Message from the Chair

With the end of the spring term fast approaching, it has been another busy month in NMC, with a full slate of lectures, symposia and workshops, and more still to come before the academic year winds down. I would like particularly to highlight the Institute of Islamic Studies’ inaugural graduate lunch and roundtable discussion on April 4th. The event will mark the launch of the new institute, and provide an opportunity for students to meet faculty and their student peers engaged in Islamic studies across the University’s three campuses.

We celebrate the publication of the latest issue of the NMCSU’s Undergraduate Journal of Middle Eastern Studies. The volume, their seventh, reflects the remarkable disciplinary range of our undergraduate program, and the high academic standards of our students. They are to be congratulated for producing such a quality scholarly publication.

We also mourn the loss of one of our own, Tim Mullin, a student of Aramaic and Syriac, who passed away tragically this past month.

CRANE Workshop

Read more on page 2...

Left to right: Steve Batiuk, Dominique Langis-Barsetti, Kevin D. Fisher, and Zachary Batist.
Recent Events

University of Toronto Open House 2014

On March 13, Hart House hosted the annual UofT Open House that provides prospective students with the opportunity to meet representatives from various departments of the university and inquire about their study programs and research facilities. NMC was represented by (left to right) Megan Tate (Acting Undergraduate Administrator), Nasrin Ghafoori (President of the Undergraduate Students’ Union), and Stanley Klassen (Archaeology Lab Manager).

Our stall was well visited by high school students interested in pursuing studies in our department.

CRANE Workshop

On Friday March 21, CRANE held their annual workshop devoted to the latest research being undertaken by CRANE project collaborators over the past year. Papers were also presented by NMC students, including Steve Edwards, Darren Joblonkay, Dominique Langis-Barsetti, and Rasha Elendari.

Photo (left to right): Andrea Berlin and Shua Kisilevitz.

Obituary

Timothy Mullin, a first year NMC MA student, who was studying Aramaic and Classical Syriac, passed away on vacation. His peers and teachers describe Tim as both a wonderful person and an exceptional student. He knew Greek and Latin, was trained in linguistics, and he was a student of Biblical History. Tim was 46 years old. We extend our deepest sympathies to Tim’s family and friends on this tragic loss.

To sign Tim’s Book of Condolences go to: www.glendale-can.com

For the latest news, and full list of lectures and events in NMC, please visit our website: www.nmc.utoronto.ca
New NMC PhD

Congratulations to Krzysztof J. Baranowski, who successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on March 7, 2014, written under the supervision of Professor Paul-Alain Beaulieu, and entitled "The Verb in the Amarna Letters from Canaan." This corpus of cuneiform documents date back to the fourteenth century B.C.E., and were addressed to the Pharaoh by Canaanite rulers. Krzysztof's dissertation focuses on the nature of the linguistic system of the letters and on their verbal system, its morphology and semantics.

Upcoming Events

The Foundation for Iranian Studies 2014 Nowruz Lecture

Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Foundation for Iranian Studies present “Anglo-Persian Taxonomies of Indian Religions”, a lecture by Carl W. Ernst.

Friday, March 28, NMC Department, 4 Bancroft Avenue, Bancroft Hall 200 B, 4:00 pm

Prof. Ernst is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Islamic Studies at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also the director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations. His recent book, Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World (UNC Press, 2003), has received several international awards, including the 2004 Bashrahi Prize for Outstanding Cultural Achievement.

The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) 2014 Annual Meeting

April 4-6, at the Hilton Portland and the Executive Tower Hotel, Portland, Oregon

The ARCE’s 65th annual meeting and conference will take place in Portland. NMC will be represented by Professors Mary Ann Pouls Wegner, who will give a talk on the Toronto Abydos Votive Zone Project, and Katja Goebs, who will present on Cognitive Functions and Correspondences of Egyptian Myths. NMC post-doctoral fellow Christina Geisen will speak about her Analysis of Basilophoric Personal Names from the Old and Middle Kingdoms. NMC PhD candidates, Meredith Brand, will present on Cooking Pottery in the Old Kingdom, and Amber Hutchinson on Eighteenth Dynasty Provincial Cult Temples at Abydos and Elephantine.
The Inaugural
INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
Graduate Lunch and Symposium

The Institute cordially invites you to attend an inaugural lunch and roundtable discussion for graduate students at the University of Toronto who are interested in the Islamic world and the Middle East organized by the new Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS). The purpose of this meeting is to introduce to you to the newly created Institute and to solicit your participation and feedback for upcoming events and activities.

Friday, April 4, 2014, NMC Conference Room 200B, 4 Bancroft Avenue, 12:30 - 3:00 pm

This is a first step in generating a university-wide collaborative network among faculty and graduate students specializing in Middle East and Islamic studies at the University of Toronto that aims to place graduate students at the centre of its concerns. We hope that graduate students will get to know each other and benefit from one another’s research and experiences through the IIS. We are looking forward to meeting you and introducing you to the Institute of Islamic Studies. Activities such as reading groups, graduate conferences, and dissertation-related workshops are just some of the activities the IIS is willing to help fund.

Next year, we will be initiating an Ontario-wide association for students and faculty interested in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, tentatively entitled The Middle Eastern and Islamic Consortium of Ontario (MEIC-ON). Our aim in creating MEIC-ON is to harness and promote the network of specialists and graduate students in Ontario specializing in Islamic Studies and the Middle East by:

(1) Sharing our abundance of resources and talent;

(2) Acting as a forum for Canadian scholars and students seeking to workshop and present their research;

(3) Raising the profile of the University of Toronto in general and the study of Islam and the Middle East in Ontario in particular.

Following the lunch, we will hold a roundtable on contemporary Islamic and Middle Eastern issues informed by the current research of selected faculty, including: professors Walid Saleh (NMC/IIS), Jim Reilly (NMC/History), Jens Hanssen (NMC/History), Paul Kingston (Political Science/CCDS), Amira Mittermaier (NMC/Religion) and Bob Brym (tentative) (Sociology).

Graduate students interested in further involvement may apply for graduate associates positions.

We are very eager to meet you and look forward to your active participation.

Please RSVP through the website (http://mattgordner.wix.com/iisgradinvite) or registration page (http://iislunch.eventbrite.ca).
The 24th Annual Forward into the Past Conference

April 5, Bricker Academic Building, Wilfrid Laurier University, Bricker St., Waterloo, Ontario, start at 9 am

The Forward into the Past is a one day symposium organized by the FITP Committee and the WLU Archaeology Society. It welcomes speakers from a broad range of historical topics including the arts and crafts practiced by various cultures, history of particular regions, cultures, or times, and where feasible, allows this learning to be conducted in a hands-on environment. An open-format day, Forward Into The Past is designed to allow academics, experimental archaeologists, members of the public, and members of various historical re-enactment and recreation groups to gather and explore history.

For more information visit: http://www.fitp.ca/call.php

Canadian Society for Coptic Studies Lecture

The CSCS presents “The Afterlife of Ankh”, a public lecture by Mariam Ayad (Associate Professor of Egyptology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Egyptology (SAPE) at the American University in Cairo, Egypt).

Wednesday, April 9, 5 Bancroft Avenue, Earth Sciences Building, Room B142, 7-9 pm

The lecture will examine the ways in which the ankh-symbol, or ‘key of Life,’ was viewed by the early Christians of Egypt. The lecture will trace the development and evolution of the use of the ankh from symbolizing life to the Ancient Egyptians, to its erasure by the early Christians as a pagan symbol, and finally its incorporation in Coptic iconography as a special form of the cross.

For more information contact: cscs@utoronto.ca

Scrollery Colloquium

McMAster University and NMC invite all to the annual Scrollery Colloquium.

Thursday, April 10, McMaster University Hall 122, from 3 pm

The colloquium was started four years ago as a collaborative venture between UofT and McMaster University, with the intention of fostering both Qumran scholarship in southern Ontario and the ties between out two institutions. The program includes research reviews from various faculty members working with the Scrolls, as well as two student presentations.
Announcements

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities - Call for Lecturers

The Toronto Chapter of the SSEA invites graduate students to submit proposals for lectures to be given during our 2014-2015 Lecture Series (September - April). All lectures will take place on the St. George Campus of the University of Toronto. Lecturers receive a $100 honorarium. Interested students should send a title and brief abstract of their proposed lecture to Christina Geisen at christina.geisen@gmail.com. Only proposals submitted in electronic format [i.e. via email] will be considered. The deadline for submission is April 1st, 2014.

In addition, the SSEA Toronto and Montreal Chapters started a new cooperation this past academic year, and will be conducting a student speaker exchange. A graduate student from Toronto will speak in Montreal, and a graduate student from Montreal will speak in Toronto, with the travel expenses covered by the respective chapters. If you are interested in this exchange and would like to be considered as the student speaking in Montreal, please indicate this on your application.

NMC Students Launch "Ancient Egypt Alive!"

Feeling inspired about the study of Egyptology and wanting to spread their passion and knowledge, **Thomas H. Greiner** (PhD student at NMC) and **Laura Ranieri** (graduate student at NMC) decided to form a vibrant new society they are calling "Ancient Egypt Alive!" in late 2013.

After a successful Ancient Egypt Temples seminar last fall on the Danforth and a small tour to Niagara with ROM’s Egyptologist Gayle Gibson, they are gathering momentum and have just launched officially with a new website - and an exciting event planned for May 1 at the Arts and Letters Club on the timely topic of "looting".

"There are some wonderful associations that do a great job at presenting scholarly knowledge, but our aim is a little different and quite complimentary,” says Greiner. "We hope to reach out more to the general public who are less interested in the academia and more intrigued at a laymen's level in the history, culture and current state of the sites in Egypt today."

Next Event: **“Looting in Egypt, Then and Now - Robbery, Re-use, and Recycling from Antiquity to Today.”**

It will feature (by Skype) award-winning cultural protection crusader and Egyptologist, **Dr. Monica Hanna**, who will shed light on the recent devastation and crime at Egypt’s archaeological sites and reflect on the history of looting in antiquity. The event will also draw compelling parallels with the long history of robbery and re-use in ancient times.

May 1, 2014, the Arts and Letters Club, 15 Elm Street (downtown Toronto), 7-10 pm

Employment Opportunities and Scholarships

Summer 2014 Jobs

**Sessional Lecturer** for the Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations I: Land of the Pharaohs (NMC101H1F).

**Teaching Assistant** for the Introductory Standard Arabic (NML110Y1Y).

Applications are due by Friday, **April 11, 2014**.

Assistant Professor Position

The Department invites applications for a three-year, limited-term appointment in Ancient Near Eastern History. The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor, and will begin on July 1, 2014.

The successful candidate will have a PhD by July 1, 2014, will have teaching responsibilities at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and demonstrate excellence in teaching and research. The Department is seeking a scholar who will contribute to its offerings in Ancient Near Eastern Studies with a specialization in the study and teaching of cuneiform sources (Akkadian and Sumerian).

The review of applications will begin on **May 1, 2014**.

For full job descriptions go to: [http://nmc.utoronto.ca/jobs/](http://nmc.utoronto.ca/jobs/)

Fellowships

**Jackman Humanities Institute Undergraduate Fellowships, 2014-2015**

We are seeking a small number of advanced undergraduates who propose to conduct research on a topic in the humanities related to our annual theme, Humour, Play, and Games.

The Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) annually hosts an intergenerational community of fellows, each pursuing independent research for an academic year while in residence at JHI. The fellows are linked by a theme, and they participate in a set of common activities, including weekly lunch seminars and other workshops and lectures.

Each undergraduate fellow will be provided with a $1,000 scholarship, and if necessary, limited funds for research travel.

Applications are due **April 8, 2014**.

**Chancellor Jackman Graduate Student Fellowships in the Humanities, 2014-2015**

The JHI welcomes nominations from Humanities Departments and Ph.D. granting Centres and Institutes for four Graduate Fellows for the 2014-2015 year. Each unit may nominate up to two candidates.

The Fellowship is normally $8,500 in stipend relief and an additional top up of $2,500 beyond the graduate funding package. Fellows will be in the final year of the funded cohort.

Applications are due **April 15, 2014**.

**The Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts, 2014-2015**

The JHI Program for the Arts supports a range of events from small (up to $3,000) to larger (up to $10,000) designed to enhance, improve and raise the profile of the Arts at the University.

Activities may include visitors, lecture series, symposia, artist in residence or other imaginative and arts initiatives, which will serve to foster the work of the JHI and to represent the leading scholarship of the humanities at the UofT. Each year there will be a priority for at least one event that engages the wider public. In addition, we especially seek proposals for an Artist in Residence including a public event, workshops on multiple campuses, some teaching, and arrangements for accommodation. The Program gives priority to activities that range across multiple units and across more than one campus.

Applications are due **April 15, 2014**.

For detailed information visit: [www.humanities.utoronto.ca](http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca).

Questions? Please contact Acting Director Pamela Klassen at **JHI.Director@utoronto.ca**.
Spotlight on Research and Publications

Bharat Punjabi is a visiting doctoral fellow from the Department of Geography at Western University. He has a background in economics (BA, MA, Bombay) and a Master’s degree in social anthropology from York University. His current doctoral research investigates contemporary regional water politics between the city of Mumbai and its agricultural hinterland, specifically on the intra-rural and urban-rural conflict over water as sub-narratives within a focus on the broader regional water politics and sustainability in the region.

He has taught a course on the Middle East at the Centre for Global Studies at Huron University College in London, Ontario, and is particularly interested in the interconnections between the Middle East and South Asia.

Hanan Taha is a visiting scholar from Cairo University where she works as a Lecturer in the Egyptology department. Taha completed her doctoral degree in Egyptology at Cairo University in 2001 with a dissertation on “The Hall of Ht-wcbt, Ht-ihy [K], and two halls in southern crypt (1), Ht, wcbt [D] and Ht-ihy [E], in Dendera Temple.” As a Lecturer she focuses on the study of languages and has taught courses on Middle and Late Egyptian Hieroglyphic, Ancient Egyptian Language in the Greco-Roman Period, Coptic language and grammar text as well as Introduction to Egyptology in the Conservation Department.

New Edition of the Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies

NMC is pleased to announce the publication of the seventh edition of the annual Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies. This year the Journal celebrates its tenth anniversary. Since its inception in 2004, the Journal has offered undergraduate students the opportunity to voice their opinions on a variety of topics related to the Middle East, and to publish their research essays.

In this issue Jennifer Green analyzes ancient Egyptian Letters to the Dead, Emily Hotton explores Perspectives on Women in Male-dominated Ancient Egyptian Literature, and Felipe Gonzales-Macqueen traces Egypt’s Trade Relations with Near East during the Naqada Period. Carissa Beata contributes an essay on Neorealism and the Bombing of the Osirak Reactor, Ayse Jamal discusses The Transformation of Political Islam in Turkey, Shahryar Pasan-dideh debates the Ottoman Search for Security, and D. Reid Dobell analyzes British Decision Making during the Suez Crisis.

A downloadable version of the Journal is available on the NMC website: http://nmc.utoronto.ca/undergraduate-journal-of-middle-east-studies/

We hope you enjoy reading it.
Please support the Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations!

Please go online to donate.utoronto.ca/nmc or send your donation to the Faculty of Arts & Science, Attn: Heather McLean, 100 St. George Street, Suite 2032, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3. For more information contact heather.mclean@utoronto.ca or 416.978.4179.

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