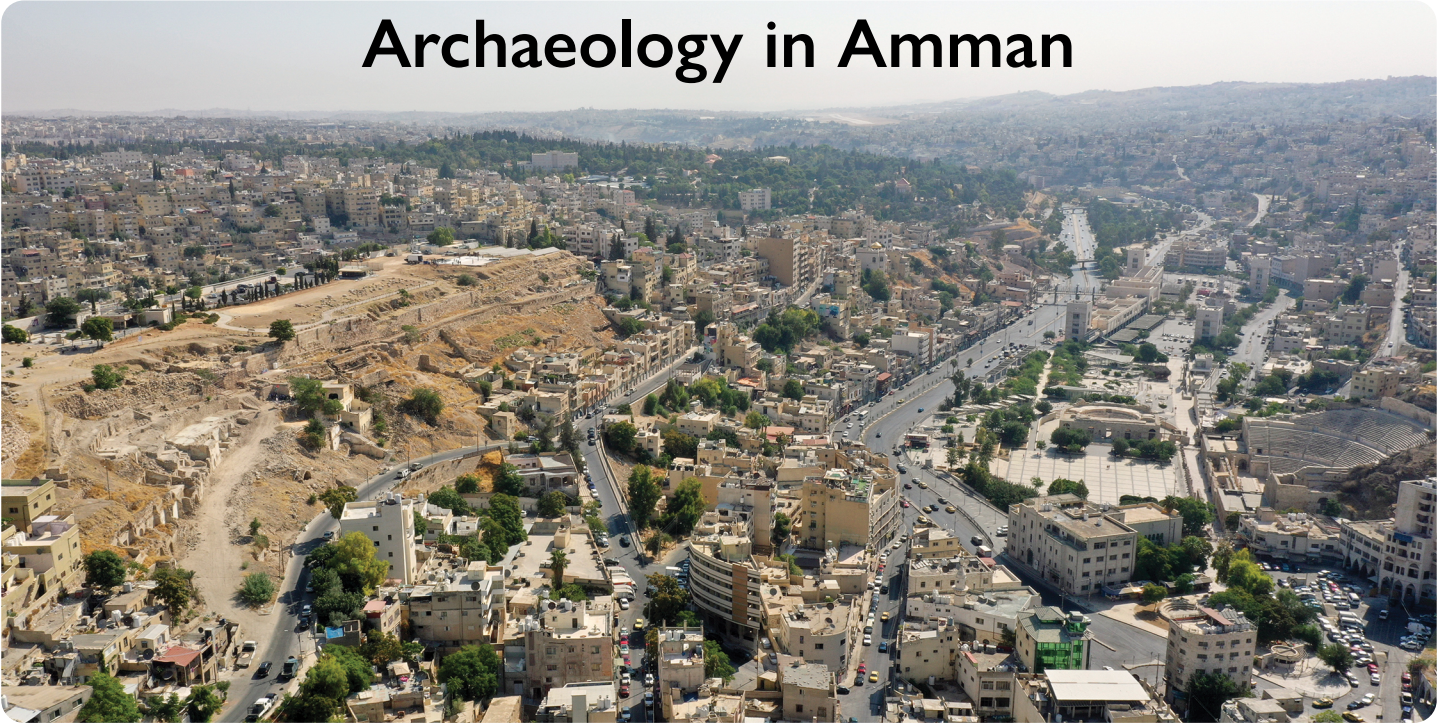
ACOR  
أَكُور

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

# أخبار أكور NEWSLETTER

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for January–June 2021

## Archaeology in Amman



Aerial view of the southern side of the Amman Citadel (with dirt trail and ruins at left) and the Roman theater (far right).  
(Photo by ChickMania Entertainment, courtesy of ACOR/USAID SCHEP.)

*Ala'a Al Badarin, Hanadi Al Taher, Jihad Haron, Nizar Al Adarbeh, and Pearce Paul Creasman*

As discussed by Jack Green in *Insights* earlier this year (see link, p. 3), the worldwide “great pause” in archaeology generated by the pandemic has simultaneously offered difficulties and opportunities in Jordan. Archaeologically, during these past months ACOR has focused on two areas: supporting the urgent needs of Jordan’s Department of Antiquities and engaging in opportunities in Amman. We hope that the following selection of ACOR’s recent fieldwork, which has been more extensive than we have room to share here, demonstrates the strength, resilience, and continued promise of archaeological activities in Jordan even in the face of our collectively changed and challenged world.

### Rehabilitation and Development Project for the Amman Citadel South Area and Tourist Trails

Working toward the sustainability of archaeological sites through their continuous rehabilitation and development is considered the first step in preserving historical and cultural identity. With such a goal in mind, the rehabilitation and development project for the southern area of the Amman Citadel (Jabal al-Qalaa; see link, p. 3) serves as a crucial element of the overall royal vision to develop Amman’s historic downtown area.

In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), the Department of Antiquities (DoA), the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), and the Royal Department for Environment Protection and Tourism, ACOR has been working since March 2021 to develop a new tourist path linking the archaeological site of the Citadel’s southern



gate with the Roman theater in downtown Amman. Funded by USAID and undertaken through SCHEP (pp. 6–7), the project is rehabilitating the ancient staircase that connected the upper city to the lower city in the Roman period, uniting ancient and modern Amman.

The project intends to turn the site into a tourist attraction and enhance commercial activity by providing new investment opportunities. When completed (in October 2021), the project will have created new urban spaces with a vibrant environment that magnifies the value of Amman's city center, highlights its historical and heritage status, and enhances the role and position of the archaeological site of Jabal al-Qalaa as an important destination for visitors to Amman by creating an integrated service system that meets their varied needs. Moreover, the project involves the local community in the work and will provide economic and intellectual returns and opportunities far into the future.

Several staff from ACOR helped to document the bath and surrounding areas, including by contracting for drone videography. The salvage work was all the more pressing, as it was soon learned that dressed stones, column pieces, and fragments of two large white marble statues had also been uncovered during the construction works. After completion of the documentation, it was decided to re-bury the site and halt construction until sufficient funds are available to properly attend to it. At the request of the Jordanian authorities, ACOR provided financial support (via USAID SCHEP) and technical advice to implement the refilling process, including materials and expertise. It was agreed that a comprehensive plan to discover and present Philadelphia, the Roman city in the center of Amman, should be developed in partnership with all concerned authorities.

#### Khirbet Salameh in Tla al-Ali

In support of the DoA, via SCHEP, we have developed a risk mitigation plan for the eastern edge of the Khirbet Salameh archaeological site, located just outside ACOR's front door (see link, p. 3). USAID provided the funding. Begun in January and completed in June 2021, this project improved the site's accessibility and safety and enhanced its presentation for the public. The multiuse site spans several cultures from at least 500 BC to AD 700, with a late Roman/Byzantine and Umayyad fortified farmstead constituting the remaining structures. It was partially excavated by ACOR in the 1980s and 1990s, in cooperation with the University of Jordan, but still much remains to be understood. When our most recent renovation began on ACOR's center in fall 2020, it became clear that the eastern border of the site—a raw



*Floor supports and heating pipes of the Roman bath.  
(Photo by Basim Mahamid, courtesy of the DoA and ACOR/USAID SCHEP.)*

#### Downtown Roman Baths

In late 2020, the Greater Amman Municipality was implementing a major drainage project along the main streets of downtown Amman to solve the problem of often devastating floods brought on by seasonal rains, which have led to great losses of life and property. The work revealed the brick floor-support pillars and heating pipes of a Roman-era bath complex. It is believed that this was part of the Roman city, which was largely buried beneath modern Amman during the infrastructure projects of the 1960s.

The DoA and MoTA stopped the drainage project, and the government formed a steering committee drawn from relevant authorities and partners, including ACOR, to determine the future of these important archaeological remains.



*Khirbet Salameh and its new wall as seen from the ACOR building. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)*





*Abdoun South, thought to date back to the Ammonites (1st millennium BC), with the remains of a light winter snow. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)*

cliff edge created in the early 1980s by initial construction of our center—needed attention to prevent both natural erosion and any impact from vibrations during the intensive work at the center. In consultation with the DoA, we built a retaining wall to protect this edge of the site from these potential threats. While it had remained fairly stable over the decades since its creation, now was the right time to ensure it would do so for many more to come. Mitigation measures and standards for maintaining such sites were employed during the design and implementation phases, under the supervision of the DoA and ACOR. Moreover, the architectural design took into account the sense of place and considered potential future expanded uses of the area (such as increased tourism). A large retaining wall was built and clad in the style of the center, and now, for the first time, the site offers an accessible staircase with a handrail to promote safety for visitors.

#### Abdoun Community Archaeology Project

In consultation with the DoA, and with the support and approval of ACOR's board of trustees, we are initiating a new community archaeological engagement project in Amman. Permissions are in hand: once the summer heat has passed, the unassuming site of "Abdoun South" (near Taj Mall) will serve as a place to deepen the involvement of members of the public with the rich history and heritage of the area. Under the close supervision of trained professionals, volunteers will be welcomed to help us excavate this site and discover what it has to offer. True to ACOR's mission—advancing knowledge of Jordan past and present—this project will learn about and preserve the site,

#### Snow!

As seems to be the case each year of late, here in Amman we received a snowstorm in mid-February. While the winter itself was not intense, these few days were a welcome relief—being locked in for a reason other than COVID-19! In some places, more than a foot (35 cm) of snow collected on the ground. In this newsletter we share a few images of monuments and buildings around Amman that you may recognize.

educate people about archaeology, and engage Amman's population (Jordanians and foreigners alike) with the world around them in new ways. Abdoun South is believed to originally date to the period of the Ammonite Kingdom (which appeared at the end of the 2nd millennium BC and ended, according to some historians, in the very late 6th or 5th century BC) and has evidence of reuse during the Roman, Ayyubid, and Mamluk periods, and perhaps even as recent as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We hope you will join us sometime during the next two years while we are out in the field in Amman!

#### Online

ACOR. 2020. "Amman Citadel." ACOR, [acorjordan.org/the-amman-citadel/](https://acorjordan.org/the-amman-citadel/).

ACOR. 2020. "Khirbet Salameh." ACOR, [acorjordan.org/khirbet-salameh/](https://acorjordan.org/khirbet-salameh/).

Green, Jack. 2021. "Archaeology in Jordan and the Pandemic." *Insights*, 3 March 2021, [publications.acorjordan.org/2021/03/03/archaeology-in-jordan-and-the-pandemic/](https://publications.acorjordan.org/2021/03/03/archaeology-in-jordan-and-the-pandemic/).

## Bert de Vries 1939–2021

Bert de Vries was one of the most important figures in the history of ACOR, from its founding in 1968 until his tragic and sudden death on March 28, 2021. Bert's life and accomplishments extended far beyond ACOR, but this tribute will naturally focus on his enormous contributions to Jordan and his beloved institution.

Bert was born in the Netherlands on March 4, 1939, less than six months before the outbreak of World War II, and thus his earliest memories included his native land under Nazi occupation. He once shared with me a story about playing atop an abandoned German tank near the end of the war in 1945. In 1952, his family immigrated to Canada, where Bert became a Canadian citizen. He attended Calvin College, earning degrees in physics and engineering, and then a bachelor's degree in divinity from the Calvin Seminary. He received his PhD from Brandeis University in Mediterranean studies. In 1967, Bert joined the faculty of the Department of History at Calvin College, where he would spend the remainder of his professional academic life.

The next year, in 1968, he first visited Jordan as a member of the Tell Hisban Project, serving as architect/surveyor. Coincidentally, this was the same year as the founding of ACOR, which always maintained a close relationship with the Hisban team. Bert continued to work with the Tell Hisban Project through its final field campaign in 1978.

In 1971 Bert soon made his first visit to Umm el-Jimal, and, as he told me later, he simply could not believe that this extraordinary site, so vast and so magnificently preserved, was not the subject of an active research program. Further, the modern Jordanian village, founded about 1964, was already beginning to encroach on the ancient ruins. However, Bert was also now determined to organize a new project to excavate Umm el-Jimal, beginning in 1972. This expanded into a larger excavation in 1977, when I joined the team, with intermittent fieldwork every few years since then. This research has generated an enormous amount of new data about village life in the Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic periods. This was especially welcome because most classical archaeologists in Jordan had long focused on its major cities with monumental architecture, such as Jarash and Petra, despite the fact that most people in this period lived in rural villages such as Umm el-Jimal. Among his numerous publications was a major volume: *Umm el-Jimal: A Frontier Town and Its Landscape in Northern Jordan, Volume I: Field Work, 1972–1981*, published by the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* in 1998.

Between 1980 and 1989, Bert served on the staff of my Limes Arabicus Project, a survey and excavation of the Roman frontier east of the Dead Sea, again as architect/surveyor, and contributed substantially to its success. He produced most of the published architectural drawings of this project and authored several chapters in this project's interim and final reports, including contributions on the fortifications, the water system, and the bath of the el-Lejjun legionary fortress. I owe Bert a tremendous debt for his essential contributions to this project.

In 1988 to 1991, Bert served with distinction as director of ACOR. This was an extraordinarily difficult time for the institution, but Bert, along with his spouse, Sally, persevered until just before the outbreak of the First Gulf War, when ACOR's foreign staff was evacuated. However, Bert's service to ACOR continued. He rejoined the board of trustees and served with distinction until his death. The establishment of an endowment to create the Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship, funding students of all nationalities to study at ACOR, is just another example of extraordinary generosity that will allow students to work in Jordan for years to come.

However, perhaps Bert's greatest achievement is what he called "Community Archaeology" at Umm el-Jimal. Bert once said to me that many ordinary Jordanians "see these foreigners come to Jordan, dig holes in the ground, and then leave." As the modern village grew around the ancient site, he engaged the locals in the preservation and presentation of Umm el-Jimal, such as recruiting locals as senior members of his research team and constructing a visitor's center to promote tourism and create jobs. In other words, he helped the villagers "invest" in their local cultural heritage as team members. For example, Muaffaq Hazza from Umm el-Jimal was one of many locals whom Bert personally mentored to achieve advanced degrees related to archaeology and heritage. This became even more urgent with the outbreak of civil war in 2011 just across the border in neighboring Syria, which created a vast refugee community near Umm el-Jimal. He worked with local Jordanians and Syrians to help these refugees and their host community. In short, Bert created a model for community engagement in archaeology and cultural resource management that is now widely imitated across the region. Professionally, this is perhaps his greatest achievement. It is gratifying to know that others will carry on this vital contribution.



Bert was also a dedicated family man. Sally always played a major role in his work, particularly when he served as ACOR director, and in the field seasons at Umm el-Jimal. His four children, Tara, Tanya, Jenna, and Guy, spent much of their childhood in Jordan and were always a joy. Jenna in particular has assumed a major role managing the Umm el-Jimal project. Muaffaq Hazza became a member of the de Vries family as well as a key member of the research team. This team of local and international colleagues assembled by Bert will ensure its continued success in both academic scholarship and community engagement.

In short, Bert gave fifty-three years of his life to Jordan, to Umm el-Jimal, and to ACOR. He has left an incredibly powerful legacy that will long endure.

—S. Thomas Parker

Bert de Vries at Umm el-Jimal, March, 2018.  
(Photo by J. D. M. Green.)



### Donations in Memory of Bert de Vries and to the Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment

Susan Ackerman  
Pierre and Patricia Bikai  
Warren Boer and Joanne Boer  
Connie and Roger Brummel  
Kelly Cavarretta  
Katharine Cook  
Pearce Paul Creasman  
Thomas Davis  
Gregory de Vries  
Miriam and Ralston Deffenbaugh  
Phil Dehaan  
Anne and Stewart Dunn  
Lawrence Geraty

Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.  
Patricia Hammink  
Mary E. Jellema  
Anamarie Joesse and Wayne Joesse  
Paul and Brenda Katerberg, Derek  
and Laura Katerberg, and Matt and  
Alyssa Kraker  
Ed and Lois Langerak  
Nancy L. Lapp  
Jerry and Christine Mabrito  
Guillaume Malle  
Traci K. Montgomery  
Paul and Jean Nelson

David Nickols  
Jane V. Ottens  
S. Thomas Parker  
Berkshire Hathaway Cascade Office  
through the auspices of Ashley  
Russo  
Lauren E. Sikkema  
Sari Swets  
Calvin Community Symphony  
through the auspices of Susan  
Stoddard  
Teresa M. Tiesma  
Jared Warren



## USAID SCHEP Updates: January–June 2021

Nizar Al Adarbeh, Starling Carter, and Shatha Abu Aballi

In the first half of 2021, ACOR's Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), which is funded by USAID, continued to implement key project activities despite the challenges presented by fluctuating public health conditions throughout Jordan. To mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the project's goals, SCHEP shifted its programming to suit the situation, focusing on digital activities and preparations for new projects. Through this flexible approach, the project was able to make significant progress to meet its overall goals.

### New Grants

In early 2021, SCHEP launched a call for applications for new micro and small grants for projects in the heritage, tourism, and related sectors. Over 300 initial "concept notes" were received, and by the end of June we finalized agreements with twenty projects. Recipients include both new and long-time SCHEP partners.

### Capacity-Building

SCHEP was able to hold a handful of in-person training sessions during this six-month period, including a workshop on the pottery of Jordan in partnership with the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) in early January 2021. Fifteen participants attended, including representatives of the Madaba DoA office, the Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR), and recent graduates. Participants received an introduction to the pottery timeline in Jordan and took a closer look at the pottery from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods. A manual on the pottery of Jordan is under development in partnership with MRAMP.

In March 2021, SCHEP organized a week-long training session in drone theory and operation, led by a licensed drone operator and experienced videographer from Amman-based ChickMania Entertainment, for employees of the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA). This helped prepare the PDTRA to utilize drone technology to monitor the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra and to surveil the wider area to prevent vandalism and other illegal practices.

Following the success of the online scholarship program piloted in 2020, SCHEP launched a call

in February 2021 for applications to participate in online courses offered by the University of Oxford. As a result, nine people participated in Archaeology in Practice and three in the Islamic Art and Architecture courses.

### Cultural Heritage Resources (CHR) Projects

Under the agreement with MRAMP, and building on a workshop on the handling of museum artifacts held in the fall of 2020, SCHEP supported the production and printing of the *Manual for the Handling of Museum Artifacts in Jordan*. Produced in both Arabic and English, this is intended primarily for use in training situations and will be freely available online.

In collaboration with U.S.-based nonprofit organization CyArk, we conducted aerial photography documentation of three important heritage sites in Madaba using drone technology. This generated photogrammetry records and 3-D objects for the digital preservation of these sites and for a series of virtual tours produced in partnership with MRAMP and the U.S. State Department. The sites documented included the Church of St. George, the Church of the Virgin Mary, and the Burnt Palace. The virtual tours were finalized and made available online in April 2021 (see link, p. 7).

In January, as part of ACOR's membership in and support for the work of the Bayt Ras Consortium, Bayt Ras Project co-directors Jehad Haron and Ahmad Lash conducted a field visit to the site of the painted Roman-period tomb. A new device and a related Wi-Fi router were installed to control humidity and conserve the wall paintings. The co-directors also supervised drone photography of the Bayt Ras area, including archaeological features and the surrounding landscape.



A PDTRA employee learns how to operate drones for site monitoring purposes as part of a USAID SCHEP training in March 2021. (Photo by Abed AlFatah Ghareeb.)



## Institutional Development and Cooperation

As part of SCHEP's continued engagement with the Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA), including support for the development of the WRPA site management plan and capacity-building for its employees, we organized three on-site training sessions for WRPA staff between January and April 2021. These courses were led by Tareq Abulhawa in conjunction with other national experts, including USAID SCHEP team members Nizar Al Adarbeh, Hanadi Al Taher, and Jihad Haron. This training program will help equip WRPA staff with the tools and knowledge they need to enhance the management of this unique and world-renowned site. ACOR is especially proud to have been able to carry out this training program safely and effectively in person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Toward the end of 2020, Alexander Wasse was contracted by ACOR to assist the DoA in sustaining and upgrading its publications, in particular the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (ADAJ)*. This project was completed in early 2021. During this period, review of the new draft of the Jordanian Antiquities Law was also completed at the request of the DoA.

## Communication and Publications

In January 2021, SCHEP and MRAMP were proud to announce the launch of a dynamic new website, [madabamuseum.org](https://madabamuseum.org). This new site will serve as the online home for the planned Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum. It contains information on the history of key sites in the Madaba region, virtual tours of the planned museum and of the historically rich area in which it will be built, information on current programming to plan and prepare for the new museum, and more.

Another SCHEP-supported website was launched in April 2021, for Aqabawi, [aqabawi.com](https://aqabawi.com). Visitors can now see all of the cultural, artistic, and culinary touristic experiences that Aqabawi has to offer in southern Jordan and can request bookings directly from the new site.

In March 2021, SCHEP's efforts served as a key global case study in a new policy guidance released by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). In this document, "Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors," SCHEP's activities were selected to represent Sustainable Development Goal 5, gender equality. In addition to this recognition of SCHEP's efforts to engage women and girls in all aspects of its work and to increase the visibility and engagement of women at all levels of heritage management in Jordan, ICOMOS selected an ACOR photo to serve as the cover image of the document. The photo, taken by Bidaya Marcom, features members of the Temple of the Winged Lions Project in Petra. ACOR is proud to be featured so prominently in such an important document.

While the past year and a half has been full of challenges for SCHEP and its partners in the Jordanian tourism and heritage sectors, the staff has worked hard to adapt its programming and continue supporting its partners, whether they are high-level national institutions or local community-level startups. As Jordan and the world continue slowly and steadily down the path toward reopening, and as SCHEP enters its final period of implementation, we are looking forward to working with partners new and old over the next six months to ensure the sustainability and endurance of the work that SCHEP has begun.



Trainer Tareq Abulhawa (in gray cap) with SCHEP team members and training participants in Wadi Rum, January 2021. (Photo by Abed AlFatah Ghareeb.)

## Links

For regular updates on the project and its activities, follow us on our social media channels:

Web:

[acorjordan.org/schep](https://acorjordan.org/schep)

Facebook:

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

Twitter:

[@USAIDSCHEP](https://twitter.com/USAIDSCHEP)

Instagram:

[USAID\\_SCHEP](https://www.instagram.com/USAID_SCHEP)

LinkedIn:

[USAID SCHEP](https://www.linkedin.com/company/USAIDSCHEP)

YouTube:

[USAID SCHEP](https://www.youtube.com/USAIDSCHEP)

USAID SCHEP Collection in the ACOR

Photo Archive:

[tinyurl.com/SCHEP2021photos](https://tinyurl.com/SCHEP2021photos)



## John D. M. Green and Nizar Al Adarbeh Leave ACOR for New Roles

It is with both sadness and pride that we announce that two individuals who have made significant contributions to ACOR have departed for new positions in other organizations.

Known to all as “Jack,” John D. M. Green left ACOR—and Jordan—for the Miami University Art Museum in Oxford, Ohio, to assume the position of Jeffrey Horrell ’75 and Rodney Rose Director and Chief Curator. Before joining ACOR in October 2017 as associate director, he was curator of the ancient Near Eastern collections at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford (2007–2011), chief curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago (2011–2015), and deputy director at the Corning Museum of Glass, as well as a visiting scholar at Cornell University, New York (2016–2017). During his tenure at ACOR he contributed to numerous projects and played essential roles in support of its mission, including through the Temple of the Winged Lions, USAID SCHEP, the ACOR Photo and Digital Archive, the Conservation Cooperative, and the library. He served as project director of the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM) at Petra and participated in many surveys and excavations elsewhere in Jordan, including at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Aliya and Tall Dhiban.

His move to the United States will not sever his dedication to Jordan and its cultural heritage. In addition to his personal research, he continues with ACOR as coeditor of the Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project and *Archaeology in Jordan*.

### ACOR Receives Its First EU Grant

The EDU-SYRIA scholarship program, funded by the European Union through the regional trust fund “Madad” in response to the Syrian crisis, has awarded ACOR a grant for the Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers, through the Bottleneck Alleviation Programme overseen by Nuffic in Jordan. ACOR will help under- and unemployed Jordanians and Syrian refugees in Jordan learn new or enhance existing creative skills.



EDU-SYRIA  
A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

nuffic  
meet the world

In September 2015, Nizar Al Adarbeh became chief of party for the USAID-funded Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (pp. 6–7). He came to ACOR from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, where he had served as manager for Euro-Mediterranean regional projects, and brought with him not only years of experience with the ministry and the Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association but also a vision for the future of Jordan’s cultural heritage and tourism sectors. This experience, along with his knowledge and insight, allowed him to expertly steer SCHEP’s first phase (2014–2018), and it was thanks to him that SCHEP was extended to 2022. Through his efforts, the principles embodied by SCHEP—centering local communities in the development of cultural heritage management and tourism—became integral to Jordan’s national guidelines and policies and its merits have been demonstrated to the wider international community. Beyond SCHEP, ACOR has benefited from his drive and expertise, which have helped the organization plan and fund new projects.

Although he departs ACOR for the Economic Development and Energy Office of USAID Jordan, where he will be project management specialist, his future work will no doubt continue to intersect with ACOR’s, as his past activities at ACOR will continue to influence the organization’s undertakings for years to come.

Jack and Nizar were honored together on June 24 with a small gathering here at ACOR. Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was limited to current staff, with Reem Habayeb representing the board of trustees.

Those of us who remain at ACOR wish Jack and Nizar the very best. They will remain our colleagues and friends, no matter where in the world their careers take them.

*Nizar and Jack with cake at their farewell.  
(Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)*





## Publications Update

Noreen Doyle

In addition to essays and announcements (often in English and Arabic) directly related to ACOR's public events (p. 13), ACOR's blog, *Insights*, offered three more entries in "Ask a Scholar," a series in which Jacqueline Salzinger presents evocative questions to past and present ACOR fellows about their work. Featured this period were political scientist Prof. Waleed Hazbun, architectural conservator Nedhal Jarrar (also available in Arabic), and ethnomusicologist Melissa J. Scott. In "Arabic in Practice: From Jordan to the Web," Salzinger herself explored a useful selection of sources for learning Arabic online, vital given the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. An essay by Jack Green looked at the effects of the pandemic on archaeological work in Jordan, which will be much in evidence in the next volume of *Archaeology in Jordan*, to be published in 2022. The remarkable achievements of the ACOR Photo Archive Project (2016–2020) were the subject of Jessica Holland's piece, and Marco Dehner gave readers a glimpse into his work for a forthcoming ACOR print volume, the final publication of the Temple of the Winged Lions.

All of these, and more, are available at [publications.acorjordan.org/insights/](https://publications.acorjordan.org/insights/).

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## Archive Update

Starling Carter, Ryder Kouba, and Rawad Bou Malhab

Since March 2021 staff have been scanning and creating metadata for thousands of images from our archive as part of our Title VI grant, "ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource" (2020–2024). Rawad Bou Malhab joined the project in March to lead these efforts, taking over from Jessica Holland and Starling Carter, who served as project co-leads from October and November 2020, respectively.

During this period, Rawad set up the project digitization workflow, trained the staff in applying best digitization practices, metadata creation, and post-processing of digital files, and upgraded the project file-naming conventions. With Arzaq Yousef Abu Eid, Nora Al Omari, and Ibrahim Rantissi, the project is well on its way to meeting the September 2021 project goal of digitizing 5,000 slides depicting Petra, Krak des Chevaliers, Palmyra, and many other archaeological sites, landscapes, and scenes of everyday life in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere.

These images will be made available online upon the launch (expected in 2022) of our new archive website,

which is currently in progress as part of the Digital Archive Project. Online access to 36,000 images is currently available at [acor.digitalrelab.com](https://acor.digitalrelab.com); this project will add 20,000 new objects, including audio-visual material, such as recordings of sites and lectures in Jordan, to our digital collections.

In addition to providing access to photographs and videos from across the region, a key goal of the project is the creation of Arabic metadata to increase accessibility for users in the MENA region as well as students of the Arabic language. Beyond making content available, we will work with U.S. educators, particularly those serving community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and minority-serving institutions, to develop curricular materials using resources from our collections. As part of these efforts, educator fellowships will be established for faculty members to develop such educational resources, which will then be made available on ACOR's website.

In April 2021, 5,000 images from the first four years of SCHEP (pp. 6–7) were added to the digital archive as part of the new USAID SCHEP collection. Archive staff worked from June 2020 to make these images—along with detailed metadata in both English and Arabic—available to researchers, practitioners, students, local community members, would-be travelers, and anyone else who may be interested. This is the first born-digital collection, as well as the first collection with fully bilingual metadata, in our archive. At a later stage, photos from 2019 onward will be added. A photo essay and several galleries were created for the launch of this collection, to introduce the different themes and sub-collections, all of which can be found and explored at [photoarchive.acorjordan.org](https://photoarchive.acorjordan.org).

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## Fellow in Residence (January–June 2021)

TEMPLE OF THE WINGED LIONS PUBLICATION FELLOW

**Marco Dehner**, Humboldt University, Berlin: *The Decorated Stone from the Temple of the Winged Lions*

## Artifacts Returned to the DoA

In March 2021, 157 boxes and crates containing finds from the Petra North Ridge excavations and 87 crates of materials from the Madaba Archaeological Park excavations of the 1990s were returned to Department of Antiquities storage facilities. ACOR is pleased to be able to return these materials to the Jordanian government following successful study and publication.

## New Trustee: Mr. William B. Inglee



William B. Inglee is cofounder and senior partner of Inglee Sauer Market Strategies, as well as a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a member of the boards of the American University in Cairo and the American Research Center in Egypt. Holding degrees from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in

Washington, D.C., and the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, he has had an active career in both public and private sectors, including in some of the highest levels of government.

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### Facilitating Global Learning Through Continued Collaboration: U.S. Educators Explore Applications in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for ACOR-CAORC Faculty Development Seminar Experience (Reunion Workshop)

*Jacqueline Salzinger*

In January 2020, ACOR hosted twelve educators from community colleges and minority-serving institutions for an ACOR-CAORC faculty development seminar (FDS) called “Sustainability at the Margins.” One year later, in January 2021, Amman staff brought the group back together (virtually, of course) to share notes on their subsequent teaching experiences and to provide an opportunity for mutual feedback, with special focus on youth virtual exchange.

The reunion took place on Zoom and was attended by nine of the twelve original participants, along with ACOR and CAORC staff. Faculty traded experiences of globally relevant teaching in the era of virtual learning and discussed the classroom impact of the Jordan program. Many highlighted how newfound international perspectives and stories from Jordan helped provide a discursive space for students they taught who were themselves migrants or had family in other countries, empowering these young people to bring their own life experiences into their coursework. Marjolein Schat, who teaches at Tompkins Cortland Community College (New York) and in the Cornell Prison Education Program, observed: “We actually got online discussion going, which is very rare in my classes.... [A] lot of the students in my prison classes have roots outside



*Joylin Namie of Tuckee Meadows Community College (Nevada) leading an activity on sustainable tourism for a Great Basin Institute summer camp for kids ages 8–12, informed by her experiences in Jordan during an ACOR-CAORC faculty development seminar. (Photo courtesy of Joylin Namie/Great Basin Institute.)*

of the United States.... [They] wrote about their home countries in their essays.” Another theme that emerged was the importance of open-access multimedia resources for use in developing curricular materials—a topic of particular interest for ACOR staff to hear about, given our latest Title VI project (see p. 9).

A number of the FDS alumni have gone on to participate in virtual exchange programs, connecting their U.S. classrooms with youth in Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. English instructor Mickey Marsee (Chandler Gilbert Community College, Arizona) has implemented three different virtual exchange programs since her time in Jordan, in addition to pursuing continued professional development experiences related to Middle East studies through the University of Arizona’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Dar al Islam summer institute “Teaching Islam in the Classroom.” Reflecting on the impact of the Jordan seminar on her pursuits, Marsee shared: “probably the most important thing that I brought back from the experience was cultural humility and wanting to have cross cultural communication—for students to engage in, but also for me to engage in with colleagues, so that I can continue to learn, as well, as a





Nilda Onsing and Cesar Octavo at ACOR in 2020.  
(Photo by Barbara A. Porter)

## Cesar Octavo 1949–2021

Cesar Octavo was head of housekeeping at ACOR from March 1996 until his death in March 2021. Thus for twenty-five years he was responsible for aspects of the well-being of the building and its residents. To legions of visitors (especially early risers) he was a constant and stable presence. He cared very much for ACOR and ensured that those who worked with him followed his ethos. When he first came to Jordan, he worked in the construction industry. Given his many years in Jordan, he was an unofficial elder in the community of expats from the Philippines.

He was born on December 23, 1949, in Kawit Cavite in the Philippines. His children are Ronaldo, Alan, Frisco, and Joanna, and during his many years in Jordan he was able to visit them a few times. His

last visit allowed him to get to spend time with grandchildren and enjoy the family compound. Fortunately, with modern technology he was able to stay in touch even while in Jordan. In his leisure time, he was an enthusiastic follower of the sport of boxing, in which he was once involved. His absence at ACOR is keenly felt, and his spirit lives on in many ways in the building. A private person with a big heart, Cesar was known for his kindness.

—Barbara A. Porter

professional.” Bryan Schuler (Hillsborough Community College, Florida) and Laura Penman (Monroe Community College, New York) have also facilitated virtual exchanges with college classrooms in the region through the Stevens Initiative and the IREX Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge. Schuler reported that because he could speak personally about sites and culture in Jordan, it helped him considerably in greasing the wheels of conversation with partners and students in the Middle East and North Africa. Laura Penman presented about her project-based virtual exchange with USAID SCHEP in summer 2020 as part of the State University of New York’s Global Commons program (read about it in our previous issue, 32.2, p. 4). Faculty shared practical tips with one another about the planning and the practice of virtual exchange, exploring such topics as managing teams across multiple time zones, the use of various technologies, and the importance of strong buy-in by partners, students, and administrators.

Faculty seminar participants have pursued curricular applications in addition to virtual exchanges. For Aimee Samara, it was not long into her time in Jordan that she had begun to explore options for setting up an in-person exchange program through Portland Community College (Oregon), where she teaches sociology. (You can read about her inspiration and plans for the program, called “Peace-building and Conflict Transformation through a Humanitarian Lens,” in a 2021 *Insights* article online:

[bit.ly/3kyKZpH](https://bit.ly/3kyKZpH).) Marjolein Schat presented how she incorporated topics such as population flows (especially refugees and migrants) from the Jordan seminar into her Introduction to Environmental Science curriculum. She also now covers Aqaba and Petra examples in her aquatic ecology class. Joylin Namie, an anthropologist at Tuckee Meadows Community College (Nevada), reported that comparisons between tourism in Jordan and her local context have developed into a profound intellectual interest of hers since the seminar, especially given the similarities between the desert landscapes and the importance of tourism for the local economy in both places. She developed a lesson plan about “(Un)sustainable Tourism” in Jordan and Nevada, including presentations and discussion questions to get her students thinking about environmental sustainability, economic well-being, animal welfare, displaced peoples, and cultural ethos in Jordan and Nevada. She guest lectured on this topic for her college’s hospitality management program and led an activity about sustainable tourism for a Great Basin Institute summer camp (see photo, p. 10).

These are by no means the only outcomes of the 2020 ACOR-CAORC faculty development seminar program, and the 2021 reunion reinvigorated both ACOR’s and the participants’ mutual quests to collaboratively explore applications for experiential learning in new and creative ways and for diverse student groups.

## Two New Associate Directors

*Pearce Paul Creasman*

Reflecting ACOR's considerable growth the past few years (we are now a staff of forty!) and especially the increased programming and grant-based activities of the past eighteen months, we are pleased to announce the hiring of two new associate directors. After two open international searches that resulted in hundreds of applications, we welcomed the following in March 2021:

Helen Malko

Associate Director for Fellowships and Programming

Helen Malko earned a doctorate in anthropology and archaeology from Stony Brook University (New York) and has worked extensively at Columbia University, where she most recently managed the Mellon Fellowship Program for emerging displaced scholars at the Columbia Global Center in Amman.



Jehad Haron

Associate Director for Projects



While he is not new to ACOR, we are excited to see Jehad Haron (previously our deputy chief of party for SCHEP) transitioning into a new position within the organization. Prior to coming to ACOR in 2016, he spent twenty-five years in various roles with Jordan's Department of Antiquities.

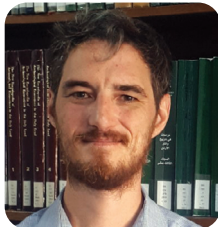
He holds a master's degree in archaeology from La Sierra University (California). Over the next year, as we wind down SCHEP, he will proportionately increase his time commitment to ACOR directly.

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## Other Staff Updates

Ryder Kouba (*right*), formerly of the University of Hong Kong and, previously, the American University in Cairo, has joined as librarian and archivist.

The Digital Archive Project gained two new members: Rawad Isaiiah J. Bou Malhab as lead consultant and Arzaq Yousef Abu Eid as junior technical project archivist.



Dana Al Shanteer was promoted to senior accountant, and Sahar Abu Laila was hired as accountant.

Hanadi Al Taher was promoted to deputy chief of party and is now overseeing SCHEP jointly with Pearce Paul Creasman until a search for a new chief of party can be completed.

Ahmad AlDoar was hired as SCHEP account and administration manager.

Justin Schneider joined ACOR during the summer to assist with the renovations, especially TWL material.

Ghadeer Hamdan left her position as assistant director for language and culture, and Jessica Holland completed her consultancy as archivist.

By approval of the trustees at the April board meeting, the position of "director," held by Pearce Paul Creasman, has been changed to "executive director."

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## Interns

*Helen Malko and Jacqueline Salzinger*

ACOR hosted ten interns this summer from six universities around the world who worked remotely. We are grateful for their contributions.

Carly Cormier (North Carolina State University) worked on essays for the Hellenistic, Nabataean, and Roman periods for the timeline of Jordan on which ACOR has been working. This project aims to produce an up-to-date chronology of Jordan from prehistory to modern times. In addition, she contributed to *Insights*, reflecting on ACOR's recent event "Human Heritage: Preserving Palmyra, Petra, and Hatra." Lydia Loopesko (Northern Archaeological Associates), a US/ICOMOS intern, contributed to various communication projects, including creating multimedia content to promote Jordanian archaeological heritage and ACOR's Wikipedian programs. She also assisted with researching and compiling material for the timeline.

Nathan Azar, Adam Chaar (both American University of Beirut), and Muna Nahhas (Ahliyyah School) drafted multimedia content about Jordanian archaeology and helped with search-engine optimization for our lecture series online. Mohammad Ibrahim Yaghi (JREDS-Aqaba) worked with SCHEP to document archaeological and tourist sites in Aqaba through photography and short films. He provided technical and logistical support to the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) and helped develop and disseminate audiovisual material for public consumption.

ACOR is also grateful for the contributions of the following interns, who worked on multiple projects and functions: Gamze Kazakoglu, Wafa'a Tawalbeh, and Bayan Bassam Al Gaisiah.





Lower library reinforcements. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)

## Renovations Update

Pearce Paul Creasman

Renovations at the center in Amman, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS), began in November 2020 and remain ongoing. Completion is expected in late October.

When planning this project in 2019, ACOR decided to remain in residence at the center while simultaneously accommodating the renovations in order to dedicate as much of the funds as possible to the renovation work itself. To accomplish this, the work was divided into phases during which residents, staff, collections, and our other essential tasks would move around within the building as each phase was completed. The first phase, for example, required vacating the sixth, fifth, and half of the fourth floors. During this time, things were cozy in the remainder of the building, with all such activities redistributed to the lower levels. Renovation of this portion was largely completed in April 2021, when we began to vacate the remainder of the building. Apartments on the sixth, fifth, and fourth floors have been temporarily converted to office and storage spaces. For the entirety of this period, we have had limited capacity in the hostel. The hostel was to be closed entirely for what was intended to be a brief few days to accommodate asbestos mitigation, but as demolition in the lower levels ramped up, livability at the center diminished. Thus in June hostel operations were suspended in full and are expected to remain so through August, by which time we hope to have received the ground floor and all of those above in full, with renovations limited to the basements and grounds. The staff, especially Abed Adawi and Justin Schneider, have been resilient, patient, and truly remarkable throughout this difficult process. We are all eager to see the facility completed and hope to see more of you in it here in Amman as of this fall.

Follow our renovations online with weekly photo updates: [tinyurl.com/renovation2021](https://tinyurl.com/renovation2021).

## Public Events January–June 2021

Jacqueline Salzinger

Thank you to all who joined us for our winter–spring 2021 online public lecture series! You can find summaries and recordings of these events through *Insights* ([publications.acorjordan.org/insights](https://publications.acorjordan.org/insights)).

- “Preserving the Cultural Heritage of the Madaba Region.... Together: The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) and Recent Community Archaeology,” by D. R. Clark with MRAMP Collaborators
- “An Invocation to Jesus in a Safaitic Inscription?” by A. Al-Jallad
- “Well-Being and Living Well: Ethnographic Approaches to Health and Disability in Contemporary Jordan,” by C. Sargent, M. Chalmiers, and T. Loh
- “A Review of Selected Sites in Jordan: Paleolithic–Neolithic Periods,” by M. Al-Nahar (in Arabic, with simultaneous translation into English)
- “The Landscape of Research in Jordan and in the Arab Region: Challenges, Transformations, Prospects,” by S. Shami (in English, with simultaneous translation into Arabic)
- “Human Heritage: Preserving Palmyra, Petra, and Hatra” (cohosted with the Getty Research Institute), by S. Al Kuntar, S. Ali Al-Farajat, Y. Abdulkareem Mohammed Ali, and H. Malko (with simultaneous translation between Arabic and English)

## Fellows in Residence (January–June 2021)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

**Amy Karoll**, University of California, Los Angeles: *Shifting Landscapes: Analyzing Changes in Power and Society in the Southern Levant, c. 3300–1100 BC*

**Allison Mickel**, Lehigh University: *Turning over the Spade: Start-up Approaches to Transforming Labor Relations in Jordanian Archaeology*

CAORC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

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

**Joel Burnett**, Baylor University: *The Monumentality of Kings and Gods: Sourcing the Basalts of Iron Age Monuments and Inscriptions in Jordan*

CAORC PREDOCTORAL FELLOWS

**Morgen Chalmiers**, University of California, San Diego: *Local Intermediaries as Translators in Humanitarian Settings: An Ethnographic Study of Transformations in Gendered and Religious Subjectivities*

**Kyle Craig**, Northwestern University: *“This City is So Empty”: Street Art, Youth, and Urban Futures in Amman, Jordan*

**Melissa Scott**, University of California, Berkeley: *Sounding Place: Classical Arab Music and Humanitarian Sentiment in Jordan*

## ACOR 2021–2022 Fellowship Awardees

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: **Samer Ali** (Middle East Studies, University of Michigan): Arabo-Islamic Humanities in Tenth-Century Iraq: Expressive Culture and Nonviolent Transformation; **David Graf** (Religious Studies, University of Miami): In Pursuit of Nabataea: Reassessing the Arabian Kingdom. ACOR-CAORC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: **Andrew Danielson** (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles): Edomite Identity and Authority: Negotiating Power and Place along the Incense Road; **Kathryn Grossman** (Anthropology, North Carolina State University): Animal Lives at Petra: Analysis of the Zooarchaeological Remains from the Temple of the Winged Lions and the Petra North Ridge Project. ACOR-CAORC PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: **Felicia de Peña** (Archaeology, University of California, Berkeley): Communities of Practice at the Epipalaeolithic Site of Kharaneh IV: Knowledge Transmission and Skill Level Analysis; **Lauren Erker** (Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn): Diverging Paths: A Socio-archaeological Investigation of Rural Settlement in Ottoman Palestine and Transjordan; **Kendra Kintzi** (Sociology, Cornell University): Glittering Metropolis: Renewable Energy, Smart Grids, and Life Beyond Oil in Jordan; **Mathew Madain** (History, University of Oxford): From Frontier to Emirate: Society and Inter-religious Relations in Ottoman Transjordan, 1516–1923. BERT AND SALLY DE VRIES FELLOWSHIP: **Sofia Thatharopoulou** (History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Architecture of the Christian Communities in the Holy Land and Palestine after the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. HARRELL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: **Charlotte Vekemans** (Political Science, Ghent University): Shaping the Past through Heritage Development in Southern Jordan. KENNETH W. RUSSELL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP: **Sara Knutson** (Archaeology/Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley): Pieces of Change: Uncovering the Networks of Arabic Coins That Transformed Ancient Global Interactions. BURTON MACDONALD AND ROSEMARIE SAMPSON FELLOWSHIP: **Caitlin Craig** (Anthropology, University of Victoria): Extended Geoarchaeological Survey of the Azraq Region. LAWRENCE T. GERATY TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP: **Britta Wagner** (Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn): Tall Hisban/Madaba Plains Project. JORDANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP: **Reham Abdallah** (Sustainable Tourism, Hashemite University): New Tourist Path in Zarqa Governorate; **Abdelrahman Alsaleh** (Geology, Yarmouk University): Integrated Hyperspectral and Multispectral Remote Sensing Techniques for Mapping Soils in North Jordan; **Yousef Al-Jarrah** (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University): Ancient North Arabian Thamudic E Inscriptions from Wadi Hafir, Southern Jordan; **Hala Samara** (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University): Conservation Management Plan for Ajloun's Historic City Core: Adopting a *Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)* Approach. JAMES A. SAUER FELLOWSHIP: **Cariman Sobablan** (Archaeology, Cairo University): Medical Performs and Magic in the North Arabian Communities as Attested in North Arabian Resources (Inscriptions and Rock Drawings Until the End of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century AD). FREDERICK-WENGER MEMORIAL JORDANIAN EDUCATIONAL FELLOWSHIP: **Razan Ahmad** (Library and Information Science, University of Jordan) University Study; **Sally Hazza Alkhdaire** (B.A. program, Al Albayt University) University Study. ACOR JORDANIAN TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP FOR ASOR ANNUAL MEETING: **Mais Fahmi Haddad** (Umm el-Jimal Archaeological Project): "Archaeology, Community, and Mentorship: Celebrating the Legacy of Bert and Sally de Vries."



## Launching an Alumni Database

Jacqueline Salzinger and Helen Malko

Three years after the center's founding in 1968, ACOR awarded its first official fellowship. Since 1971, the center has made over 1,000 academic awards to students, faculty, and researchers in numerous disciplines and scholarly trajectories. Eight hundred sixty-one people have participated in ACOR fellowships, scholarships, and international student programs.

Today, ACOR is in a unique position of potential expansion. In our mission to advance knowledge of Jordan's past and present, we know alums such as ACOR's represent the best of the best for raising public and scholarly awareness of research in Jordan. Thus, we are delighted to announce the launch of a searchable roster of ACOR alums, where you can learn about and connect with the scholars and their research on Jordan and beyond, [acorjordan.org/acor-alumni/](https://acorjordan.org/acor-alumni/). With the aid of this database, we anticipate a more robust engagement with our alums to facilitate opportunities for mutually beneficial exchanges. We expect this to include, among others, in-house publications, events, research, fieldwork, and increased professional and scholarly networking.

As our mission continues to broaden its scope to include digital humanities projects, multidisciplinary research, and open-access publications, we are delighted to invite our alums to participate in ACOR's public programs, contribute to publications, and engage with field projects. We continue to support our fellows in any way possible, and we look forward to seeing them, and others, in our new and improved building, which will soon be ready to host all sorts of educational programs. We work to achieve our goal of advancing knowledge in and of Jordan with the firm belief that the sky is the limit for ACOR's potential impact among students, scholars, and learners of all kinds.



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King Abdullah I Mosque, Amman, February 18, 2021. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)

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### April 2021 Board Meeting

The board of trustees meeting took place virtually on April 17. Ambassador Edward “Skip” Gnehm presided, and a quorum was present. Skip began by remembering ACOR’s sad losses in the last year with the passing of friends. Mr. William Inglee was elected to the board as part of the class of 2024. Morag Kersel was elected second vice president to succeed S. Thomas Parker, who had held that position for 20 years. Thomas Davis was elected chair of the Publications Committee. Executive director Pearce Paul Creasman reported that ACOR is continuing to do as well as possible given the difficult conditions and that renovation of the center is progressing. ACOR’s bylaws and conflict-of-interest policy were amended and updated. The name of the Jordanian Committee was changed to the “Jordan Committee.” The various committee chairs gave reports. It was noted that the new librarian, Ryder Kouba, would begin in July 2021. ACOR-CAORC and NEH fellows have been arriving and working in the building regularly since January 2021. The board of trustees plans to meet in person in fall 2021 in concurrence with the ASOR Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

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[acorjordan.org/donate](https://acorjordan.org/donate)

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