



ACOR
أخبار أكور

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Archaeology for the Future at Umm el-Jimal: Site Preservation, Presentation, and Community Engagement

Bert de Vries on behalf of the Umm el-Jimal Project Staff

Umm el-Jimal is the spectacularly preserved ruin of a Late Antique (Byzantine, Umayyad, early Abbasid) basalt town in the Hauran of northern Jordan, east of Mafraq. It is spectacular because its 150 still-standing buildings are constructed from basalt blocks, mostly recycled from the ruins of earlier Nabataean and Roman structures. As Petra is “rose red,” Umm el-Jimal is “all in black.” But Umm el-Jimal has in abundance what appear less obvious at famous sites like Petra and Jerash, the houses of ordinary people. It is a town of neighborhoods into which 16 churches are interspersed. When you visit Umm el-Jimal, you experience how the ancients lived, farmed, traded, worshiped, and raised families.

The Calvin College Umm el-Jimal Project (UJP) conducted a series of traditional field seasons of mapping and excavation from the 1970s to the 1990s, from which we learned the nature of the succession of Umm el-Jimal from Nabataean to modern. From 2007 on, the UJP has turned to site conservation and presentation, using tools and strategies not available to us decades ago.



Umm el-Jimal House XVII–XVIII: Preserving a ruin as a ruin (all photos by Bert de Vries unless otherwise noted)

Implementing a New UJP Agenda: Site Conservation and Presentation

As we planned our new agenda, key terms were “digital” and “inclusion.” These were linked in our minds, because both enable the goal of conserving the site to be enjoyed well into the future. “Digital preservation” captures the state of a site at a given moment before its further decay. “Inclusion” of the community makes local residents stakeholders in caring for the antiquities and the prevention of looting and vandalism. Thus, “digital” and “inclusion” are the twin pillars of our site conservation and presentation agenda.



Upper stories of Byzantine houses

This new vision opened up the floodgates to a plethora of new projects, completed and in process from 2010 through 2016, to continue into the future: visual documentation for digital preservation; the conservation of structures; interpretive presentation; and community engagement. Stringent efforts are made to maintain and model archaeological “best practices.” We are not merely creating a presentable and safe site for the present and future as a boost to the tourism economy. “Best practices” also lead to excellent academic results in stratigraphic analysis of the antiquities, ethnographic study in the community, architectural conservation, and museology.

A Virtual Museum

The website (www.ummeljimal.org) went online in 2012 thanks to an Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Site Preservation Grant and support by 2009 and 2010 Calvin College Field documentation seasons; it was created by Paul Christians and Jeff DeKock of Open Hands Studios. The website introduction notes that it is part of an ongoing international effort to understand Umm el-Jimal and its regional context from a holistic approach that integrates traditional academic research with cutting-edge technology and deeply-rooted community perspectives.

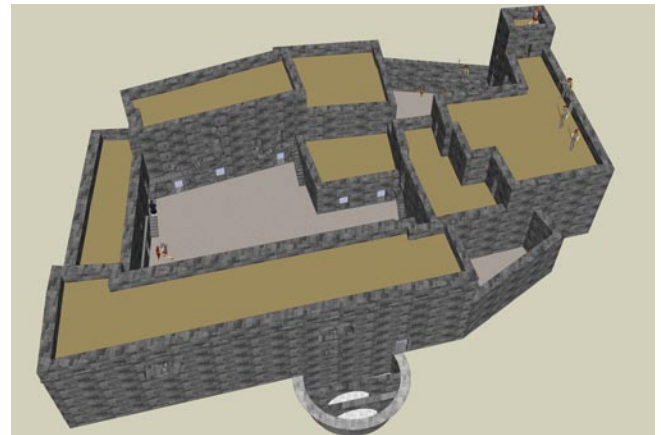
We suggest you access the website to see its many special features. It is constantly being updated as in the recent addition of a slide show on the ceramics of the Hauran region (“Ceramics,” Fieldwork Section). Other highlights include the series of short films documenting community heritage interviews conducted by students overseen by Sally de Vries for heritage, Jeff DeKock for film production, and Muaffaq Hazza for logistics and translation.

There is a book-length Education Manual, intended for students in both middle and high schools, which can serve as an excellent historical introduction for anyone, and it is also in Arabic (“Curriculum,” Museum Section). The Virtual Tour (Museum Section) is linked to the Interpretive Trail by giving expanded content to

the 33 points of interest presented with signs on the ground. Over the past year, the website has been anchored in social media by the addition of a Blog section for current project reports, newsletters, and staff opinions; a Facebook page for current news; and a Flickr site for assorted images from the UJP’s photo archive since 1974. All information may be downloaded for non-commercial and educational usage according to our open source policy, as defined by Creative Commons Attribution stipulations (“Copyright Information” under “Curriculum,” Museum Section).

Conservation of the House XVII–XVIII Complex

The House XVII–XVIII Complex is now accessible on the Interpretive Trail for visits by the community and tourists as a prime example of Jordan’s post-Roman heritage from Late Antiquity to the present. The project of preservation and consolidation began in 1977 but was completed in 2012 and 2014 with US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation funding and executed in partnership with the Department of Antiquities. The conservation work proved to be an important training medium for a core group of masons from the Umm el-Jimal community (for some dramatic stories documenting this work see the Blog). Using the theme “preserving a ruin as a ruin” we concentrated on conserving existing walls and clearing key collapse debris areas to make the structure passable, safe, and understandable. Abdullah Al Shorman and Muwafaq Al Bataineh of Yarmouk University made a new survey to replace H. C. Butler’s map and used their new measurements to create a schematic 3-D reconstruction rendering.



Schematic 3-D rendering of House XVII–XVIII Complex (drawing by Muwafaq Al Bataineh)

Through architectural phasing and post-clearing excavations, we found that the houses were founded on leveled Roman material in the Byzantine period, and then remodeled into a single complex in the Umayyad. Reused in the Mamluk and Ottoman periods, the complex played a major role in the resettlement of the site by the Druze and Masa’eid in the 20th century.

The Water System Reactivation Project

Conceived in the long-term strategizing of the UJP, the Water System Reactivation Project was launched with private seed money during the May to June 2014 field season. The goals of this multi-year project are to study the ancient runoff water collection and storage system for presentation to visitors, as well as the reactivation of those reservoirs refurbished by the Masa’eid in the mid-20th century while they lived among the ruins, in order to supply municipal gardens and private flocks in modern Umm el-Jimal. While surface runoff



Silt and stone removal from the Roman reservoir (photo by Muaffaq Hazza)



Commodus Gate conservation work in progress

water supply seemed irrelevant after the discovery of the deep-well aquifer in the 1990s, it is once again becoming essential, as that aquifer is being pumped to depletion.

After seed money paid for the mapping of the water system by the Shorman and Bataineh team, this project is now funded for four years (until 2018) by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and it is part of a large collaborative “Urban Transformation in Palestine and Jordan” program at Birzeit University in collaboration with Bergen University with UJP participation. This grant has enabled excavation and refurbishing in 2015 and 2016 of six reservoirs. The cleaning in November 2015 of the large Roman reservoir, which had been re-plastered in 1954–55 through a USAID grant, resulted in the distribution of 8000 m³ of water over the long dry season starting in April 2016. The UJP is partnering with the Calvin College Clean Water Institute to bring students and faculty in 2017 and 2018 to complete the study of the hydrology and to engineer the mechanics of the distribution system.

Commodus Gate Conservation

The initial phase of the USAID SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project) UJP grant funded through ACOR started in May 2015 and extends to August 2016. While the overall goal of UJ-SCHEP was community engagement through job creation in archaeological site management, the specific work included the conservation of the Commodus Gate, creating the east section of the signed Interpretive Trail, and training local staff.

Located on the northwest side of Byzantine Umm el-Jimal, the Commodus Gate was excavated and documented in a Calvin College Field School season in May and June 2015. The 2nd century Roman date on the now-lost dedication inscription from the co-regency of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Commodus (A.D. 176–180) was confirmed. The North Tower had a very fine, possibly Umayyad, cobble floor laid over the original Roman stone chip floor. The repaving of the Roman roadway from the gate to the *Via Nova Traiana* in the late Roman and Byzantine/Umayyad periods indicates continuous use over 500 years!

The gate was conserved by a team of Umm el-Jimal site management trainees in October and November 2015. Although most of the masonry appears to have been in situ and still standing in 1905 according to H.C. Butler's Princeton survey, local hearsay has it that in the early 1940s most of the façade blocks, including



Commodus Gate signage panel (design by Open Hand Studios)

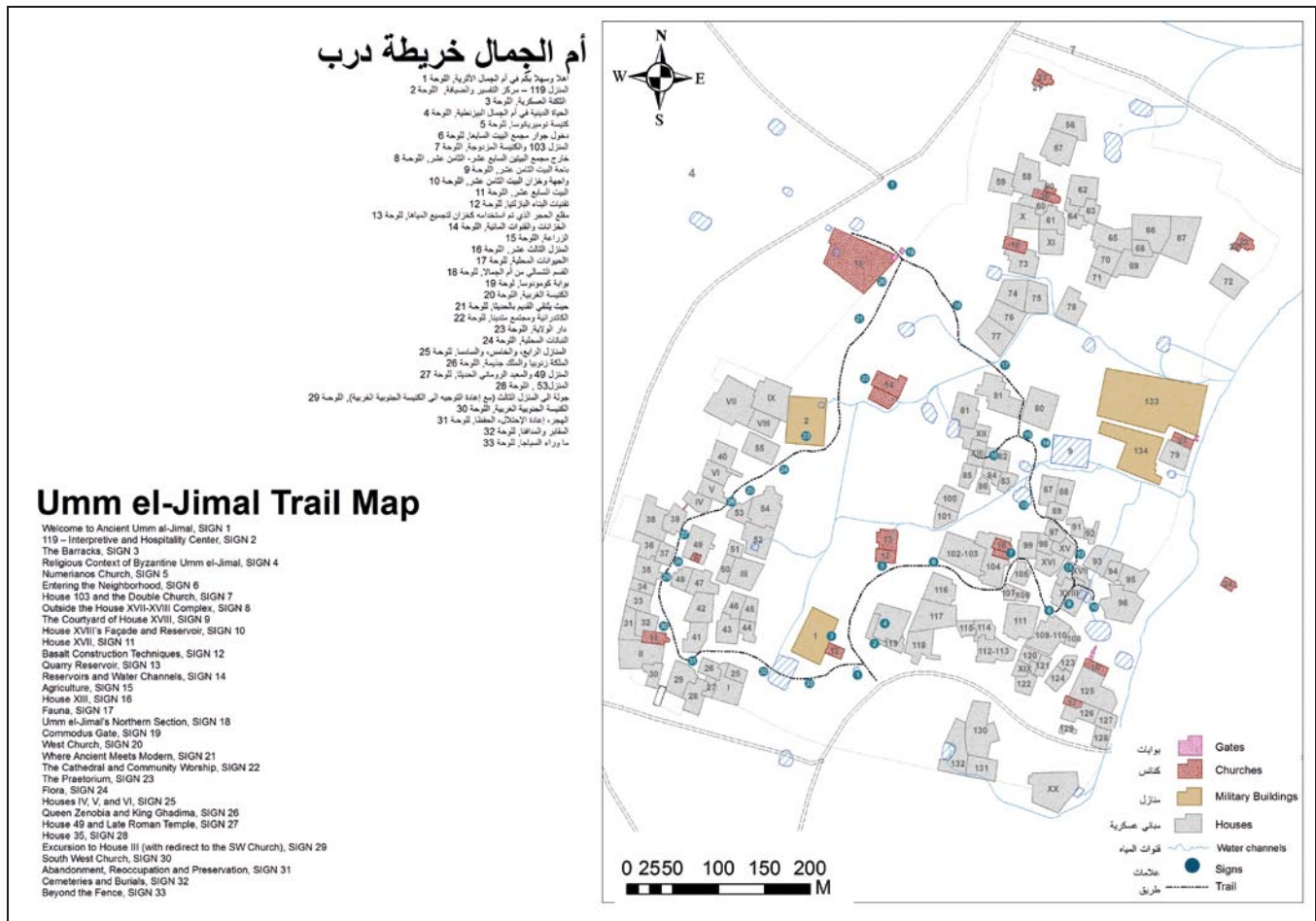
the inscription, were carried north across the border for reuse in the village of Umm ar-Romman in Syria. Just about all remaining wall stumps were slumping so badly that the only option was to dismantle and rebuild them. Thus the whole structure, including the adjoining Byzantine West Church yard gate, was dismantled and rebuilt in the allotted three weeks.

Interpretive Trail

The Interpretive Trail was first devised for the *Umm el-Jimal: Al Kutba Jordan Guides* written by Bert de Vries in 1990. The intent was to create a walking circuit which included an excellent sampler of Umm el-Jimal's houses, churches, and Nabataean-Roman remains, which were also listed on a master plan for future conservation. This trail plan was refined to create cleared paths easily navigable by even a busload of visitors and with 33 points of interest, each assigned an interpretive sign. Work on the trail itself was done in 2015, while the design and manufacture of the 20 signs and their installation on the eastern portion of the trail was completed in May 2016.

Community Engagement

The UJP's community engagement goals have been the key component of the revived UJP from the planning stages of 2007 until today. The basic theme of community inclusion could be stated in crass economic terms: Let the community benefit from site-engendered income and there will be less looting. But we also recognized even more that involving the community was fundamental. When archaeologists realized it was wrong to limit their curiosity to Byzantine and earlier strata and ignore later ones, there was no alternative but to extend investigation through the Islamic



Trail map with sign locations of points of interest (drawn by Ruth Cahill)

periods up to the present. This means the living community is included not only as the latest “stratum” but more importantly, as the most immediate and relevant stakeholder. We saw this matter also as an issue of justice in the neo-colonial context, and expressed the right to inclusion as a redress from alienation that took place when archaeologists were also imperialists. For more on this issue, see B. de Vries, “Archaeology and Community in Jordan and Greater Syria: Traditional Patterns and New Directions,” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 76.3 (2013): 132–40.

Thus we documented 60 Masa’eid tent sites to recreate a map of life among the ruins as it survives in the memory of older residents. In those memories, the reservoirs that we are reconditioning are also associated with specific families who reconditioned them in the 1940s and 50s to survive on the water stored in them. The website has a special section called “Community” to build our knowledge of modern history and culture on what Robin Brown began with her 2009 article, “The Druze Experience at Umm el-Jimal” (“Library,” Archive Section).



Berlin Community Orchestra performing classical music and accompanied by local drummers trained earlier that day in April 2016 as supported by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung

In fall 2014, Sally and Bert de Vries participated in the first phase of the UNESCO Women’s Empowerment Project, implemented through Al Hima Foundation, to train and teach 30 local women more about their archaeological and traditional heritages. As a result, we have remained active with them in community life celebrations, such as the Berlin Community Orchestra music workshop and concert held at House 119 on April 1, 2016.



House 119 Courtyard Graduation Celebration with Anastasios Decree replica in the background

The Decree of Emperor Anastasios (A.D. 491–518) written in Greek included more than 300 lines of text related to the military organization of the eastern border of the Byzantine Empire. The blocks uncovered at Qasr Hallabat displayed in a lapidarium at that site museum are considered to have come originally from Umm el-Jimal, where some blocks still exist.

Since 2012, the community socio-cultural landscape has changed not only from the economic impact of the Zaatari Refugee Camp, but also from the influx of 29,000 Syrians as residents in the Umm el-Jimal Municipality of 40,000 Jordanians. We have been distributing clothing and money that we collected in direct aid to refugee families in cooperation with the UJ Ladies' Cooperative. UJP team member Muaffaq Hazza co-teaches classes of Jordanian and Syrian school children about their shared North Jordan/South Syria cultural and archaeological heritage in a special project funded by the German Gerda Henkel Stiftung.

This provides background and context for the USAID SCHEP-funded training and site steward programs, which are designed not only to enhance community engagement but also to achieve job creation. We have trained a number of people in site management through on-the-job training in best practices in excavation and architectural conservation complemented by lectures on the theoretical principles in those fields. There is a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Antiquities to hire these SCHEP site managers, and 15 SCHEP-certified workers are now employed by the Department for architectural conservation of the Cathedral and Barracks under the supervision of UJP field director Muaffaq Hazza. One of our Digital Communication trainees, Abdullah Al Khdeer, is now regularly contracted by the UJP for graphic design and translation of documents into Arabic. A local sign production company has been created; the metal frames have been made in a UJ metal workshop and a Mafrq commercial printing company produces the plastic film prints and plexiglass covers for the displays. While this business still needs to be formally constituted, it has already filled sign production orders for other archaeological sites.

The Interpretive and Hospitality Center at House 119

Over the past year we have crystallized earlier plans to reuse House 119, an Umayyad farmstead excavated by the UJP in the 1990s, as the venue for an on-site Interpretive and Hospitality Center. The ancient structure was built up as a replica of a composite Byzantine/Umayyad and early 20th-century farmhouse by a

Department of Antiquities architect. This house has already been serving as a gathering place for community heritage and culture celebrations and now, based on a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), MoTA architects are designing structural repairs to make the building usable. Ammar Khammash Architects are designing the museum and hospitality components of the new center. The UJP team, led by Jenna Morton with Paul Christians and Jeff DeKock of Open Hand Studios, Muaffaq Hazza, and Sally and Bert de Vries, will curate the contents, produce tourism literature, and develop the plans for the center's sustained operations. The work is planned for 2017, with funding provided by the Pax Foundation of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Anastasios Decree Replica Installation

The first installation in the new Interpretive and Hospitality Center is a replica of the famous early 6th-century Anastasios Decree which is now considered to have originally been posted at Umm el-Jimal although most of its inscribed stones were transported to Qasr Hallabat, where they were recovered by Ignacio Arce during his reconstruction project. Thomas Weber has a team of technicians producing replicas of these inscribed stones on basalt-like cement slabs. This work is supported by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, which also funded the UJP for construction of a special wall for mounting the inscribed replicas.

Conclusion: The Ongoing Story of Umm el-Jimal

In the course of all this activity, both the academic and popular stories of Umm el-Jimal are growing and evolving into ever more refined and interesting narratives. Much of this is due to the research and writing of the UJP team, not only on the website, but in academic publications, particularly the ceramic and stratigraphic work of Elizabeth Osinga and the archaeometric study of plasters and mortars by Khaled Al Bashaireh. We, the Umm el-Jimal Project team, are deeply appreciative of the support from all of the agencies and individuals mentioned above (and more fully on the website) and also for the moral support from all who appreciate what we do. We especially thank the people of Umm el-Jimal.

In memoriam: George E. Mendenhall (1916–2016)



Eathel and George Mendenhall at ACOR celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary in December 1991 (ACOR Photo Archives)

George Mendenhall (b. August 13, 1916 in Muscatine, Iowa) died on August 5, 2016 in his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, just shy of his 100th birthday. He received his B.A. from Freemont College in 1936 and also attended Western Theological Seminary. Subsequent studies were at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary (B.D. 1938). His graduate studies at Johns Hopkins were interrupted by World War II, when he saw service in Japan. He married Eathel Tidrick in 1943 and finished his Ph.D. under William F. Albright in 1947. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1952 and upon his retirement in 1986 was named Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies.

His close colleague and friend David Graf shared the following thoughts on his scholarship and noted that among his signal contributions were two formative essays, “Law and Covenant in Israel and the Ancient Near East” (1955) and “The Hebrew Conquest of Palestine” (1962), which set the agenda for scholars in the next generation and stimulated numerous future studies. He was the author of *The Tenth Generation: The Origins of the Biblical Tradition* (1973) and *The Syllabic Inscriptions from Byblos* (1985). He was honored by a festschrift, *The Quest for the Kingdom of God: Studies in Honor of George E. Mendenhall*, in 1983. He was called “Mendy” by his students with great affection and appreciation.

George and Eathel Mendenhall spent considerable time in the Middle East; the first major period being in 1955–56 when they spent the year at the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, Jordan on a fellowship; he returned there in 1965 to be Director. He later served as the ACOR Director in spring 1975, just before James Sauer (1975–81) became the first long-term director in Amman. George Mendenhall’s involvement in Jordan continued after his retirement from the University of Michigan as he taught from 1987 to 1993 the history of Arabic and Semitic Languages at Yarmouk University in Irbid; there he made a considerable mark on a generation of scholars in Jordan involved in epigraphy. His wife, Eathel, who was an accomplished painter, died in November 2015 at age 101. They are survived by their five sons—David, Lauri, Stanley, Gordon, and Stephen—and their families. As a couple, they supported ACOR in meaningful ways for many years and kept up their connections even when traveling to Jordan was no longer possible for them.

ACOR USAID Permanent Endowment: Closeout May 1, 2016

A highlight of the ACOR Board meetings in Amman was the gathering hosted by T.R.H. Prince Raad and Princess Majda in their home on May 18th to commemorate the official handover of the ACOR USAID Permanent Endowment. ACOR trustees and staff members celebrated with U.S. Ambassador Alice G. Wells and USAID Mission Director Jim Barnhart, along with other colleagues from the US Embassy and USAID Jordan, as well as special friends of ACOR. For this occasion a mock check was prepared so that Jim Barnhart could symbolically present it to Prince Raad and Board President Randolph Old.

This Cooperative Agreement was initiated on June 5, 1997 and closed out on May 1, 2016. The grant was amended in 1999, 2001, and 2004, such that the total USAID grant with modifications was \$3,284,885. Thanks to the careful stewardship of the ACOR Board, its Investment Committee, and ACOR management over the 20-year period, the amount of invested endowment funds at the closeout date was \$3,453,328. During that period, \$1,630,197 was expended to further cultural heritage activities in Jordan and support ACOR’s mission. This fund is now called the ACOR Cultural Heritage Endowment and the current Board policy allows for a maximum of a 4% annual withdrawal to be expended. The guiding principles in which the grant was established remain. The stated goals, outlined in the 1997 proposal submitted under director Pierre Bikai, were: to assist field projects; provide services to scholars, fellows, and



H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid with H.E. Ambassador Alice G. Wells and ACOR Director Barbara A. Porter

Jordanian students to facilitate research; support fellowships for study; foster publication of research concerning archaeology and conservation; and undertake cultural resources management projects—all with a focus on Jordan. In the past 20 years, this grant has afforded ACOR the chance to support all of these endeavors and as a permanent endowment will continue to do so. For this, ACOR will forever be grateful to the individuals in the US Congress and in USAID who supported this endowment.

Barbara A. Porter

ICHAJ 13 SCHEP Student Scholarships

The 13th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ) under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal and organized by the Department of Antiquities took place from May 22 to 26 at Princess Sumaya University for Science and Technology in Amman (see www.ichaj.org). USAID SCHEP supported 15 scholarships for students who attended the full program and evening activities, as well as eight SCHEP site stewards, including Eman Abdessalam from Wadi Musa who presented on her role at the Temple of the Winged Lions and as a founder of Sela, the local company supporting training and conservation.

The 15 university students who applied and were awarded grants were from four different universities and at different stages of their academic careers. The scholarship students represented

Hashemite University, Mu'tah University, University of Jordan, and Yarmouk University.

The experience is described by SCHEP Communications Officer Sofia Smith in a Blog on the ACOR website entitled "USAID SCHEP Brings New Voices to Jordan's ICHAJ." She shared the quote from Thaer Al Shawabkeh of Hashemite University who stated that "USAID SCHEP gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to attend the conference. I saw the work that was being done at the archaeological sites in Madaba where I am from and where I did not know people were still active. Being engaged this way with the scientific community gave me the strength and support to continue my course of study without paying attention to the constraints of society."



ICHAJ SCHEP scholarship students during the conference at Princess Sumaya University for Science and Technology: standing from left, Aven Qatameen, Fadieh Abu Ghraiganeh, Mais Al Abbadi, Ruba Al Omary, Mohammad Bataineh, Khaled Ghaith, Thaer Al Shawabkeh, Yanal Frehat, Eslam Al Dawodieh, Ameera Onizat, and Rania Nazzal; front row kneeling, Shatha Abu Ablli and Nid'a Al Khazali; missing Hadil Abu Bandora (photo by B.A. Porter)

ACOR Announcement: New Assistant Director in Boston Office

China P. Shelton, a native of California, was hired in spring 2016 to be the ACOR Assistant Director in the Boston Office upon the June retirement of Donald R. Keller. She received her B.A. in Anthropology and Art History from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her Ph.D. dissertation in Archaeology from Boston University (2009) was entitled "Food, Economy, and Identity in the Sangro River Valley, Abruzzo, Italy, 650 B.C.–A.D. 150." Her advisor was Professor James R. Wiseman. China was a visiting lecturer at Framingham State University for five years before joining ACOR. Her present research focuses on integrative environmental archaeology at Iklania in Messenia, Greece and Morgantina in Sicily, Italy. She was introduced to Jordan in May 2016 when she participated in the ACOR Board of Trustees meetings in Amman.

Her spring 2016 ACOR-related activities also encompassed the ACOR Fellowship meeting in Boston in April and assisting with the preparations for the newsletter "Archaeology in Jordan" for the *American Journal of Archaeology* October 2016 issue.



China Shelton (left) with Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, ACOR Chief Financial Officer, at the opening ceremony of ICHAJ 13 at the Jordan Museum on May 21, 2016 (photo by B.A. Porter)

Twenty-Year Perspective from the ACOR Boston Office

In July 1996, the ACOR US office moved to its present location, the fifth floor at 656 Beacon Street on the Boston University campus. After an unofficial period of work in the fall, I became the full-time Boston staff person for ACOR in December 1996. One attraction of the position was that since I had headed my own small non-profit since 1986, I thought that I might pick up some ideas regarding operations and fundraising while working for ACOR. A larger attraction of the job, however, was that I would have five to six weeks each summer to continue my own field work and research in Greece.

My research in the Karystia, southern Euboea began with Ph.D. dissertation research in 1979. At the time, only a dozen archaeological sites were known for all of the island of Euboea south of Styra. Articles and scholarly reports on the region were in short supply, the major work being the Ph.D. dissertation of Malcolm Wallace on the ancient history of the city state of Karystos. Fortunately, Mac could be found every summer at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and we quickly became close friends. Mac never left the house without putting on a tie while I was more of a T-shirt type, but with his interests in history and the classics and my interest in field archaeology we made a complementary team. We also seemed to be the only researchers interested then in southern Euboea. We agreed that years of research were needed in the Karystia and formed the Southern Euboea Exploration Project (SEEP) corporation in 1986.

During the 1980s and 90s, SEEP carried out surface survey, adding over 350 ancient sites to the record, and completed two small excavations. The most active period of fieldwork was in the 1980s when we engaged large teams in surface survey work and excavations. In the 1990s, we carried out some fieldwork, but most of the summers were spent on revisits to sites and study of material stored at the Karystos Museum, followed by writing of reports and publications by team members.

Editing and proofreading are a constant part of archaeological work, so I felt quite comfortable with one of the responsibilities of the ACOR Boston position—the ACOR contribution to the *American Journal of Archaeology*. The “Archaeology in Jordan” newsletter in the *AJA* is a scholarly biennial (formerly annual) publication of ongoing archaeological projects in Jordan. It consists of the 30 to 50 project submissions that are compiled and edited by ACOR. This is a major undertaking that requires many extra hours from the Amman senior staff and the Boston staff person. Text editing, arrangement of illustrations, rapid back and forth with contributing authors, and calmness under pressing deadlines are all part of the process. Given that the *AJA* office is in the same building as ACOR in Boston, I became the final link between ACOR and the *AJA* editors.

A major focus of my work in the Boston office has been the operation of the ACOR Fellowship Program, which awards approximately a quarter of a million dollars annually. It is a year-round endeavor that accounted for over 30 percent of my time. The cycle begins at the end of summer when, with the help of the Fellowship Committee and the staff in Amman, revisions and additions are made to the fellowship announcements and application forms and

the program is publicized. The most active phase of the cycle occurs during the period between submission deadline (February 1) and the date when applicants are notified of their status (April 15).

From personal experience I know how important a fellowship or grant can be for students and post-doctoral scholars. My graduate studies and the long-term research and field projects in Greece would not have been possible without the financial support of various grants. Thus I deeply appreciated the opportunity to play a role in the fellowship program and enjoyed my communications with applicants and awardees before, during, and after the selection process. I think that working with members of the Fellowship Committee and interaction with the applicants have been the most rewarding parts of the job.

One aspect of the ACOR position for which I had no previous experience was Board meetings and recording Board minutes. From the movies, I had a vague idea of what a Board meeting looked like: people with notepads and glasses of water sitting around a large table waiting to be called upon by the chairperson. I asked colleagues at the Archaeological Institute of America for a few past copies of their Board minutes so I could study them. At my first Board meeting (November 1997) in Napa, I felt as prepared as I could be. Artemis Joukowsky, the president of the Board, called the meeting to order. I soon realized that this was something of an inside joke; the ACOR Board doesn’t “come to order.” I’ve tried to explain the atmosphere of an ACOR Board meeting to friends as: “like a large gregarious family reunion.” I don’t know how they do it, but by the end of the meeting resolutions have been made, motions passed, finances discussed, and all issues considered. Eventually, I realized that the ACOR Board is unique. All of the members enjoy each other’s company and all are focused on the health of ACOR; there are no conflicts or competitions between them.

In the end, I believe that my work on the Fellowship Program has been the most rewarding part of the job, but spending a few days each year with the Board members and Amman staff has certainly been the most fun part of the job.

Donald R. Keller



Don Keller in 1980 at kiln site on Euboea (photo courtesy of D.R. Keller)

ACOR Board Meeting in Jordan (May 2016)



Seated, left to right: Barbara A. Porter, Randolph B. Old, H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid; S. Thomas Parker, and Nancy Lapp. Standing, left to right: Øystein S. LaBianca, Edward W. Gnehm, Jr., Abdelelah Al Khatib, Anne M. Dunn, Bert de Vries, Lina Annab, Moawiyah Ibrahim, Reem Atalla Habayeb, John Oleson, Megan Perry, Hazem Malhas, and Jennifer Ramsay (photo by Jane Taylor)

Surrounding the official ACOR Board of Trustees' meeting on Thursday, May 19 at ACOR were a number of events that many Board members took part in, including extensive committee meetings. On Tuesday evening, the ACOR public lecture by CAORC fellow Chad Hill on "Why We Need Drones" was a big draw and provided a chance for extensive interactions during the reception afterwards. After a day of committee meetings on Wednesday, it was a pleasure to attend the party hosted by T.R.H. Prince Raad and Princess Majda to celebrate the ACOR USAID Endowment Closeout. The actual Board meeting was followed in the evening by a casual gathering in the Director's flat at ACOR.

This year many trustees and their family members and friends participated in a field trip to the site of Bir Madhkur. The long-term project director, Andrew Smith of The George Washington University, was starting up work there as part of his USAID SCHEP

grant. A fall 2015 visit to Bir Madhkur, in which ACOR and SCHEP staff introduced the trails and site to Ambassador Alice G. Wells, inspired the idea to do the same as a Board field trip (minus the five-hour hike). The late Roman fort near the modern village was toured first, followed by the Nabataean structure up the Wadi Musa at Umm ar-Rattam where there are impressive cisterns and water channels. A picnic lunch was enjoyed in the renovated space of the Bir Madhkur resthouses and the final visit was to a farmstead that had been excavated in previous seasons. After a day in the Wadi Arabah, some ventured on to Aqaba and others returned to Amman in anticipation of the opening ceremony for the 13th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan at the Jordan Museum on Saturday, May 21, 2016, which set the tone for a full week of lectures and special events.

Barbara A. Porter



Site visit to Umm ar-Rattam, led by Andrew Smith with ACOR Board, staff, and friends along with Bir Madhkur SCHEP site stewards and project workers (photo courtesy of B.A. Porter)

Fellows in Residence (January–June 2016)

ACOR-CAORC Post-Graduate Fellows

Austin “Chad” Hill, Anthropology, Dartmouth College; Wadi al-Qattafi Aerial Archaeology Survey

George Potter, English, Valparaiso University; Mapping Amman: Social Geography and Cinema in Jordan

Suzanne Richard, History and Archaeology, Gannon University; Final Report on the EB IV Settlements at Khirbat Iskander, Jordan

Andrew Smith II, Classical and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The George Washington University; Roman Petra: A Social and Economic History from a Rural Perspective



Austin “Chad” Hill



Suzanne Richard



George Potter



Andrew Smith with Musa Mohammad Sweilim from Bir Madhkur

ACOR-CAORC Fellows

Kathleen Bennallack, Anthropology, University of California, San Diego; Collapse or Adaptation? The Pottery Neolithic of Southern Jordan

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow

Piotr Makowski, History, University of Warsaw; Khirbat edh-Dharikh in the Byzantine and Islamic Periods

James A. Sauer Fellow

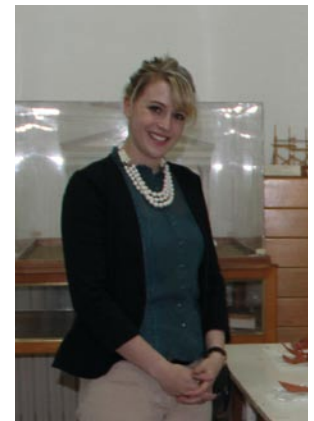
Sarah Wenner, Classics, University of Cincinnati; Uduh and Wadi Ramm Ceramic Study



Kathleen Bennallack with Mohammad Najjar



Piotr Makowski



Sarah Wenner

Public Lectures at ACOR (January–June 2016)

February 3—Konstantinos D. Politis (Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies & ACOR-USAID-SCHEP Grantee) “Sugar, Safi and SCHEP: An Industrial Archaeology Project in Jordan”

February 10—Andrew McCarthy (CAARI Director, Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute) “Recipes for Public Archaeology: Libraries, Tourism, and Experimental Archaeology in Cyprus”

March 9—Achim Lichtenberger (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany) and Rubina Raja (Aarhus University, Denmark) “New Research in Jerash: The Danish-German Northwest Quarter Project”

April 27—Barbara A. Porter (ACOR Director) and Glenn J. Corbett (ACOR Associate Director) “Perspectives on ACOR’s Role in Preserving and Presenting Jordan’s Heritage”

May 17—Austin “Chad” Hill (CAORC Senior Fellow and Dartmouth College) “Why We Need Drones: Case Studies from Archaeological Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Surveys in Wadi al-Qattafi and Feifa, Jordan”

ACOR Annual Appeal Results 2015 and 2016

Funds and Endowments	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016
Annual Fund*	\$ 64,910	\$ 86,834
Annual Library Support**	\$ 24,483	\$ 11,042
ACOR General Endowment	\$ 3,731	\$ 800
ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund	\$ 8,625	\$ 10,572
Anne C. Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment	\$ 5,150	\$ 3,100
Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment	\$ 1,345	\$ 1,680
Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,230
Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship Endowment	–	\$ 200
Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$ 5,350	\$ 3,697
Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship Endowment	\$ 550	\$ 80
Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$ 627	\$ 284
James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$ 2,825	\$ 2,130
Petra Church Conservation Endowment	–	\$ 5,050
Petra Church Conservation Initiative	\$ 50	\$ 2,850
Temple of the Winged Lions (TWLCRM) Initiative	\$ 5,658	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 148,376	\$ 135,550

* All donations received by ACOR by September 30

**Including \$10,145 (FY 2015) and \$1,000 (FY 2016) for the Roger S. Boraas Library Support Fund

Donations to ACOR (January–June 2016)

General Donations to the Annual Fund

Susan Ackerman; Mohammed Asfour; Nirmal and Ellen Chatterjee; Sandra Chesrown in memory of David Bennett; Robert and Erin Darby; Nita Dawson; Mary Emerson; Jerry Fischer and John Turner; Lawrence T. Geraty; Gemma S. Hall; The Joukowsky Family Foundation; Widad Kavar; George E. Mendenhall; Noor Mulder Hymans; Robert Norris; Tareq Ramadan; Barbara Reeves; Daniel Rubinstein; S.A.D. Foundation; Warren C. Schultz; Joan Seelye; Leila Sharaf; Vickie Sherman; Sandra R. Smith; Mary Breasted and Ted Symth; Terry Walz; Annemarie Weyl-Carr; Randall Younker

Annual Fund in honor of Barbara A. Porter

Rick and Carla Berry; Raymond C. Ewing and Penelope Yungblut, also in honor of Donald Keller; Reem Atalla Habayeb; John Hale; Spencer Harper III; Virginia Kanick; Peter Lacovara; Warren C. Schultz; Gordon Travers; Nancy Webster

Annual Fund Donations for Library Support

Keyne Cheshire; Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE through the auspices of Elena Dodge Corbett); Nita Dawson; Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates; Guillaume Malle; Donald Mook; John Oleson; Jean A. Peyrat; Tareq Ramadan; Bonnie M. Sampson

The Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment

Lawrence T. Geraty; Eugene H. and Janet L. Merrill; Denise Schmandt-Besserat

The Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment

Lawrence T. Geraty; Barry Hamann; Patricia Lipscomb

The Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Endowment

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

The Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment

Edgar and Paula Harrell

Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund

Reem Atalla Habayeb; Sandra R. Smith; Prince Raad bin Zeid

The Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship Endowment

Lawrence T. Geraty

The James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Lawrence T. Geraty

Petra Church Conservation Endowment

Edward Gnehm, Jr.; Reem Atalla Habayeb

Petra Church Conservation Initiative

Stanley Maxwell

TWLCRM Initiative

Jeff Loree

Donations to ACOR Library (January–June 2016)

Peggie Abujaber; Matthew Adams; Nizar Al Adarbeh; Erin Addison; The W.F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research; American Political Science Association (APSA); Betty Anderson; Lina Annab; Muhammad Adnan Bakhit; Karin Bartl; Leigh-Ann Bedal; Eliot Braun; Annemarie Weyl Carr; The Catholic Biblical Association; Geraldine Chatelard; Carol Lea Clark; Marta D'Andrea; Chris Dawson; The Delos Initiative; Department of Antiquities of Jordan; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI); Tali Erikson-Gini; Hala Fattah; Omar Al Ghul; David Graf; Kaelin Groom; Lihi Habas; Ali Nehme Hamdan; Al Hannouneh Magazine; Jihad Haron; Hani Hayajneh; Zeidan Kafafi; Widad Kavar; Morag Kersel; Carroll Kobs; Philippe Lane; Nancy Lapp; Joan Porter MacIver; Momammad Al Malkawi; Joy McCorriston; Katharina Meinecke; Bernd Müller-Neuhof; Zina Kavar Mushawar; Rania Nazzal; Majed Nuseiraat; Randolph B. Old; Ann O'Neill; Gaetano Palumbo; Carmelo Pappalardo; Heather Parker; Layla Pio; Barbara A. Porter; Gary Rollefson; Aseel Sawalha; Robert Schick; Warren Schultz; Seteney Shami; Phillip Silvia; Jaroslav Stetkevych; Richard Talbert; Laurent Tholbecq; Thomas Weber; Noor Ziadat

ACOR Announcement: Development Assistant



In February 2016, Miriam Saleh joined ACOR as the Development Assistant as part of a program to extend our outreach to ACOR's many friends. Please share with her (msaleh@acorjordan.org) your stories about why you support ACOR. She will be integral to the planning for ACOR's 50th anniversary in 2018. Miriam's interesting and diverse experience includes having been the Program Coordinator for the School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies at the University of Arizona, from which she received her B.A. and Master's degree in Public Administration, with a focus on non-profit organizations. In Jordan, she has volunteered for the Collateral Repair Project and had a foreign language and area studies fellowship from CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) for their Intensive Arabic Language Program. Her free time is spent exploring Jordan.

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(for hostel bookings)
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May 2016 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees' annual spring meeting took place at ACOR in Amman on May 19, 2016. ACOR Board President Randolph B. Old presided with H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid who had hosted the previous evening with his wife, H.R.H. Princess Majda, a special gathering to mark the official handover on May 1, 2016 of the USAID ACOR Permanent Endowment. The Board members of the Class of 2016 were re-elected to the Class of 2019 and two new members were nominated to that class: Lina Annab and Jennifer Ramsay. Because of her appointment as Minister of Tourism & Antiquities, H.E. Lina Annab recused herself from serving in early June. ACOR's 50th anniversary in 2018 was a major topic as was ACOR's USAID Cooperative Agreement SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project).

ACOR Trustees

Class of 2017: Mrs. Anne M. Dunn, H.E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr., Dr. Mary Ellen Lane; Dr. David W. McCreery; Mr. Randolph B. Old (President); Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President); Dr. James R. Wiseman (Treasurer)

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Trustee Emeriti: Mr. Artemis A.W. Joukowsky; Mrs. Widad K. Kwar; Prof. Nancy Lapp; H.E. Senator Leila Abdul Hamid Sharaf
Ex officio: Dr. Barbara A. Porter

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