



# NELC news

VOL. 1 • WINTER 2010

IU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

## 2010 EVENTS @IUB

**"Iraq: Personal Perspectives" A Photo Exhibit: Jan. 15–Feb. 12**



Members of the department gathered on Wednesday, Jan. 20, for the opening of this special exhibit at the Marion County Public Library Gallery Space in Indianapolis.

**Laurie Miller** and

**Michael Bevers**, two NELC graduate students, were civilian contractors in Iraq. These photos capture their personal perspectives on the people of Iraq and the daily events that shape their lives. More information: [www.indiana.edu/~nelc/events/photos.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~nelc/events/photos.shtml).

**NELC Celebrates National Poetry Month: Thursdays, April 2010**

In celebration of National Poetry Month, NELC hosts poetry readings together with music and fine arts Thursday evenings in April at the IU Art Museum.

**Graduate Workshops in Arabic Poetry: Dates TBD**

NELC sponsors two workshops, one presented by Professor Akiko Motoyoshi Sumi of Notre Dame University and one with Professor Muhsin Jassim al-Musawi of Columbia University.

Visit [www.indiana.edu/~nelc/events](http://www.indiana.edu/~nelc/events).

**> IUA members:** Read about farmer-soldiers in Afghanistan with IU ties in the January/February 2010 issue of the Indiana Alumni Magazine.



*From the chair*

## Active, productive, and growing

I am very pleased that we are able to share this new edition of *NELC News* with you, especially since we were not able to do so during the past couple of years.

As is evident from the size of this document, the NELC community at Indiana University is healthy, active, productive, and growing. Thanks to Dean **Bennett Bertenthal** and his leadership team at the College of Arts and Sciences, and their continued support for NELC, we have welcomed a number of new faculty members.

Read about professors **Asma Afsaruddin**, in Arabic and Islamic Studies, and **Steve Vinson**, who specializes in the study of ancient Egypt, on page 4. **Kevin Martin** (NELC) and **Sara Scalenghe** (jointly with Department of History), both historians of the modern Middle East, joined us in fall 2008. Adjunct faculty members **David McDonald** (Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology), a specialist in resistance songs in Palestine and the musical traditions of wider Arab Middle East, and Ambassador **Feisal Amin Rasoul Istrabadi**, a visiting professor at the IU Maurer School of Law with an interest in constitution-making and governance in the wider Muslim Middle East are also welcome additions to our growing, productive, and highly visible faculty.

Our faculty members' research activities, publications, and presentations across the globe are amply documented here (see page 3). I specifically congratulate: **Stephen Katz** for his promotion to full professor (2009); **Abdulkader Sinno** for his recognition as a Carnegie Scholar (2009–2011); **John Walbridge** for receiving both a Fulbright fellowship for Turkey and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2007–2009); and **Suzanne Stetkevych** for her National Endowment for the Humanities grant from the American Research Center in Egypt (2008–2009). I am equally proud of our students and their many research and teaching accomplishments both on this campus and other campuses across the country and the world.

Our Arabic Language Instruction Program has grown phenomenally in recent years. We offered six sections of beginning Arabic classes in the fall, and some 200 students are enrolled in Arabic courses this semester. The dedication of professors **Cigdem Balim-Harding** and **Zaineb Istrabadi** in devising and implementing the best curriculum and associate-instructor training with the help of a hardworking team of graduate students cannot be underestimated or adequately appreciated. Look for more details in the next issue of *NELC News*.

With help from graduate student assistants **Aly Spartz**, **John Dechant**, **Kutbettin Kilic**, **Zohra Ismail**, and **Danielle Becknell**, electronic copies of nearly all of the Jwaideh Memorial Lectures and most of the Danner Lectures have been posted online. These are available on the NELC Department Web site (recently redesigned by a team of staff and graduate assistants, led by Professor **Kevin Martin**), and we invite you to utilize this remarkable resource.

**William (Bill) Tilghman** recently assumed the duties of graduate student secretary. And administrative assistant and financial officer, **Elaine Wright**, completed 30 years of service with IU — the last 10 of those years in the NELC Department.

Finally, the NELC Student Organization has initiated some important cultural and educational programming and, as seen on the left, more is planned for the coming months. Please join us and give a hand in fulfilling our valued educational mission.

Our small but growing NELC community continues to strive in these challenging times to train scholars with excellent language skills who can produce objective knowledge and sober analysis about the peoples and cultures of the Middle East. It is my ardent hope that you will join us in supporting this worthy collective effort for years to come. — *M. Nazif Shahrani*



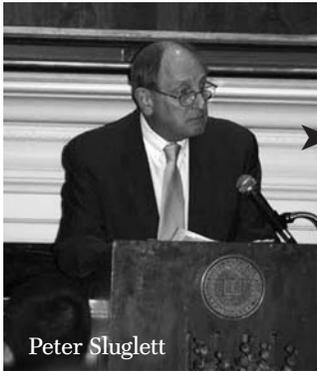
Shahrani

# NELC semester in review

On **Sept. 4**, the NELC Department officially welcomed its new graduate students at a gathering held in Ballantine Hall. Faculty members and seasoned graduate students offered advice and friendship as a new cohort joined the department's ranks.



Freshman orientation



Peter Sluglett

**Oct. 5, 2009**, marked the 8th Annual Wadie Jwaideh Memorial Lecture. Every year, the Jwaideh Memorial Lecture brings leading scholars to discuss aspects of Middle Eastern history, society, religion, or economics. This year we welcomed historian Peter Sluglett, of the University of Utah, who spoke to a large group of students, faculty, and scholars on "Reflections of Historiography of Iraq." His lecture focused on changes and subsequent difficulties in the way historians approach the history of Iraq.

In **fall 2009**, the NELC Department, together with the Turkish Student Union, was honored to have the Hon. Mr. Kenan Ipek, Turkish counsel general, visit the IU campus. Ipek gave a brief talk on Turkey's relationships with other countries, both in the Middle East and beyond, while putting into perspective the role Turkey hopes to play in foreign affairs. He also generously allowed for a question and answer session, which was moderated by Ambassador **Feisal Istrabadi**. The event was a great success and opened up new avenues of conversation about Turkey's proposed role in the European Union and greater regional politics.



NSO Debke dancers



John Walbridge, David Zaret, Hon. Kenan Ipek, Frances Trix, Dean Bennett Bertenthal, Ambassador Feisal Istrabadi, and Cigdem Balim-Harding.

Professor **Nazif Shahrani**, Assistant Professor **Abdulkader Sinno**, and visiting professor Ambassador **Feisal Istrabadi** co-organized an international conference on State-Building in the Contemporary Islamic World: US Interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, during which all three presented papers. This event, held Nov. 13 and 14, was co-hosted by the Indiana Democracy Consortium and funded in part by a \$55,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation. Well-known scholars from various fields discussed the consequences of the interventions, associated problems, and possible solutions for Iraq and Afghanistan. Papers from the conference will be published in a comprehensive volume soon.

## Student organization happenings

### Arabic-English Language Exchange

This year, the NELC Student Organization (NSO) developed a new program called the Arabic-English Language Exchange (AELE). Teaming up with IU's Intensive English Program, the group offered a new outlet for NELC students to practice Arabic while helping IEP students from the Middle East further develop their English. The program has been a great success, attracting both the NELC undergraduate and graduate student body, as well as many IEP students.

NELC Student Organization President **Eve Kuzma** hopes that the program will continue to draw more participants and cement bonds between the IEP students and NELC for years to come.

### Campus-wide events

This semester, the NSO participated in and co-sponsored several different campus-wide events. In particular, the NSO was a main component of the IU Multicultural Mock Wedding, an event celebrating all of the cultures and traditions within the Hoosier community.

We can proudly say that the NSO was the highlight of the program, performing a fun but rigorous version of the Debke. Kuzma hopes that this event is only the first of many programs which will promote the department across the IUB campus.

### NELC Drama Club

Consisting predominantly of students from our advanced Arabic classes, the NELC Drama Club provides opportunities for students to expand their Arabic knowledge and their speaking abilities in a context outside of the classroom. This semester, the club has been working on translating a Tawfiq al-Hakim play titled *Everything in Its Place* from Egyptian Colloquial Arabic into Fusha Arabic. They hope to eventually produce a video of the students acting out the play.

# Faculty accomplishments

**Abdulkader Sinno** is a 2009 Carnegie Scholar. This year, he organized an international conference at Indiana University on Muslims in Western Politics and is the editor of the book *Muslims in Western Politics*. He co-organized another IU conference, State Building in the Contemporary Islamic World: U.S. Intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan, held in November 2009 and funded by the McCormick Foundation. Sinno is now co-editing a related volume and writing two new books on Muslim representation in Western liberal democracies (funded by the Carnegie Award) and another on Islamist parties' participation in elections. In 2009, he spoke at the Sorbonne (Paris), American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Australian National University, University of Venice (Italy), Princeton University, Rutgers University, the United States Congress, and Carnegie Mellon University.

As a professor emeritus, **Salih J. Altoma** continues to publish and influence the field of Arabic literature. Throughout 2009, he worked on a forthcoming book, *Iraq's Modern Arabic Literature: A Guide to English Translations 1950–2008*. He also produced translations of Arabic Literature into English, including "Autumn's Leaves (Leaves of Autumn's Many Seasons)" by Jawdat Fakhreddine, and poems published in the *Edinburgh Review*. He received the Award in Recognition of Lifelong Leadership Accomplishments at the Iraqi Academic Conference, which was hosted by the National Academies in Washington, D.C.

**Stephen Katz** is now a full professor and director of undergraduate studies in the NELC Department. This year, Katz published a book on the representation in Hebrew literature of Native and African Americans, titled *Red, Black, and Jew: New Frontiers in Hebrew Literature*. He also published an article on American Hebraists' responses to the Holocaust, "First Cry: Moshe Ben-Meir's Early Holocaust Poetry of the Un-Passover" in *Hebrew Studies*. Another study, "Ambivalent Embraces: American

Hebraists' Accommodation with Eretz Israel," is forthcoming in *Jewish Quarterly Review*. His translation of "Quinces," a short story by Avshalom Kaveh, will appear in the spring issue of *Zeek*. He also was nominated for the Student Choice Awards Program.

**Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych** spent spring 2009 in Egypt on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant from the American Research Center in Egypt to study the transition from classical to post-classical Arabic poetry as evidenced in the two diwans of the blind 10th-11th century Aleppan poet, Abu al-Ala' al-Ma'arri. While in Cairo, she lectured many times in both Arabic and English. In November, she presented papers at the 2009 Middle East Studies Association meeting in Boston. The Arabic translation of her book, *Abu Tammam and the Poetics of the Abbasid Age*, appeared in late 2008 in cooperation with the Egyptian National Translation Center and was the subject of a panel discussion of the Egyptian Society for Literary Criticism in 2009. *Early Islamic Poetry and Poetics* appeared in fall 2009 as vol. 37 of the Formation of Classical Islam series. Her new book, *The Mantle Odes: Arabic Praise Poems to the Prophet Muhammad*, will be published by Indiana University Press in spring 2010.

**Asma Afsaruddin** recently released *The First Muslims: History and Memory*, as well as an article in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, and a chapter in *Al-Jahiz: a Muslim Humanist for Our Time*. In 2008–2009, Afsaruddin spoke on Islamic religious and political thought at Boston College, George Washington University, Michigan State University, the Merimack College Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, and the international symposium "Rethinking Jihad" held at Edinburgh University, Scotland. She continues as co-editor of the Islam section of *Religion Compass*, an online encyclopedia, and as chair of the board of directors of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy in Washington, D.C. Afsaruddin also helped to launch the Shura Council Project of the Women's Islamic Initia-

tive in Spirituality and Equity (WISE) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Steven Vinson** spent most of 2009 conducting research with a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a forthcoming book, *The Craft of a Good Scribe: Narrative and Meaning in the "First Tale of Setne Khaemwas" and other Ancient Egyptian Literature*. He published articles in three journals and in the University of California at Los Angeles *Encyclopedia of Egyptology*. Another major article which will appear next year in a festschrift for the German Egyptologist Heinz J. Thissen. Vinson also spent several weeks in Egypt in January 2009, photographing ancient graffiti at the Temple of Isis at Philae.

**John Walbridge** returned this fall after two years away on Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships. He spent a year working on medical and philosophical manuscripts in Istanbul, and also did manuscript research in Britain, Holland, and California. His book, *The Caliphate of Reason*, has been accepted by Cambridge University Press. He has also completed editions and translations of three ancient commentaries on Galen in their medieval Arabic translations. He is working on a comprehensive study of the works, biographical data, and manuscripts of the Neoplatonic philosopher Suhrawardi and his early followers.

**M. Nazif Shahrani** published a policy paper and delivered the keynote address at the symposium Beyond the State-Local Politics in Afghanistan, in Bonn, Germany, at the Center for Development Research. Shahrani also participated in the Fulbright-Hays 50th Anniversary Global Symposium and in conferences worldwide, traveling to Kabul, Afghanistan; Istanbul, Turkey; and Canberra, Australia. At IU, Shahrani co-organized the international conference on State-Building in the Contemporary Islamic World: U.S. Intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a member of the board of trustees of American University of Afghanistan and is regularly interviewed by national and international media about the war on terror and the resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan.



Altoma



Katz



Shahrani



Sinno



Stetkevych

## Meet new faculty member Asma Afsaruddin



**Zohra Ismail (Z):** *You've written on such wide-ranging subjects as leadership issues, gender, the early Muslims (al-salaf al-salih), meanings of jihad, and education in the Muslim world. What factors have contributed to your choices of scholarly subjects?*

**Professor Asma Afsaruddin:** I am interested in some of the key issues that have shaped Muslim societies and sensibilities through the centuries and that still have a bearing on critical debates in the contemporary period. Early Muslim discussions concerning legitimate leadership and nature of political governance are highly relevant to today's debates among many Muslim groups as to what an "Islamic state" or an "Islamic government" should look like. Early history informs us that there are no easy, absolute answers to such questions because governance was a fluid concept, determined more by pragmatic, historical considerations than any assumed scriptural imperative.

The same holds true for the study of gender, conceptualizations of jihad, and understandings of religious law. ... I am particularly concerned with revealing the internal, rich diversity of the Islamic tradition that opens up opportunities for Muslims today to creatively embrace their heritage in order to more effectively engage modernity.

“We have an enormously important role to play. We are training our students to become proficient in Arabic and other key languages of the Middle East and to be scholars of the Middle East and the Islamic world.”

**Z:** *Who are the people you count as influential in shaping your interests and intellectual pursuits?*

**A:** Professors I studied with as a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University have certainly exercised a considerable measure of influence in the early phase of my career. My *Doctor Vater*, Professor Georg Krotkoff, introduced me to the pleasures of the famous medieval belletrist al-Jahiz's writings and Professor Majid Khadduri, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, fostered an interest in me in Islamic law and thought. Since graduate school, other colleagues and students have stimulated me in many different ways. The tragic, violent events of Sept. 11 were also critical in defining my current research interests.

**Z:** *What are your current research projects?*

**A:** I am trying hard to finish up a book manuscript on

jihad and martyrdom in Islamic thought and practice, which is a historical investigation into the various ways Muslim thinkers and scholars have conceptualized jihad and martyrdom from the first century of Islam till today. It's a rather tall order which is why I probably will never finish the book! I've learned quite a bit about the checkered past of these two terms, which I'm eager to share with a broader audience.

I'm also researching another book, titled *Contemporary Issues in Islam*, which will deal with a wide array of topics: Islamic modernism, Muslims in the west, war and peace in Islam, gender, and political governance, among others. Focused on the modern period, the book discusses how contemporary Muslims are grappling with issues such as "what are the repercussions of this massive soul-searching that is underway in many Muslim-majority societies." The book will be a challenge. This is why I am greatly looking forward to writing it; it will allow me to reflect on a number of hot-button topics that professional pundits deal with very superficially.

**Z:** *What drew you to work at Indiana University Bloomington?*

**A:** I came to IUB because of the well-established Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures with a graduate program that takes Arabic and Islamic studies seriously. At the University of Notre Dame, where I taught for the past 13 years, I was in a classics department where Arabic and Islamic studies had to play second fiddle to Latin and Greek. It was also primarily an undergraduate program. Here, there is more potential, and the administration seems genuinely committed to seeing the department flourish and be prominent at IU and beyond.

**Z:** *What is the contribution a department such as NELC can make to the wider discussions about Islam in this country and beyond?*

**A:** We have an enormously important role to play. First of all, we are training our students to become proficient in Arabic and other key languages of the Middle East and to be scholars of the Middle East and the Islamic world. When they graduate, they will take with them a holistic and learned perspective on the history, culture, religion, and politics of the region as they pursue careers in academia, government, business, and journalism, among others. Through our own writings and public speaking we can challenge many erroneous assumptions about the Middle East and the Islamic world and contribute to the education of a broader public.

# An underwater archaeologist turned Egyptologist

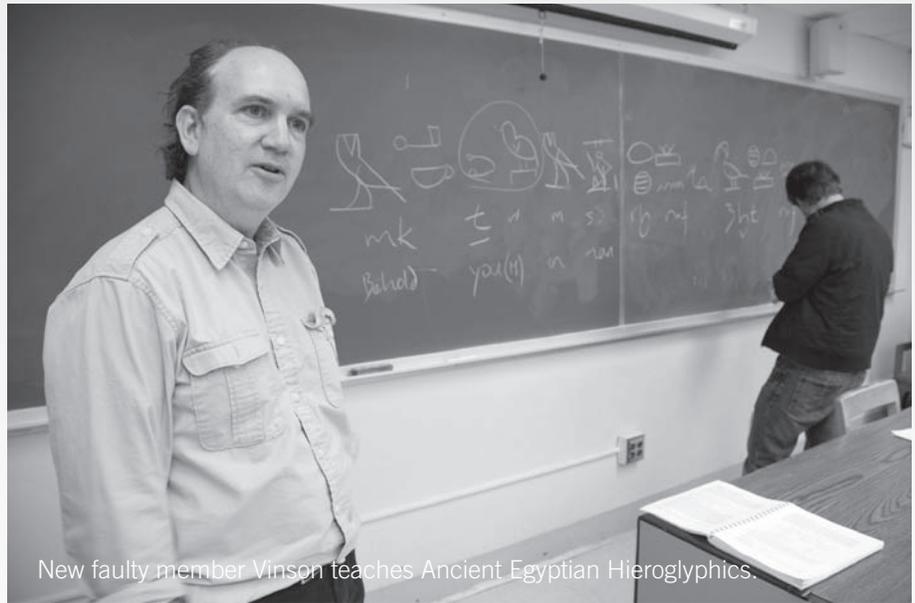
## Getting to know Associate Professor Steven Vinson

*Zohra Ismail: You have recently joined the department. What are your initial impressions in terms of the where this move fits into your larger career?*

**Steven Vinson:** I'm very pleased to be here at IU. This is the first time I've had the opportunity to teach a full program on ancient Egypt, and so I'm looking forward to building a constituency for those courses here. I hope that I can get a cohort of NELC undergraduates who are interested in doing an Egyptology track, and I'd like to offer an MA option as well. Of course IU is a great research university as well.

*Z: Tell us about the evolution of your interest in ancient Egyptology. Your educational background has ranged from journalism to underwater archaeology to Egyptology. What were some of your more unexpected intellectual discoveries along the way?*

**S:** I was always interested in the ancient world and wanted to be an archaeologist when I was a boy. But by the time I was in high school I realized that to be an archaeologist, you needed a PhD, and that meant staying in college for a very long time. I also was interested in writing and in cur-



New faculty member Vinson teaches Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Garrett Hansen/IU College of Arts & Sciences

rent events and politics, so journalism was a natural college major.

But, by the time I was a senior, I was unsatisfied. ... I started thinking I should have pursued archaeology or history anyway, but I also didn't want to delay my graduation, so I finished and looked for a newspaper job.

Then, I remember seeing a *National Geographic* special on underwater archaeology, and was amazed to learn that there was a program in this at Texas A&M Uni-

versity. So after a year working for a small local newspaper in a town near Houston, I applied for the Texas A&M Underwater Archaeology Program. I wound up especially attracted to Egypt. After doing a couple of seminar papers on Egyptian topics, I did my MA thesis on boats of Egypt in the Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods, or around 5000–2850 BCE. After this, it seemed natural to keep going and to apply to Egyptology graduate programs.

(continued on page 6)

## Catching up with Professor John Walbridge

John Walbridge and his wife — Frances Trix, a joint professor in the IU departments of anthropology and linguistics — spent fall 2009 on sabbatical leave in Istanbul, Turkey, adding to work done there on Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships.

**John Dechant:** *What specific research were you doing in Istanbul?*

**W:** There were three projects. One had to do with Galen in Arabic, and for that I basically ended up finishing an edition of three late antique study guides to works of Galen that were used in the standard medical curriculum — early Islamic physicians read the same text books as the late Greek physicians. I finished that.

Then I did two other things: I gave a series of lectures at İSAM (İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi, the “Center for Islamic Studies”) on the role of reason in Islamic intellectual history. That drew together some things that I have been working on off-and-on for quite a while into a book that will soon be released by Cambridge University Press.

I also did work on the area of Suhrawardi and the Illuminationists' School. I've been working on a cyclo-bibliographical study of Suhrawardi's works, and the works of his early followers — commentaries and so forth — and particularly the manuscripts of them which have been very imperfectly known.

Somebody did a study of these things about 70 years ago in Turkey, but the situation is still very confused: editions are published using inferior manuscripts, sort of misidentified manuscripts, lots of works where authenticity is unclear, and a lot more manuscripts available than have ever been systematically surveyed. So I looked at all of the manuscripts at the school in Istanbul, apart from some in a couple of libraries that have been closed for renovation for some time. I also went and looked at similar things in Los Angeles and London, and in Oxford, Cambridge, and Leiden, England.

**D:** *On the same sabbatical?*

**W:** Same sabbatical. So, I've looked at maybe 400 manuscripts of works of this school.

**D:** *What were the Turks you knew saying about politics?*

**W:** People weren't mostly talking about politics. What I saw when

(continued on page 6)

## Conversations: Q&A with NELC professors

### Walbridge

(continued from page 5)

I was working at İSAM, which is sort of semi-governmental, was how my colleagues were rather frustrated because they came out of the religious schools and were relatively restricted in their academic opportunities. So, they tended to be sympathizers with the AK party, and were annoyed with things like whether girls could wear headscarves, which struck them as basic issues of human rights.

D: Were you still in Turkey for the American presidential election?

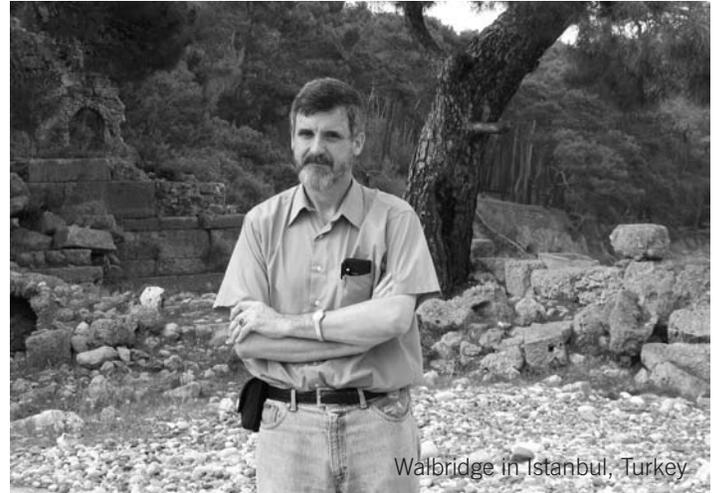
W: We were in Turkey at that time.

D: What was the Turkish reaction to the Obama victory?

W: Enthusiasm. We were Obama people, so when he won, we took sweets to work and received congratulations. People would tell us his name was Persian for “he is with us.” Bush was very problematic in terms of the Turks, they saw him as sort of blubbering around and starting fights in somebody else’s neighborhood. There were certain informal surveys in Turkey and they were 90 percent Obama, 10 percent McCain.

D: Did you find it easy to do research in Istanbul?

W: I have nothing but praise for the Turks and how they handle manuscripts. The manuscript collections are superb and accessible, well managed, and some of these collections are 400 years or more



old, and they’ve been meticulously maintained over a period of centuries.

Everything in the Süleymaniye — which is the main Istanbul collection — is digitized, and large portions of the collections in other parts of the country are digitized. I spent a lot of time working at İSAM, which has put together a superb research library for Islamic studies. ... Albert Hourani’s books are there, for instance, along with the collections of many major Turkish scholars.

### Vinson

(continued from page 5)

Z: Tell us about your current research projects on Demotic graffiti and “First Tale of Setne Khaemwas.”

S: I’m interested in Demotic, which is the script and language of Egypt from around 650 BCE on to the end of the traditional Egyptian culture in the 5th century CE. Demotic is a cursive script that is ultimately derived from hieroglyphs, and it’s used to write a late, vernacular stage of the ancient Egyptian language.

The Valley of the Kings graffiti I’m interested in is written in Demotic, and it is a record of people who visited the tombs around 700 years after the original royal burials had taken place. ... The graffiti shows that Egyptians in this period were curious about these tombs just like modern people. But it seems they attached at least some religious significance to the tombs. ...

I’m also interested in literature written in Demotic. The “First Tale of Setne Khaemwas” is a ghost story, written down around 300 BCE, and it is very interesting because of its unusually active female characters, one of whom is very maternal and protective, and the other of whom is dangerous and seductive. When this story was first discovered

and translated in the 1860s, it made quite an impression on people who were interested in Egyptian culture, and a number of popular adaptations of the story were produced.

Some were direct paraphrases, but others were looser adaptations — most famous is the 1932 film *Mummy*, starring Boris Karloff.

Z: What reaction do you elicit when you tell people you’re an Egyptologist?

S: People are usually interested in Egyptology. ... Sometimes people will ask me about ancient Egyptian evidence for the existence of Moses or the Exodus — and I have to tell them that there really isn’t any. I’m interested in some of the “New Age” theories of Egypt, that involve the belief that Egypt was a source of some sort of ancient mystical wisdom. The other day I got an e-mail from some Greek guy who is planning a conference on what he claims to be a continuous folk tradition in Macedonia ... , which are somehow based on ancient Egyptian rituals. I love that kind of stuff, and it’s what I focus on in my “Egyptomania” class.

Z: What are the connections that you see between ancient and contemporary Egypt, ancient and contemporary Near East?

S: I’m of course interested in how modern Egyptians see themselves in relation to the ancient past, but I don’t speak or read

Arabic, and so I haven’t had the ability to turn that into a real focus of my research.

There have been some plausible observations that various aspects of village life in modern, rural Egypt are survivals from antiquity, especially customs involving childbirth. Some claims are more difficult to be sure of.

One common claim is that some aspects of a famous *moulid* in Luxor — which partly involves a procession in which people carry large model boats around the Luxor Temple — might be a direct survival of an ancient Egyptian festival at that site. As far as I know, however, there’s no evidence that this was ever observed before the 19th century.

It seems to me that the boat processions in the *moulid* might be something that was put on for tourists, after the reliefs that are on the temple walls showing the boat procession were exposed. But again, not knowing Arabic, I’ve got no way to read any early, Arabic-language accounts of the *moulid*, which might throw some light on the question.

The only class I teach in which this kind of thing comes up is “Egyptomania,” and now that we’ve got NELC majors taking my classes, I’m encouraging them to base their term papers on Arabic sources. I had one student this fall who wrote about modern Egyptian nationalism and ancient Egypt.

# Class notes

To submit information: Write to the IU Alumni Association at 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408, or visit the IUAA on the Web at [alumni.indiana.edu/classnotes](http://alumni.indiana.edu/classnotes).

## 1960s

**William H. Nienhauser Jr.**, BA'67, MA'68, PhD'72, is the editor of *The Grand Scribe's Records: Volume III: The Memoirs of Han China, Part I*, published by Indiana University Press. Nienhauser is Halls-Bascom Professor of Classical Chinese Literature at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He lives in Madison.

## 1970s

**Scott R. Bowers**, BA'72, has retired as a Vanderburgh County (Ind.) Superior Court judge after serving four separate six-year terms beginning in 1984. He now serves as a senior judge for Vanderburgh Superior Court. Bowers lives in Evansville.

**Terry Cohen Hendin**, BA'73, received an honorary doctorate in Jewish communal service from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in October 2001. She has served as IU's official Jerusalem host for students studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 1999.

**Miriam “Mimi” Morris**, BA'73, MLS'74, is the assistant director for branch and extension services for the Dayton (Ohio) Metro Library. Her husband, Theodore, BA'74, MLS'78, has retired as a library professor at Kent State University's Columbus campus. Morris's daughter, Penny, is teaching English for a year in Bordeaux, France, before beginning graduate school. A second daughter, Amy, is in her last year of veterinary school at Ohio State University. Morris lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## 1990s

**Kathryn L. Schnippel Bistline**, BA'97, currently works as the NGO program manager for Right to Care, a South African NGO with the goal of improving access to and quality of HIV and TB testing, care, and treatment. Previously, Bistline worked for Habitat for Humanity in South Africa and with Habitat's Middle East and

East Africa regions. Bistline lives in Johannesburg with her two sons — Marcus, age 3, and Christopher, age 10 months — and husband, Chris, BA'97.

**Adam S. Tennen**, BA'99, is the assistant campaign director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix.

**Adee M. Weismark**, BA'99, lives in Atlanta with his wife, Ilana, and two children, Kinneret and Amishai. The couple is expecting a third child in April. Weismark owns a pressure washing and lawn care company. He can be contacted at [adeeweismark@gmail.com](mailto:adeeweismark@gmail.com).

## 2000s

**Tim Jon Semmerling**, PhD'00, is an author and attorney. His book, *“Evil” Arabs in American Popular Film: Orientalist Fear*, was published in 2006 by the University of Texas Press. Semmerling's argument in the book is based on close readings of six films, *The Exorcist*, *Rollover*, *Black Sunday*, *Three Kings*, *Rules of Engagement*, and *South Park: Bigger, Longer, & Uncut*, as well as CNN's Sept. 11 documentary *America Remembers*. A former Sullivan Human Rights Fellow at DePaul College of Law in Chicago, Semmerling is also the author of *Israeli and Palestinian Postcards: Presentations of National Self*, published in 2004.

**Samer M. Ali**, PhD'02, is an associate professor of Arabic literature at the University of Texas at Austin Department of Middle Eastern Studies. He was awarded

a Fulbright Regional Scholar Grant to conduct research in Egypt and Kuwait during the 2009–2010 academic year, for a book project titled *The Medieval Arabo-Islamic Public Sphere*. He is a member of the editorial board for the *MLA Texts and Translations Series* and moderator of the *Cairo Scholars List*, a listserv to support scholars and students working in Cairo, Egypt.

**Jennifer L. Micon**, BA'02, is an assistant principal at Officer Donald J. Marquez School, a Chicago charter school serving Latino neighborhoods. Micon lives in Chicago.

**E. Timothy DeLaney**, BA'03, JD'06, is an associate in the Indianapolis office of the law firm Barnes & Thornburg. He is a member of the firm's litigation department focusing his practice on complex commercial, real estate, and administrative matters. DeLaney also serves on the board of Exodus Refugee Immigration, a not-for-profit organization that assists refugees resettling in Indianapolis.

Through May 2010, **Nathaniel Miller**, MA'05, is studying at American University in Cairo's CASA program May 2010. He writes, “It's a fantastic payoff to engage seriously with Egyptian society and Arabic literature after years of struggling with the language. My main interest is Arabic poetry, and I'm applying for PhD programs next year.”

**Nadia S. Chaudhry**, BS'07, is currently beginning her second

year of studies at the Medical University of the Americas, located in Charlestown, Nevis, in the West Indies. She previously worked as a medical assistant in the offices of Drs. Thaker and Brahmabhatt in Jeffersonville, Ind., prior to pursuing a career in medicine. Chaudhry is originally from New Albany, Ind., and can be reached at [nadia.s.chaudhry@gmail.com](mailto:nadia.s.chaudhry@gmail.com).

**Ozair M. Shariff**, BA'07, writes, “I recently completed my commitment with Teach for America–St. Louis where I taught literature to high-school special-needs students. I returned to Bloomington [in August] as a first-year law student at the Maurer School of Law.” Shariff expects to graduate in 2012.

**Andrew W. Burton**, BA'08, of New Albany, Ind., writes, “I am currently living in Washington, D.C., working as an intern for the Republican staff of the Committee on Homeland Security. In addition, I am currently searching for a full-time entry-level position in the Washington, D.C., area.”

Navy Seaman **Andrew D. Flueckiger**, BA'09, of Geneva, Ind., has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program he completed a wide range of training, including classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

## GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

**Anan Habeeb** teaches beginning and intermediate Arabic at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind.

**Christopher Anzalone** was admitted to McGill University's Institute for Islamic Studies for doctoral studies. He also recently wrote a number of articles for several academic encyclopedias and was a contributing writer for a forthcoming report from the Pew Research Center on transnational Islam and Muslim communities in Europe, about jihadi movements and radical networks in European Muslim Communities.

**MESA attendees:** A number of out NELC graduate students offered papers on a variety of topics at MESA in Boston this November. Presenters included: Huda Fakhreddine, Mishari al-Musa, Ahmad al-Mallah, and Hassan Lachheb.

Update your record,  
stay informed, and  
help IU go green.

Giving IU your e-mail  
address saves paper, printing,  
postage, and other resources.

Visit [alumni.iu.edu](http://alumni.iu.edu) and click  
"Update your profile."



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center  
1000 East 17th Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47408-1521

Nonprofit Org.  
Postage  
PAID  
Indiana University  
Alumni Association

### NELC Alumni: What's new with you?

*The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Updates are used as class notes and help keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. Attach additional pages if necessary. Mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266. To update online, visit <http://alumni.indiana.edu/directory>.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Univ. ID # (PeopleSoft) or last four digits of SS # \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business title \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Company address \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home page URL \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.

Mailing address preference:  Home  Business

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about IU Alumni Association membership.

IUAA membership is now 80 percent tax deductible. It includes membership in the IU College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association and in your local alumni chapter.

**To join:** Go to [www.alumni.indiana.edu](http://www.alumni.indiana.edu) or call (800) 824-3044.

Connect! Search "IUALUMNI"  
on Facebook and Twitter.



This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to [iualumni@indiana.edu](mailto:iualumni@indiana.edu).

**NELC Department**  
Chair.....M. Nazif Shahrani  
Editor.....Aly Spartz

**College of Arts & Sciences**  
Dean..... Bennett Bertenthal  
Assistant Dean for  
Advancement.....Tom Recker  
Director of  
Alumni Programs.....Marsha Minton

**IU Alumni Association**  
President/CEO.....Tom Martz  
Senior Director, Constituencies  
& Affiliate Groups..... Nicki Bland  
Editor, Constituent  
Periodicals.....Sarah Preuschl Anderson  
Class Notes.....Bill Elliott

**COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington