



ACOR
أكور

المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث
AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

أخبار أكور NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33.2 | March 2022

for July–December 2021



Traditional dancers perform at the closing ceremony of the Mallol project (November 29, 2021) in Beit Khairat Souf, Jarash Governorate.
(Photo by Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb; ACOR/USAID SCHEP)

Intangible Cultural Heritage Preserving the Riches of Jordan's Living Culture

John Shearman and Hanadi Al Taher

In December 2021, the American Center of Research's board of trustees updated our mission statement ("Advancing knowledge of Jordan and the interconnected region, past and present") and strategic plan. For the first time, our guiding documents acknowledge what we have long known and practiced: that there is a fundamental interconnectivity of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, economic development, education, and the environment. The present article demonstrates just a recent few of many endeavors that we have pursued over the decades in that nexus, but with a particular focus on intangible heritage.

To learn more about our updated vision, please visit: acorjordan.org/about/mission-statement/

—Pearce Paul Creasman

Wisdom from our elders has been lost to some extent in many places of the world. Traditions and experience have often been lost through time. Jordan is no exception to this phenomenon. The lessons gained by the elders have numerous intangible benefits. Although perhaps best known for its archaeological efforts, the American Center of Research's USAID-

funded Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project, known as SCHEP (pp. 4–6), has supported several projects that focus on intangible benefits associated with Jordanian customs before many of these heritage aspects are lost.



*Documenting interviews of community members about traditional heritage dishes.
(Photo by Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb; ACOR/USAID SCHEP.)*

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

Intangible cultural heritage, in all its aspects, is the vibrant spirit of the past that represents the identities and cultures of peoples, develops a sense of their identity and a sense of continuity, and enhances respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. Preserving it is preserving the identities and cultures of peoples, and in recent times—with globalization and the great social transformation during the 20th century—the concept of cultural heritage was expanded, as it is a fragile heritage that requires constant attention and care to prevent distortion and extinction. It includes the living traditions and expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed down from one generation to the next, such as performing arts, social practices, knowledge and practices relating to nature and the universe, and skills used in the production of traditional crafts.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) developed the idea of enlarging its concept of cultural heritage significantly in 1989, after recommendations were made to protect the traditional cultures of peoples at a time when the concept and concerns of world heritage were moving toward material aspects. UNESCO clearly and comprehensively defines the concept of intangible cultural heritage as “Practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills—as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith—that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage” (uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/intangible-cultural-heritage).

The importance of intangible cultural heritage lies not in its cultural appearance per se, but rather in the rich

knowledge and skills transmitted through generations and what it transmits of social and economic values. Like culture in general, intangible heritage is changing and constantly evolving, growing richer with each new generation. However, many manifestations of intangible cultural heritage are threatened by globalization and by lack of support, appreciation, and understanding, which expose them to the risk of being lost forever if they are not preserved or revived. There is no doubt that preserving this heritage and passing it on to future generations strengthens it and keeps it intact and alive while simultaneously allowing it to change and adapt.

In order to keep intangible aspects of Jordanian heritage alive and regularly practiced and taught among the local communities, groups, and individuals who bear this heritage, the American Center supported a number of projects in 2021 aimed at reviving and documenting some of them.



The House of Heritage and Arts Society (Bayt Al Turath) presents makmoora, a pie-like dish of chicken and onions. (Photo by Joseph Farahat.)

Three Initiatives

During the last quarter of 2021, through SCHEP the American Center of Research sponsored the Tajalla for Music and Arts Association, in partnership with the Politics and Society Institute, for their Mallol project, which aimed to document and revive Jordanian lyrical heritage and to invest local communities in the targeted governorates in transferring traditional songs from the memory of the elderly to the younger generation. Fifteen young men and women were taught seventeen folk songs, through which they gained the knowledge, importance, meaning, and cultural uniqueness of a portion of traditional Jordanian music.

The cultural significance of traditional music binds generations together. The name of the project, “Mallol,” refers to one of the oldest national trees in Jordan and is thus befitting the spirit of its great age, from seedling to mature tree. Appropriately, too, the project was honored in a ceremony at one of the oldest houses in the area (photo, p. 1). So important was this ceremony that it was held under the patronage of the Jordanian Minister of Culture and was

attended by 70 spectators to celebrate the preservation of this intangible heritage. Several speakers came to the podium to express their support for the program, including our marketing and promotion officer, Dina Al Majali. All expressed their encouragement for such programs and underlined the importance of reviving Jordan's intangible heritage. Members of the local press attended, and the event was publicized on television news and in local papers. Included in the ceremony were four songs sung by young people backed by traditional instruments. This performance and a traditional dance rounded out a ceremony that filled the air with a sense of positivity and accomplishment.

Tajalla for Music and Arts is continuing their work to help preserve traditional customs by connecting youth to their cultural heritage. This plants seeds that will continue the legacy of Jordanian life through song and music for ages to come.

We also supported the House of Heritage and Arts Association in the reintroduction of traditional foods. The project collected and documented the intangible cultural heritage of traditional dishes in Jordan, along with documentation of oral history connected to the cuisine (photos, p. 2). The project collected local narratives through interviews from individuals residing in northern, central, and southern regions. The information thus gained includes the name of the dishes, their components, preparation techniques, and occasions during which they

are presented. Reviving traditional dishes that are rare or even no longer exist was another target of the project. One objective was to introduce the foods to restaurants so that locals and tourists alike could connect to another aspect of Jordan's cultural traditions.

Our cultural heritage resource field manager, Hisham Al Majali, oversaw the objectives of the project and the training of a team in methodology of research and interviewing techniques, along with the steps of obtaining and recording oral history. Cooking workshops were also part of the program. The curriculum not only reintroduced traditional foods and the connection to Jordan's heritage they provide but also afforded the trained individuals opportunities for such things as catering social and business gatherings. The project included a documentary about Jordanian traditional cuisine, developed along with a book that includes recipes and the history behind food customs.

We have contributed to documenting a verbal aspect of Aqaba's intangible maritime heritage through the Jordan Royal Marine Conservation Society (JREDS). This project will result in a book of words and proverbs related to the city's marine environment.

Our efforts have continued to support intangible cultural heritage in Jordan. The impact of our programs produces connections across generations and will persist for generations to come.



Incoming director general of the DoA Fadi Balaawi addresses the annual meeting of Jordan Dig Directors. (Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)

ACOR at ASOR

China Shelton

The annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) took place in person in Chicago, Illinois, November 17–20 (there was also a virtual component December 9–12). Many American Center board members, staff, and fellowship alums chaired sessions and presented papers. We were particularly excited for trustee Morag Kersel (DePaul University), who delivered the plenary address, “Living with Legacies: ASOR Archaeo-activism

and a Future for 21st Century Archaeology.” ACOR at ASOR Scholarship recipient Mais Fahmi Haddad presented the paper “A Paradigm for Local Ecclesiastical Architecture in Jordan: Comparative Study of Three Churches at Umm el-Jimal” in a session organized in honor of the late Bert de Vries and his wife, Sally, for their many years of dedication to the field—and also to the American Center of Research, which he served as director from 1988 to 1991 and as a longtime member of the board of trustees. The American Center was also able to help support the participation of Fadi Balaawi, who recently became director general of the Department of Antiquities.



Work at the Amman Citadel. (Photo by Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb.)

USAID SCHEP Updates: July–December 2021

John Shearman

The second half of 2021 was active for the American Center's USAID-funded Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), with seventeen projects completed along with several initiatives. This, in addition to ongoing projects, made for a very busy time, as this short summary of the completed projects and initiatives reflects.

Al Hussein Bin Talal University: Natural Science Museum

The project aimed to support the creation of a natural history museum within the science faculty at the university's main campus in Ma'an, to enhance visitors' and students' knowledge of Jordan's natural history and biodiversity, to help sustain Jordan's natural cultural heritage, to provide professional counseling to serve students and researchers, and to support academic exchange.

The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP)

The scope of work involved two follow-up activities: the offering of two training workshops on the pottery of Jordan (photo, p. 5) and completing the *Manual of the Pottery of Jordan*, coedited by associate director and SCHEP cultural heritage development lead Jihad Haron. In addition, two virtual-reality endeavors were expanded.

Turquoise Mountain for Heritage Preservation Training: Conservation Guidelines

A fixed-obligation grant to Turquoise Mountain, whose mission is to revive historic areas and traditional crafts in order to provide jobs, skills, and a renewed sense of pride, resulted in comprehensive conservation management guidelines for the Umm Qais (Gadara) Archaeological site. This project was carried out jointly with the local community of Umm Qais and the Department of Antiquities

and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Tourism Association for Development of Archaeological Sites/Al Smakieh Village

This project focused on the development of tourism in the village of Al Smakieh by involving the local community in various tourism operations to establish long-term sustainability.

The Friends of Dead Sea Martyrs Initiative (Safe Destination)

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Friends of Dead Sea Martyrs Initiative that addressed a group of parents who lost their children in a catastrophic accident near the Dead Sea in 2018. The main goals of this initiative were to provide a safe environment with places for picnics (especially for children and school students), to raise public awareness of the hazards and dangers of adventure tourism, and to develop guidelines for safe tourism destinations.

Bayt Al Turath and Al Funon Association (House of Heritage and Arts Association)

See p. 3.

University of Jordan: Rehabilitation of the National Heritage Museum Project

We supported the University of Jordan in rehabilitation of its National Heritage Museum. The effort involved developing the displays, expanding the exhibition spaces, and assisting in establishing a digital database for the collections and producing promotional materials.

Tajalla for Arts and Music Society
See pp. 2–3.

Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)
See p. 3.

Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR)

A cooperation agreement with the Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR) supported “Documenting Mosaic Floors and Panels from Madaba,” a research project for seventy examples of this art.

Shaimaa Fareed Fouad Jondyah

The aim of an agreement with Shaimaa Jondyah was to preserve local art and alternative cultural experience for the next generation. The project involved teaching local women how to create string art consisting of thread or string wound around hammered nails embedded in a velvet-covered wooden board.

Foad Isam Ibrahim Al-Aklouk and Aqabawi Kitchen

We supported the development and establishment of Aqabawi Kitchen as part of the experiential tourism in local culinary art in Aqaba.

Hara Initiative

This project developed and created a touristic route associated with a local residential area (Hara) through routes starting from the Abu Darwish Mosque, an iconic landmark in Amman.

Al Anbat Capital Society

We supported Al Anbat Capital Society in a study for a natural heritage museum in Petra.

Safa Rofu Foundation—Busayra

We continued our support of the Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage to upgrade the Edom Center, which was leased to the foundation. It will host and support the foundation’s activities and heritage preservation awareness programs in Busayra public schools and youth centers, create a pilot heritage club to serve as a social volunteering activity, and enhance the capacities of local community

Training workshop at the Amman Citadel Museum for the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project.
(Photo by Farah Abu Naser.)

members to develop craft activities for their businesses.

Al Rabee Society for Nature and Animal Protection

Al Rabee Society is a Jordanian nonprofit organization that shelters stray dogs from public areas. We worked to promote this shelter, introducing an experiential tourism program and raising awareness of Canaan dogs, a breed of pariah dog common in the region.

Friends of Archaeology and Heritage (FoAH)

We continued supporting the FoAH through a fixed-term cooperation agreement to support its mission to expand awareness of Jordan’s rich heritage among the general public, enhancing its publicity and visibility, and supporting its programs and activities, such as establishing archaeology clubs at schools and organizing awareness workshops.

Analyzing the Trends and Approaches in Cultural Heritage Studies for Undergraduate Students in Jordanian Universities

This project evaluated the status of cultural-heritage education at Jordanian universities, which has been little studied. The researchers also initiated cooperation among scholars, professionals, and the local community in various Jordanian cities to promote cultural heritage education.

Amman Citadel Project/Southern Foothill Project

The project involved researching, surveying, and performing preliminary masonry work on a new south entrance. In August 2021, SCHEP conducted a documentation mission, utilizing drones, to aid with the conservation and restoration works.



Petra Siq Entrance Improvement

Based on past UNESCO, ICOMOS, and other expert recommendations, this was part of a wider conservation and tourism management initiative for the Petra Archaeological Park, to rehabilitate and maintain the Siq's entrance area, which suffers from an irregular landscape and threats from seasonal floods. The improvement was undertaken in conjunction with the intentions of the Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA) to implement an electric shuttle as a means to enhance preservation, the overall visitor experience, and safety and protection.

Library Update

Ryder Kouba

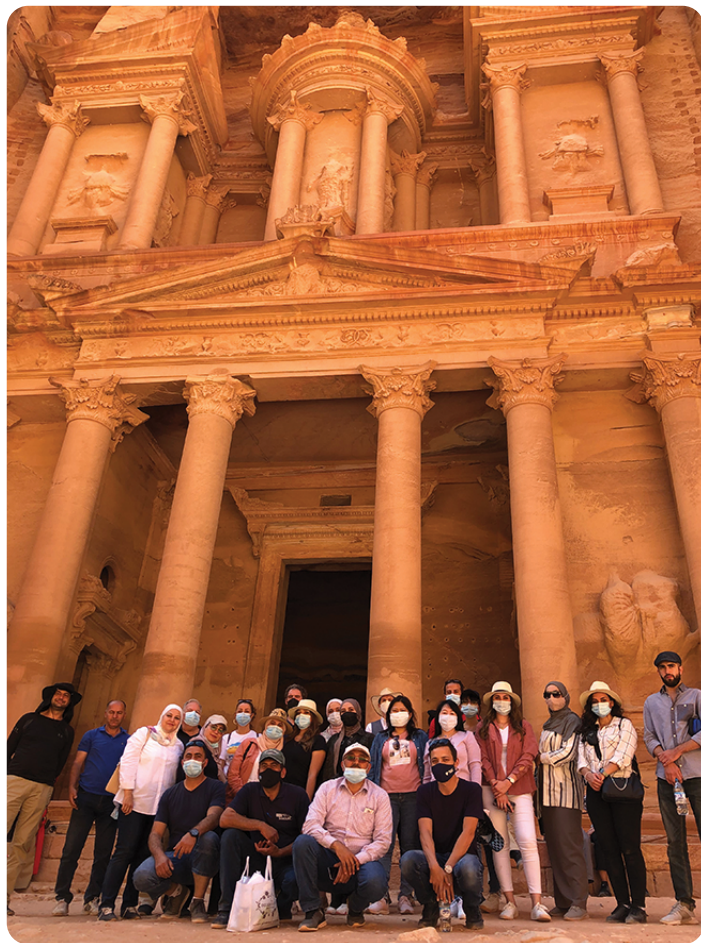
It has been a busy six months for the library staff as we prepare the new space to welcome visitors (see p. 16). Currently we are open by appointment, and the number of visitors has been gratifying, showing the importance of the library's collections to researchers and students. In addition to serving center residents and users, we are currently in the process of reshelving our collection of around 42,000 English and 3,000 Arabic books and journals. One of the unexpected challenges has been the need to apply new security tags to each book; ironically, the center was too far ahead of the curve when it acquired security gates in the 1980s. Unfortunately (and we learned this from researching more about radio-frequency tags than we ever expected), the tags used for that gate are no longer compatible with an ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standard developed in the mid-2000s. However, thanks to the help of staff as well as some residents, new security tags are being applied to over a thousand books a day. We are grateful for the help that has been provided, and the books should be relabeled and shelved by March 1, 2022, with the journals completed soon thereafter.

The other big project, the Title VI grant to digitize and provide access to 35 mm slides from Barbara A. Porter and Brian Byrd has gone well over the past six months; currently over 13,000 digital surrogates have been created, as well as metadata in English and Arabic for a majority of them. We are excited to be uploading them shortly and sharing them with researchers around the world. Digitization for the grant has also included around 100 audio cassettes of lectures given at the center in the early 1980s, which will also be made accessible.

In November, Ryder Kouba visited Sharjah and presented "Digitizing Your Valuable Collections for the World: Creating, Teaching, and Promoting Heritage and Community Collections" at the 8th Sharjah International

Library Conference. While there he also had the privilege to meet and briefly chat with Carla Hayden, the librarian of Congress.

We are so pleased that our collections will be available for users again soon, as will a redesigned space for everyone to enjoy.



Staff at the Treasury in Petra. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

Staff Outing to Wadi Rum and Petra

Pearce Paul Creasman

On October 6 and 7, 2021, having endured more than a year of renovations to our center and the pandemic, the staff made an overnight retreat to Wadi Rum and Petra. Staying in tents and bubbles in the wadi, gathering around the fire at night, and touring the sites together was a wonderful experience. Staff bonded, relaxed together, and had some great experiences out of the office. For half of our staff, the trip was the first time they had visited either Wadi Rum or Petra, and for many it was their first to both. We look forward to future trips together in the coming years.

Abdoun Community Archaeology Project

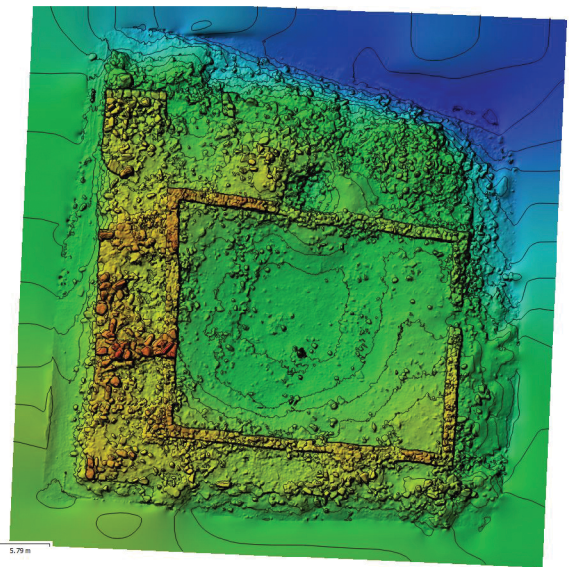
Jehad Haron

The Abdoun South site is located in the heart of one of the most important parts of Amman, due especially to the presence of diplomatic missions operating in Jordan and of expatriates from all over the world. Currently fenced within the Japanese Garden, which was opened in 2010, the site consists of several buildings of solid limestone, but there is no clear site plan or proper documentation. It is in dire need of excavation and documentation in order to identify its original plan and architectural function. The history of the site in general dates back to the era of what is known as the Kingdom of Ammonites, specifically to the Iron Age II (early 1st millennium BCE), but it was reused during the Roman, Ayyubid, and Mamluk periods.

The Abdoun Community Archaeology Project will involve activities such as excavation, preservation, and presentation, calling for volunteer participation from community members of different nationalities, in addition to students wishing to acquire new skills in archaeological work. This will be under the supervision of specialists assigned by the American Center with cooperation from the Department of Antiquities. The project duration is expected to be two years; in December 2021 we finished documentation and survey activities of the site in its present state.



Above: Site cleaning and weed removal at Abdoun South. (Photo by Jehad Haron.)
Below: Digital elevation map of the site. (Image by Ehab Jariri.)



Øystein LaBianca and board president Edward Gnehm, Jr. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

Trustee LaBianca Receives Award

Øystein S. LaBianca, professor emeritus of anthropology at Andrews University and senior director of the Hisban Cultural Heritage Project, received the W. F. Albright Service Award at the November 2021 annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) for his decades of service to the American Center of Research. This award “serves to honor an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions

to one of the overseas centers, ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees—the Baghdad Committee and the Damascus Committee.”

Since 1997, LaBianca has served as a distinguished member of our board of trustees. For two decades (2001–2021), he also served as our representative to and trustee of ASOR. Such dual effort is only representative of the great commitment he has demonstrated throughout his career in service of the American Center, ASOR, and the field of archaeology as a whole. Øystein LaBianca has inspired and supported countless students and scholars to work in and to appreciate the past and present of Jordan, shaping the academy within the Kingdom today, as well as overseas.

S. Thomas Parker III

July 9, 1950–September 12, 2021

The American Center of Research is saddened to share the news that S. Thomas (Tom) Parker, longtime trustee and renowned archaeologist of Roman Jordan, passed away suddenly on September 12, 2021. Tom started his archaeological career 50 years ago as a student volunteer at Tell el-Hesi in Israel, becoming part of a '70s-era cohort that includes many well-known Near Eastern archaeologists. In the years since, he excavated at Ashkelon, Idalion, Tell Hesban, and on the Petra Household Excavations before starting his initial *Limes Arabicus* Survey in 1976.

This reconnaissance of the understudied eastern

Roman frontier formed the bulk of his 1979 dissertation, entitled “The Historical Development of the *Limes Arabicus*,” submitted for his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his influential and oft-cited monograph *Romans and Saracens: A History of the Arabian Frontier*, published by ASOR in 1986. It was at Tell el-Hesi that Tom began his long-time interest in the ceramics of Roman and Byzantine Jordan, and he served as the ceramics specialist on all of his field projects.

After a stint as a postdoctoral fellow at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., Tom joined the history faculty at North Carolina State University in 1980, where he remained for his entire academic career. From 1980 until 1989 he excavated a selection of important fortifications along the *Limes Arabicus*, most notably the legionary fort of El-Lejjun, located on the Kerak plateau, which was published in its final form in *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan: Final Report on the Limes Arabicus Project, 1980–1989*.

In the 1990s, Tom turned his attention to the southern terminus of the *via nova Traiana*, the ancient road that connected many fortifications of the *limes*, directing excavations in the ancient city of Aila lying underneath modern Aqaba. Over five field seasons, the Roman Aqaba Project team made many discoveries of the virtually unknown Nabataean through early Islamic occupation of the ancient city, including an early Christian church and part of the Byzantine city wall. The first volume of the final publication was published in 2014 (*The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report Volume I: The Regional Environment and the Regional Survey*), and the second volume was nearly ready for the printers at the time of his death. Colleagues are working to ensure the planned third volume will come to fruition in the next few years.

Tom’s final field project in Jordan was co-directing the Petra North Ridge Project with his colleague Megan Perry. Tom turned his attention to the understudied domestic areas of the ancient city and clearly established that the “Byzantine” northern city wall actually dates much earlier, to the period surrounding the Roman annexation of the ancient city. Tom had the chance to publish preliminary articles on his research in Petra, with a planned coedited monograph that will be completed by Perry.

In addition to the monographs mentioned above, Tom published over 100 articles, book chapters, and newsletter contributions over the course of his career. He received over one million dollars of grants to support his research, including funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Geographic Society, Dumbarton Oaks, the Samuel Kress Foundation, the Foundation for Biblical Archaeology, and numerous grants and fellowships from North Carolina State University and the American Center of Research.

Tom never conducted his work in isolation but did so as a mentor to countless students and scholars. His students were involved with his field projects, laboratory fieldwork, and conference presentations. His kindness and patience fostered many budding scholars, and he always “knew what was best” for them. While many of his students eventually developed careers outside of history and archaeology, their experiences and his unwavering support and pride in their accomplishments profoundly shaped their lives. In turn, many of these former students contributed to a *Festschrift* in his honor, published in 2017.

Tom’s archaeological fieldwork in Jordan brought him in contact with ACOR early in the institute’s history, and he received his first fellowship (an NEH postdoctoral fellowship) in 1982. Shortly afterwards, in 1987, Tom joined the



S. Thomas Parker at Petra, 1975. (Photo courtesy of Mary Mattocks.)



S. Thomas Parker examining the head of a statue of Aphrodite found at Petra, 2016. (Photo by Jim Cayton.)

ACOR board, and from 2001 until the time of his death he served as second vice president of the board, and from 2011 onward as chair of the Publication and Nominating Committees. Tom was a ceaseless advocate of ACOR, particularly in his role as chair of the Fellowship Committee, where he witnessed the development of early-career scholars and always enjoyed meeting them in person over the center's lunch table on his trips to Amman.

While Tom's research was undoubtedly influential, when they heard about his death, most colleagues working in Jordan commented on his kindness, his smile, his laugh, his jokes, and his positive and engaging demeanor. Tom grew up mostly in the Chicago area and received his bachelor's degree in history and religion from Trinity University in 1972 before heading to UCLA for his PhD in history. He is survived by his wife, Mary Mattocks, and their beloved daughter, Grace Parker.

Remarks from colleagues

"His interest and attention, coming from a senior colleague, was a real encouragement, and modelled a wonderful collegiality that continued over many years." —Tim Harrison

"Even in 1980, as a field supervisor at el-Lejjun, I was so impressed with Tom's expertise in the field, good leadership skills, calm dealings with staff and students, yet he was always vibrant, jolly, and personable. He became a leader in the field but was still the same wonderful Tom." —Suzanne Richard

"From the first time we met and worked together (1976 at Tall Hisban), I could see in him a rising star in the field. From my point of view, his star has set much too soon." —Doug Clark

"The study of the archaeology of Jordan and the Roman Near East will not be the same without Tom Parker.... Those of us in the field have lost such a warm, gregarious, vivacious, and endlessly supportive colleague." —Elise Friedland

"Thomas Parker was to me Sir Thomas Parker, a world-class scholar, an enthusiastic and charismatic field archaeologist, a great teacher and mentor, and a loyal and most enjoyable companion, fellow camper and friend...." —Øystein LaBianca

"I'll never forget when we gave him his start in Jordanian archaeology as a field supervisor at Hisban in 1974. ... For the last fifty years he's been at the forefront of Jordanian archaeology and has touched the lives for good of all of us." —Larry Geraty

—Megan Perry

Donations to the S. Thomas Parker Memorial Fund

Established in honor of Tom Parker, this memorial fund provides support for a fellowship, field project, or event. Preference is given to those engaging in archaeological fieldwork or publication, but undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing any academic field are encouraged to apply. The deadline is February 1st of each year. Details may be found at acorjordan.org/the-s-thomas-parker-memorial-fund. Please consider donating to this fund (acorjordan.org/donate), which was endowed by the generosity of:

Anonymous
Susan Ackerman
Virginia L. Bennett
Pierre and Patricia Bikai
Jordan Brady
Zuzana Chovanec
Pearce Paul Creasman
Deanna Dannels and the
College of Humanities
and Social Sciences, North
Carolina State University
Jenna de Vries Morton
Eric Esqueda

Marjorie Famiglietti
Danielle Steen Fatkin
Elise Friedland
Lawrence Geraty
David Gilmartin
Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.
Scott Grady
Jack Green and Akemi Horii
Tina Greene
Kathryn M. Grossman
Reem Atalla Habayeb
Jill K. and Nelson G. Harris
Sarah Harvey
Donald Hendrickson

Virginia and James Hoke
Todd Johnson
Nancy L. Lapp
Annie Lowy
Albert Leonard, Jr.
Karen Mattocks
Stanley M. Maxwell and
Phemie C. Maxwell
James Michener
Julie Mell
Carol and Eric Meyers
David Nickols
Margaret O'Hea
John P. Oleson

Megan A. Perry
Stephanie B. Peterson
Janet and Richard Paulette
Barbara A. Porter
Nanette Pyne
Jennifer Ramsay
Monique Roddy
China P. Shelton
Rosemary Swetish
Joseph Stumpf
James Terry
Walter Ward
David Zonderman

Staff Receive First-Aid Training

Lina Shara'an

First-aid training was held in August 2021 at Al-Essra Hospital for all staff in Amman. All staff attended six hours of theory and practice in the urgent and immediate care to be provided to a person suffering from illness or injury before the arrival of advanced medical care. Delivery of such first aid may make the difference between life and death.

The methodology of the training employed various instructional techniques supported by audiovisual aids, charts, resuscitation training manikins, and other aids in a training course with 70% practical and 30% theoretical components. The aim of the course was to enable staff to attain the knowledge and competence needed to deal with a range of emergency first-aid situations and to be able to demonstrate the practical administration of safe, prompt, and effective first aid, CPR, and AED (automated external defibrillator) in emergency situations with an understanding of the role of the first aider.

Staff received a certificate from Al-Essra Hospital indicating that they are Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED providers and have demonstrated competence in the required theoretical and practical components.

Publications Update

Noreen Doyle

Near Eastern Archaeology 84.4 (December 2021) featured "The Temple of the Winged Lions, Petra: Reassessing a Nabataean Ritual Complex," by Pauline Piraud-Fournet, John D. M. Green, Noreen Doyle, and Pearce Paul Creasman, as its cover story. This was a timely appearance, as the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded

a grant to support the temple's final publication (p. 12).

At the fall meeting of the board, trustees voted to approve open-access publication of the American Center's entire back catalog for which it has copyright

—excepting only *The Mosaics of Jordan* by Michele Piccirillo (1992). Among the volumes now available in full at publications.acorjordan.org/books are:

- *Economic Development and Archaeology in the Middle East*. Amman: Department of Antiquities; American Center of Oriental Research, 1982. English and Arabic editions.

- *ACOR: The First 25 Years: The American Center of Oriental Research: 1968–1993*, edited by P. M. Bikai. Amman: American Center of Oriental Research, 1993.
- *Arabic for Archaeologists*, by Paul Lapp, revised by Nancy Lapp (1971, 1990); further revisions by Robert Schick. [Amman]: American Center of Oriental Research, 2009.
- *Megalithic Jordan: An Introduction and Field Guide*, by Gajus Scheltema. American Center of Oriental Research Publications 6. Amman: American Center of Oriental Research, 2008.

Other books, including the Petra Papyri series, are available in part and will be added to in the future.

The board also approved pursuing development and publication of "Mosaics II," which will present the many spectacular discoveries made since the appearance of Michele Piccirillo's monumental volume.

Insights (publications.acorjordan.org/insights) published "Peace-building and Conflict Transformation through a Humanitarian Lens" (Forthcoming Study-Abroad Program in Jordan) by Aimee Samara Krouskop, "The Challenges and Benefits of Preservation: Reflections on 'Human Heritage'" by Carly J. Cormier, "Sustainable Tourism and the Cross at Umm el-Jimal" by Elizabeth Ursic, and "Analysis of the Early Islamic Pottery from Tell Abu Sarbut, Jordan (700–1000 CE)" by Katarína Mokráňová, as well as Jacqueline Salzinger's last "Ask a Scholar" interview, with ACOR-CAORC predoctoral fellow Kendra Kintzi.

Next year already promises to be exceptionally busy for the publications team.

Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project

Helen Malko, Jihad Haron,
and Ahmed Fatima Kzzo



We are happy to announce a new initiative, the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property project. Funded by the Embassy of the United States in Jordan, this project intends to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Jordan through programming that highlights shared values, advances bilateral cooperation, and promotes mutual understanding. The project will provide training in best practices and skill-building to Jordanian professionals, staff of the Department of Antiquities (DoA), and other stakeholders to enable the more effective implementation of the U.S.-Jordan cultural property protection memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed December 16, 2019, which aims to restrict the trade of archaeological artifacts and antiquities.



Department of Antiquities storeroom. (Photo by Yaser Hashem.)

DoA offices (e.g., computers with barcode scanners to log/track objects, connected to a centralized database system via the internet) to ensure the rural areas are in communication with the centralized DoA. The anticipated impact is that the ability of Jordan to protect objects and actively support the U.S./Jordan MOU will be tremendously improved by this project, now and in the future.

Public Events

Helen Malko

The American Center of Research presented exciting public lectures during the fall of 2021. We thank all those who joined us for this online lecture series. You can find recordings of most of these events on our YouTube

channel: youtube.com/acorjordan1968.

Last fall's lecture series included the second installment of the semiannual ACOR-Fulbright Jordan Lectures, delivered by Muna Hindiyeh. Hindiyeh presented on the "Environmental Performance Index and Water as a Human Right: Jordanian Assessment Approach," discussing the challenges of water scarcity in Jordan and the international human rights laws that hold states responsible to work toward achieving access to water and sanitation for all.

In October, we hosted David Vila, who presented his lecture "Excavating Abila: Past, Present, and Future." This talk gave a brief overview of the past forty years of excavations at this site, provided an update on current work, and mapped out plans for the future of work there.

In November, Nadia Ali presented "Qusayr 'Amra and the Power of Images in Early Islam," in which she has identified scenes inspired by the *Aethiopica*, a 4th-century romance composed by Heliodorus, a Syrian from Emesa (modern Homs) who assimilated within Greco-Roman culture. In Heliodorus's novel, an Ethiopian princess is born white because, during her conception, her mother was gazing on a palatial wall painting with an image of Andromeda. Taking this discovery as its starting point, Ali's talk looked in two directions: backward, to the efforts expended in understanding the paintings, and forward, to new and emerging ways to examine images and texts together in a manner that moves beyond Panofskian iconography and looks closely at the model of materiality, mimesis, viewing, and theatricality that this fantastic tale suggests.

The program objectives include offering training to the archaeologists and many other related staff in the Department of Antiquities in current methods to prevent and identify artifact tracking, to inventory such objects, to store them to standards so that they remain viable as evidence if legal cases can be brought, to provide the current tools to do so effectively, and to create a manual that can be used after the project ends to train others and see future benefit of these funds.

The project started on September 15, 2021, with an introductory meeting between the American Center of Research and the Department of Antiquities, during which both parties agreed on moving forward. Through an open call for applications, the American Center appointed Ahmed Kzzo as the project's director (see p. 13), to manage and implement the project. Since then, the project has compiled bibliographic material (including Jordanian legislation related to cultural heritage protection), international protocols, and agreements pertaining to cultural property. In preparation for developing the course material, academic publications related to illicit trafficking have been collected and reviewed. This material will form a resource for the toolkit and the course. To bring together American and Jordanian expertise, guest lecturers from the United States, Jordan, and the region have been invited to deliver the training courses. In addition, the project will provide current tools (e.g., color palettes, software, cameras, scales, barcode readers, computers) to implement the skills above effectively. The toolkit and curriculum development will identify what can be practically maintained in the regional



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

TWL Publication Grant from the NEH

Noreen Doyle

The American Center's involvement with the Temple of the Winged Lions (TWL) in Petra began in 2009 with efforts to document and conserve the site and prepare for its final publication. Research and writing of this volume are now underway with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which, in September 2021, awarded a significant manuscript-preparation grant to now former associate director John D. M. Green, executive director Pearce Paul Creasman, and grants support and publications specialist Noreen Doyle.

Besides giving overviews of the American Expedition to Petra excavations and the efforts of the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative, the contributors will present material that is currently unpublished or only partly published. Chapters will be devoted to stone elements, plaster and stucco, pottery vessels, terracotta figurines, lamps, coins, statue fragments, inscriptions, ornaments, ostraca, graffiti, and objects of metal, stone, glass, bone, and ivory, and there will be much-needed detailed architectural drawings and study of the temple's decorative scheme.

The volume is planned to address key research questions: How was ritual space used at the Temple of the Winged Lions, how did it change over time, and how might this compare with other ritual sites in the Nabataean world and beyond? How might cultural hybridity be manifested across the Temple of the Winged Lions complex through a variety of forms of visual representation at varying scales—from monumental to micro? What was the economic role of the temple, and how did it change during an era of imperial and colonial impact?

Understanding of the temple is vital to the understanding of not only Nabataean and Roman Petra but also the wider Middle East and eastern Mediterranean.

Staff Awards

Assistant librarian Samya Khalaf Kafafi received a certificate for completion of the Introduction to Arabo-Islamic Manuscript Culture course offered in June 2021 by the Qatar National Library and the University of Tübingen.

Administrator Zovi Mananian earned an English-Arabic translation diploma with the distinction of first ranking from Talal Abu Ghazaleh University College for Innovation.



Winged lion capital found in the cella (inner chamber) of the Temple of the Winged Lions by the American Expedition to Petra during the 1975 excavation season. (Photo from the P. C. Hammond/AEP Archive, the American Center of Research.)

Fellows in Residence (July–December 2021)

CAORC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

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

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

CAORC PREDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Allison Anderson, University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies: *Seeing the Invisible Economy Online: Women's Entrepreneurship in Jordan*

Lauren Erker, University of Bonn, Islamic Archaeology: *Problematizing Islamization from the Early Islamic Period to the Early Modern Period in Rural Transjordan*

Kendra Kintzi, Cornell University, Sociology: *Glittering Metropolis: Renewable Energy, Smart Grids, and Life Beyond Oil in Jordan*

Keegan Terek, Northwestern University, Anthropology: *Linguistic Entailments of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Asylum in Amman, Jordan*

PIERRE AND PATRICIA BIKAI FELLOWS

Betty Adams, La Sierra University, Near Eastern Archaeology: *Cosmetic Adornment in the Iron Age in the Southern Levant* (resident in Amman)

Katarína Mokránová, Leiden University, Archaeology: *Analysis of the Early Islamic Pottery from Tell Abu Sarbut (700-1000 CE)*



New Chief of Party for SCHEP

As of October 2021, SCHEP once again has a chief of party, thanks to the arrival of John Shearman, former associate director of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). His engineering PhD, specializing in cultural preservation and

construction-planning issues, and his three decades of experience in administration, management, and development will serve SCHEP well as it enters its final phase. He has already led successful preservation and community development projects at ARCE, oversaw all activities, and monitored many initiatives involving USAID cooperative agreements in the Luxor area. Shearman belongs to the Oriental Institute and the American Society of Overseas Research, and he has in the past held positions in the Archaeological Institute of America, the Management Science Institute (of which he is a founding member), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Institute for Conservation. He will manage and provide technical direction for SCHEP and its staff, ensuring an integrated implementation among all stakeholders, productively engaging local partners, financial management controls, communications, and beneficiary relationships.

Project Director for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project

Ahmed Kzzo was hired as project director for the the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property project (see pp. 10–11) to create and deliver training courses for employees of the Jordanian

Department of Antiquities. In his extensive background is a doctoral degree in Near Eastern archaeology from the University of Rome “Sapienza,” where he has also supervised graduation projects for students in the Department of Tourism Science and the Department of Archaeology. He holds a certificate in heritage protection from the Association of Research into Crimes against Art.



Other Staff Updates

SCHEP gained a new communications specialist in November. Amal Al Faouri has expertise in social media, website management, media campaigns, and filmmaking. Her past experience includes serving the Health Care Accreditation Council as public relations and communications officer, and her films have gathered nominations and awards. She earned her bachelor's degree (with honors) in mass communications from Yarmouk University.

Ayman Abdallah joined as housekeeping supervisor in November. He obtained a diploma in the hotel field in 1999 and has worked in the housekeeping departments of various five-star hotels, including the Grand Millennium, where he served as acting housekeeping manager before coming to the American Center of Research.



HR Manager

The American Center now has a human resource manager. Lina Shara'an holds a diploma in human resource management from the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Knowledge Society and was previously the senior HR and finance officer at the Columbia Global Center in Amman. With



years of experience in the field, she is able to give advice for and implement coherent HR strategies to improve internal processes and procedures. She has a BA in English language and literature from the University of Jordan.

Interns

Helen Malko and Hanadi Al Taher

Between July and December 2021, we hosted four interns from Jordan and beyond, who worked remotely and in-person. Wafa Tawfiq Tawalbeh (German Jordanian University) conducted research and wrote essays on the Islamic and modern periods in Jordan, part of our Jordan timeline project. Hanna Thorén (Uppsala University) spent the fall volunteering at the center and working on various projects. She contributed to major media projects, producing educational videos on Jordan's archaeological sites, researching the archive, and reviewing and organizing the material for the Jordan timeline. Bayan Gaisiah (University of Jordan) and Saja Hamad (German Jordanian University) assisted in facilitating and coordinating the process of establishing the Jordan Cultural Heritage Portal (JoCHP) for SCHEP by collecting, analyzing, and organizing data from all local and foreign institutes and different sources and by conducting literature and

technical research. We are grateful for the contributions our interns make!



EDU-SYRIA
A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

nuffic
meet the world

Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers

Helen Malko

Part of the EDU-SYRIA scholarship program, funded by the European Union through the regional trust fund "Madad" in response to the Syrian crisis, our Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers has been making significant progress. Through professional training,

Donations (July–December 2021)

ANNUAL FUND

Anne H. Aarnes; Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh; Ahmad and Sirine Abu Ghazaleh; Judith Adams; Hani Al Kurdi; Laith Al-Qasem; Betty Anderson; Björn Anderson; Jon W. Anderson; Richard Anderson; Talitha Arnold; Roger S. Bagnall; Robert and Mette Beecroft; Virginia L. Bennett in memory of David H. Bennett; Neal Bierling in memory of Ken Russell; Martha Boling-Risser in memory of Bob and Jean Boling; Steven Booras; Jordan Brady; Laurie Brand; Jay Bruder in honor of Dr. Barbara A. Porter; Thomas Cabot in memory of Anne Cabot Ogilvy; Kathleen Campbell in memory of Francesca Bennett; Robert Cash; Connie Christensen; Douglas R. Clark and Carmen L. Clark; James and Martha Clark; Geoffrey Coll; Harold Cooper; Kay Creasman; Pearce Paul Creasman; Nicole Currier; Alice David; Molly Davies and Daniel Beal; Thomas Davis; Nina Dodge in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Fred Donner; Anne and Stewart Dunn in memory of Bert de Vries; Wesley and Virginia Egan; Eric Esqueda; Pat Fall and Steve Falconer; Marina Fischer in loving memory of Francesca Bennett; Debra Foran; Carol G. Forshey; Nancy E. and Daniel C. Gamber; Lawrence Geraty; Claus Gielisch; Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.; Anna Gonosová; Scott Grady; Nikolas Granger; Priscilla Grew; Reem Atalla Habayeb; David Hale; Sarah Harvey in memory of Cesar Octavo; Doris Heinemann in memory of Bruce M. Borthwick; Ellen Herscher in honor of Dr. Barbara A. Porter; Hijazi Hasif Hijazi; Valerie Hird; Randall L. Hoffman in honor of Helen Schielein; Charles

O. and Ellen Porter Honnet; William B. Inglee; Todd Johnson in memory of Tom Parker; Paul and Brenda Katerberg; Donald Keller in memory of Bert de Vries; Morag M. Kersel and Yorke Rowan; Abdel Elah Khatib; Sara M. Knight; Carroll Kobs; Øystein LaBianca; Carol M. Landes in memory of the Rev. Dr. George M. Landes; Nancy L. Lapp; Patricia Leiser in memory of Toni Cross; James and Judith Lipman; Carol P. and Drew W. Luten; Guillaume Malle; Stanley M. Maxwell and Phemie C. Maxwell; Eugene H. and Janet L. Merrill; Jenna de Vries Morton; Victoria Nam in memory of Francesca Bennett; John Nesbitt in memory of Carla Appel; David Nickols; John P. Oleson; Jennifer Olmsted; Megan A. Perry; Arthur Piccinati; Meg Pickering and John Schmidt; Thomas R. Pickering in memory of Alice S. Pickering; Barbara A. Porter in honor of the de Vries family; Ariadne Prater and Mitchell Allen Charitable Fund; Diana B. Putman and Adam C. Messer; Nanette Pyne in memory of Bert de Vries; Jennifer Ramsay; Suzanne Richard; Gary O. Rollefson; Jerome Carl Rose; Barbara Sampson in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Mohammed Sawaie; Joe D. Seger; Audrey Shaffer; Seteney Shami; Clem and Viki Schaub in memory of Tom and Marilyn Schaub; Warren C. Schultz; John Shearman; Sara Shelton; Bryan Shuler; Maria-Louise Sidoroff; Doug and Catherine Silliman; Pamela Smith; Sandra R. Smith; John G. Turner and Jerry G. Fischer; Andy and Amy Vaughn; Bethany J. Walker; Daniel and Stefanie Walker; Thomas and Theresa Whetstine in memory of Dr. Donald Wimmer; Jill Zahner

the project supports Syrian and Jordanian youth to maximize their chances in the job market. Following a call for applications, which resulted in hundreds of responses, 40 applicants participated in the program and completed training in soft skills, portfolio building, self-promoting, preparation for interviews, and professional communication skills. Based on an evaluation conducted toward the end of this phase, 17 participants were selected to continue with the program, and received courses in English language skills and communications in professional settings. The trainees took an initial assessment exam delivered by Amideast, the TOIEC Bridge

assessment, and were provided with textbooks and educational material. Finally, the participants received training in graphic design skills at Pioneers Academy and currently are conducting internships in various institutions and centers, including the Department of Antiquities, Galaxy Technology, and ICOMOS Jordan.



Participants in the Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers. (Photo by Riyad Salah.)

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE SUPPORT

Michele Cloonan; Lawrence Geraty; Judy Reaves in honor of Pearce Paul Creasman; Kristin South

GENERAL ENDOWMENT

Ray Anita Hemphill in honor of Dr. Barbara A. Porter

PIERRE AND PATRICIA BIKAI FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT
Lawrence Geraty

LAWRENCE T. GERATY TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Lawrence Geraty; Øystein LaBianca

BERT AND SALLY DE VRIES FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT
Tanya Bulthuis; Sara de Vries in memory of Bert de Vries; Lawrence Geraty; Gerard Hammink; Sarah Harvey in memory of Bert de Vries; Ray Anita Hemphill in Honor of Dr. Barbara A. Porter; Carol and Eric Meyers in memory of Bert de Vries; Jane Swicegood

HARRELL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT
Edgar and Paula Harrell

JORDANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT
Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh; Geoffrey A. Clark in honor of Jordanian graduate students; Sarah Harpending

BURTON MACDONALD AND ROSEMARIE SAMPSON FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT
Lawrence Geraty

S. THOMAS PARKER MEMORIAL FUND

Please see p. 9.

KENNETH W. RUSSELL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Rochelle Hallstrom; Steven Simms in Honor of Kenneth Russell

JAMES A. SAUER MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Bonnie Lee Crosfield; Lawrence Geraty; Seymour Gitin; Stephen Lintner and Pamela Johnson; Meg Pickering and John Schmidt; Susan Sauer

TEMPLE OF WINGED LIONS CRM INITIATIVE FUND

Benjamin Unger

ROGER AND AINA BORAAS MEMORIAL LIBRARY SUPPORT FUND

Roger Boraas; Marcia Boraas in honor of Miriam Deffenbaugh; Miriam and Ralston Deffenbaugh; Lawrence Geraty

IN-KIND DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Kamel Al Ajlouni; Eliot Braun; Claudia Bührig; Douglas R. Clark; Pearce Paul Creasman; James Fraser; Ian Jones; Martin Kurani; Ahmed F. Kzzo; Allison Mickel; the Ministry of Culture; Tom Paradise; Politics and Society Institute; Konstantinos D. Politis; Suzanne Richard; Margreet Singer; Robert Schick; Bethany Walker; Sarah Wenner; Khair Yassine



Renovations Update: The renovations of our facility in Amman formally ended on 30 December 2021, with the expiration of UNOPS's agreement with USAID. We are grateful for the efforts of all those involved in order to bring the building to this new stage. John Shearman, Hasan Sabrah, and Abed Adawi supervising the work on our behalf have made the results serve our future far better. While we now have some minor tasks to attend to ourselves (e.g., restocking the library shelves), we are excited to see work on the facility to its completion in the near term. We expect the library to reopen by appointment as of February 1, 2022, and the remainder of the center (COVID-19 permitting), by March 1, 2022. A reopening celebration will be delayed until some time in the future when the pandemic eases, but we welcome everyone back whenever you might be in Amman. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)

Trustees

CLASS OF 2022: Prof. Thomas Davis; Prof. Debra Foran; Mrs. Reem Atalla Habayeb; Prof. Morag Kersel (Second Vice President); H.E. Dr. Abdelhaleh Al Khatib (First Vice President); Mrs. Nina Joukowsky Köprülü; Mr. Guillaume Malle; Prof. Jennifer Ramsay

CLASS OF 2023: Mrs. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary); Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh; Mr. Geoffrey H. Coll; H.E. Mr. Claus Gielisch; Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. (President); H.E. Ms. Hala Bsaisu Lattouf; Mr. Hani Al Kurdi; Ms. Jenna de Vries Morton; Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer); Prof. S. Thomas Parker; Mr. Laith Al-Qasem

CLASS OF 2024: Prof. Betty S. Anderson; Prof. Björn Anderson; Prof. Moawiyah Ibrahim; Mr. William Inglee; Prof. Øystein S. LaBianca; H.E. Mr. Hazem Malhas; Prof. John P. Oleson; Prof. Megan A. Perry; Dr. Seteney Shami; Prof. Bethany J. Walker

TRUSTEES EMERITI: Mrs. Widad Kawar; Prof. Nancy Lapp; Prof. David McCreery; Mr. Randolph B. Old; H.E. Senator Laila Sharaf; Prof. James R. Wiseman; H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid

November 2021 Board Meeting

The board of trustees meeting took place in person for the first time since 2019, on November 20, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois (with some members attending remotely). Edward "Skip" Gnehm presided and recognized that a quorum was present. He first spoke in remembrance of S. Thomas Parker, and several other trustees also shared memories of the late Prof. Parker. Executive director Pearce Paul Creasman updated the board on the COVID-19 situation in Jordan: it worsened again in the fall, but the residence is open and the staff could take a group trip. Building renovations are scheduled to be complete in January/February 2022. There have been staffing changes. The American Center's name change has now been finalized in Jordan. Treasurer David Nickols reported on the financial situation, which is strong; the budget was approved for 2022. Second vice president Morag Kersel asked for comments on a new strategic plan, and Creasman outlined the changes. Changes to the mission statement were approved unanimously. Committee chairs gave reports. Establishment of the S. Thomas Parker Memorial Fund was approved. Publication of "Mosaics of Jordan II" will be undertaken. President Gnehm asked the board for recommendations for new members. John Oleson was appointed to the Nominations Committee and Hala Lattouf to the Personnel Committee. The board plans to meet in person in spring 2022 in Amman.

YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS US GOING.

To donate to The American Center of Research, you can mail a check to our U.S. office or use other means through our website: acorjordan.org/donate

U.S. OFFICE:

209 Commerce Street
Alexandria VA 22314-2909
+1 (703) 789-9231 acor@acorjordan.org

Contents

Intangible Cultural Heritage	1
ACOR at ASOR	3
USAID SCHEP Updates	4
Library Updates.....	6
Staff Outing	6
Abdoun Community Archaeology Project.....	7
Trustee LaBianca Receives Award.....	7
In Memoriam: S. Thomas Parker III, 1950–2021	8
Donations to the S. Thomas Parker Memorial Fund	9
Staff Receive First-Aid Training	10
Publications Update	10
Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project	10
Public Events.....	11
TWL Publication Grant from the NEH.....	12
Staff Awards.....	12
Fellows in Residence	12
New Chief of Party for SCHEP.....	13
HR Manager.....	13
Project Director for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking.....	13
Other Staff Updates	13
Interns	14
Donations	14
Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers	14
Renovations Update	16
Trustees	16
November 2021 Board Meeting	16

The American Center of Research, is a nonprofit academic institute, the services of which are supported through endowments, donations, and grants. The American Center of Research is tax exempt as a 501(c)(3) organization, as determined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Inquiries may be sent to ACOR, P.O. Box 2470, Amman 11181, Jordan, tel.: (962-6) 534-6117, e-mail: acor@acorjordan.org, or to the U.S. office. The ACOR Newsletter is edited by Pearce Paul Creasman and Noreen Doyle. All photographs are courtesy of ACOR unless otherwise noted.