

NELC NEWS

LETTER FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

As this *Newsletter* makes clear, 2016–17 was an excellent year for the Department. Three outstanding undergraduates, all Phi Beta Kappa, including the winner of the Warren Memorial Prize. Two outstanding NELC PhDs, including the winner of the Horwitz Prize. And NELC faculty and postdocs, through excavation, publication, and instruction, continuing to keep this Department at the forefront of teaching and research on the Near East. With a growing number of majors, six incoming graduate students, new researchers, and two new senior faculty all joining NELC this Fall, 2017-18 is poised to have be a banner year too. After all, few universities in the world can boast a department that teaches both Ottoman Turkish and Sumerian (yes... that is an allusion to *Wonder Woman*). Come visit us on the third floor of HGS: the department administrator (Arturo) and I (Dr T.) can tell you more about what makes NELC wonder-ful.

—Shawkat M. Toorawa

PROFESSOR KEVIN VAN BLADEL



NELC is delighted to announce that Kevin van Bladel, a specialist in Arabic, Iranian languages, and Syriac, will begin teaching at Yale in the fall of 2017. He comes to us from The Ohio State University, where he was Associate Professor and Department Chair of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Before that he was Director of the Middle East Studies Program and Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at USC. His

research

addresses the cultural and intellectual history of the Near East in the first millennium CE, focusing on the interaction of different language communities and the translation of learned traditions between Greek, Arabic, Syriac, Latin, Iranian languages, and Sanskrit. Van Bladel took his PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale and his BA in History and MA in Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM KELLY SIMPSON
(1928–2017)



see page 8



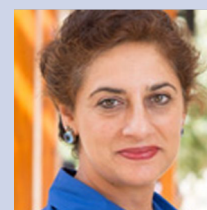
New Persian Circle, p. 5



Turkish soars, p. 10



New DUS, majors, p. 11



PROFESSOR SALIMA IKRAM
to visit, p. 4

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS!

Abby Elder, Caitlin Kropp, and Sergio Tang—all members of Phi Beta Kappa—graduated with honors and distinction in May. Each majoring in a

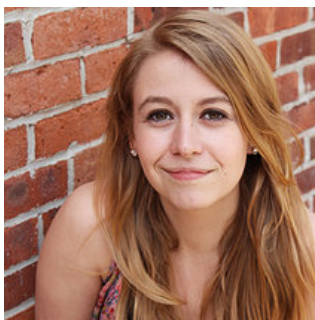


Abby Elder and Dina Roginsky in May 2017

different area of NELC, together they represent what is best about the Department. **Elder**, graduating *summa cum laude*, won the Warren Memorial Prize for the Yale Senior majoring in the Humanities who ranks highest in scholarship. A former principal violist in the Yale

Symphony, Abby combines musical and linguistic gifts on a project which brings together Arab and Jewish children through music programs in Israel. She will stay at Yale, attending the Music School in the fall of 2017, and she is preparing her senior thesis for publication (see p. 8)

Kropp, a double major in Anthropology and Egyptology, is now pursuing a Master's Degree in London. She wrote her senior thesis on the "Transformation of Egyptian Funerary Literature between the Old and the Middle Kingdoms"; she is also a musician, and while at Yale sang in The Proof of the Pudding, an a capella jazz and swing group.



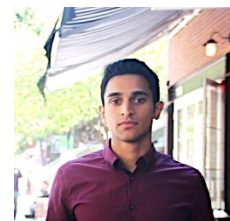
Tang, who transferred to Yale to pursue his love of ancient languages, will stay with NELC and begin work this autumn on a doctorate in Assyriology. His BA thesis was on "Inana and Ištar's descent";



he is active in the American Oriental Society as well as being a frequent contributor to the talk series sponsored by the Yale Babylonian Collection. Sergio, Abby, and Caitlin all gave generously of their time to NELC's Student Advisory Committee, which made a

positive difference to the undergraduate experience in the Department.

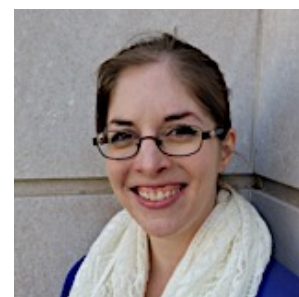
Shumayl Syed is a rising junior. He won a competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic this summer.



Geoff Moseley is doing summer teaching at Vanderbilt University; he plans to submit his dissertation research on "The Arabic Plato" in October. In August he takes up a position in Ohio State's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, where he will be a colleague of **Hadi Jorati**, Yale (NELC) PhD 2014.



Elizabeth Lang received her PhD in May with a dissertation on women and food in Ancient Egypt, focusing on grinding grain and patterns of identity.





Shana Zaia received her PhD with a dissertation entitled "Official religion in the Neo-Assyrian royal inscriptions," which won the 2017 Horwitz Prize. She will continue her work on Mesopotamian religion as a postdoc at the University of Helsinki's Center of Excellence: Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions.

The Yale team working on color in the Assyrian reliefs, led by **Shiyanthi Thavapalan**, has published a major article on "Color and Meaning in Ancient Mesopotamia: The Case of Egyptian Blue" in the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* for 2017.



Nick Kraus continues to write his dissertation on school texts from the Sargonic period in Mesopotamia; he also taught introductory Akkadian in the spring.



In the summer, he attended the ARCHAIA study tour to Basilicata in southern Italy with a multi-disciplinary group of Yale graduate students. Centered around "The Ancient City," it included tours of museums and Greco-Roman

sites. Nick also continued excavating with the Jezreel Valley Regional Project.

Michael Rapoport had a busy year, generously supported by the Viscusi Fund, taking in a workshop on Arabic codicology in Cambridge UK, continuing as a Macmillan Center Teaching Fellow, and ending with a summer FLAS Fellowship to study Arabic in Rabat. He gave his



first AOS talk, and spoke at the Yale conference on "Eternal world and God's free will in Islam," organized by Professor **Frank Griffel** in Religious Studies.

Maria Gutierrez co-organized "Between heaven and earth: Divination, prophecy and oracles in the ancient world" and gratefully acknowledges the support of the Viscusi and Simpson funds in making the conference a success. Maria's ongoing dissertation work explores oracular practice in ancient Egypt, with a particular focus on processional oracles.



ALUMNAE NEWS



Sarah Melville '94 has been promoted to Full Professor of History in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Clarkson University.

Alicia Cunningham Bryant '12 is the Kim T. Adamson Endowed Professor for the Honors College and Director of Fellowship Advising at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah.



FACULTY AND RESEARCH NEWS

Shiri Goren was invited to present her work in the Judaic Studies Annual Colloquium (April 2017) on “Arab Labor-Jewish Humor: Memory Identity and Creative Resistance in Israeli TV.” Another invited lecture, “Humor as Resistance: Female Friendship and Gender (dis)Integration in Talya Lavie’s “Zero Motivation,” was part of a symposium, “A Film of



her Own: Women in Israeli Cinema” at Illinois in March. In the fall semester she introduced a term long, community based project for intermediate Hebrew students. The project and

its outcomes were part of a poster session at the Center for Language Study at Yale. In addition, she presented the paper “Community Based Learning outside of Israel? A Practical Model, Review and Assessment” in the National Association of Professors of Hebrew Annual conference, as well as giving a series of lectures on the pedagogy of teaching culture in the Master’s Program at Middlebury College. Goren continued to serve in the FAS Senate and co-chaired the committee on the Status, Pay and Conditions of Non-ladder Faculty at Yale. She was elected to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Senate for 2017-2018.

John Coleman Darnell, director of the ElKab



John Darnell at El-Khawy

Desert Survey Project, and **Alberto Urcia** are part of a team that discovered previously unknown rock inscriptions, which include the earliest monumental hieroglyphs currently known, dating back around 5,200 years. Urcia has pioneered a new recording technique that allows the creation of a series of 3D images of the inscriptions from photographs taken in the field. The exciting discovery was widely reported; Yale’s take is [here](#). The project is funded by the Simpson Fund.

SALIMA IKRAM VISITS

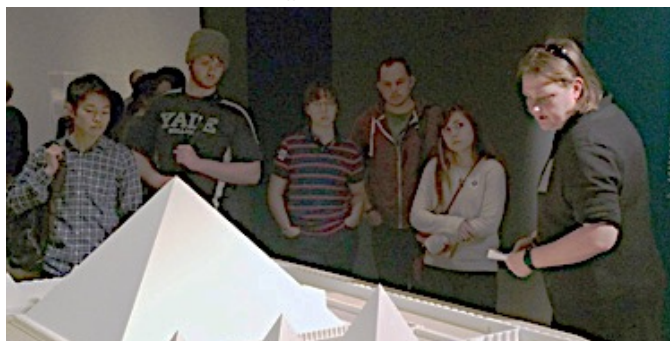
NELC is thrilled to announce that Dr. Salima Ikram, newly elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Distinguished University Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, and world expert on animal mummies and other Egyptological mysteries, will be a visiting Professor in the Department for the fall term 2017. Professor Ikram will teach two courses while at Yale, one on animal mummies and one on Egyptian art. She will be accompanied by her husband Nicholas Warner, a noted conservation architect, who will be affiliated with the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

Orit Yeret writes: “This year I have had the pleasure of participating in many workshops and events which helped me learn about Yale, work together with my colleagues, and guide my students in their Hebrew language study. In the fall I presented a short Tech-Talk at the Center for Language Study about “Blogging” and its use in the language classroom. I served on the selection committee of the CIPE Research Fellowships for Juniors, as well as participating in the “COLT Annual Poetry Contest,” organized by the CT

Council of Language Teachers. In June, I conducted a Technology-Pedagogy workshop at the National Association of Professors of Hebrew conference, and chaired one of the sessions. Next year, as a Fellow in Pauli Murray College, I will be a first- and second-year college advisor."

Christina Geisen presented her research at the 68th ARCE meeting and at the 8th European Conference for Egyptologists, and was invited to speak in the Seminars on the Ancient Near East of the University of Toronto. "Expression of loyalty to the king – a socio-cultural analysis of basilophoric personal names dating to the Old and Middle Kingdoms" will appear in *Proceedings of the XI International Congress of Egyptologists*, and her book *A Commemoration Ritual for Senwosret I – P. BM EA 10610.1-5* will be published as Yale Egyptological Studies Volume 11. Apart from active research and

Geisen and students at the MMA in New York

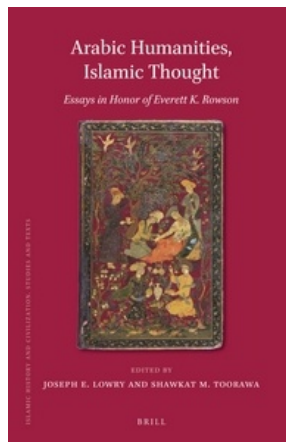


teaching, Christina organized and ran the interdisciplinary conference on "Ritual Landscape and Performance", the proceedings of which she will edit. She is organizing the memorial colloquium in honor of the late William Kelly Simpson, in October 2017 (see p. 8).

Department members with Chris Kraus at Thali Too in May

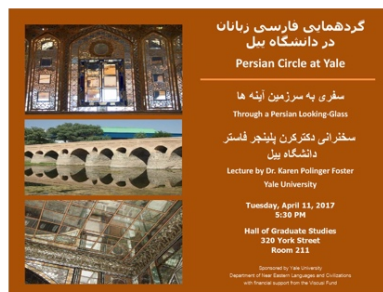


Chris Kraus has stepped down after 3½ years as Acting Chair of NELC, though she will remain on the Program Committee. She will miss her friends in the Department but is delighted to see the reins pass to **Shawkat M. Toorawa**, who has spent his first year at Yale teaching up a storm, and introducing "The Dr. T. Project" to students at the Whitney Humanities Center. He has been named a Distinguished Teaching participant, as has **Orit Yeret**, by the new Yale Center for Teaching and Learning. Shawkat co-edited a volume in honor of his teacher **Everett Rowson** (Yale NELC PhD '82). The Festschrift was presented at a special event at the AOS annual meeting in March 2017.



A new study of the evidence from Tell Leilan, the site excavated by **Harvey Weiss** beginning in 1979, has confirmed, in Weiss's words, "that there was more than one path to early urbanization. In fact, there was a second and far more widely distributed pathway." The paper, published in *Nature Plants*, is covered by the June 2017 F&ES Newsletter. Harvey and others, including **Joe Manning**, will convene a Humanities/Humanity workshop, "Collapse! What Collapse? Societal adaptations to abrupt climate changes before global warming" in October 2017 at the WHC.

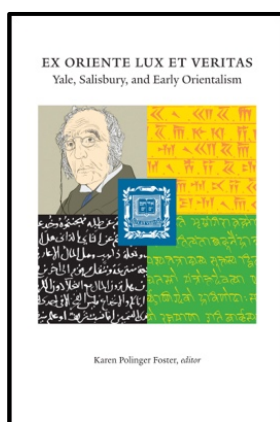
With the support of the Viscusi fund, **Farkhondeh Shayesteh** devised and launched the "Persian



Circle at Yale," a community-based series of lectures, presentations, and gatherings. The Persian Circle brings together Yale faculty and

students, professors from nearby universities, and interested members of the broader community for discussions of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. The inaugural meeting drew more than 40 participants. The Persian Circle will provide opportunities for those who wish to discuss and share ideas about Persian-related topics to meet in the coming year and for years to come. Speakers in the past year included Abbas Amanat (History) and **Karen Polinger Foster**.

Karen has also edited a collection of papers that



were delivered at a symposium as part of the year-long E. E. Salisbury celebrations masterminded by **Robin Tahir Dougherty**, SML Librarian for Middle East Studies. Robin writes: "In September 2016, I curated an exhibit in Sterling Memorial Library devoted to the life & legacy

of Edward Elbridge Salisbury. This exhibit was the cornerstone of the year-long campus-wide celebration of the 175th anniversary of Salisbury's appointment in 1841 as Professor of Arabic & Sanskrit at Yale, the first such position in the Americas. It included over 100 items drawn from library collections held in the Beinecke, Manuscripts & Archives, and the general stacks—most of which had never been on display before. I organized a panel for MESA's annual meeting in Boston, likewise devoted to the commemoration of the Salisbury anniversary, in which I presented a paper on Salisbury and the teaching of Arabic at Yale; gave a paper at the spring meeting of the American Oriental Society on Salisbury and the early years of the



establishment of the AOS; and gave a public lecture on Salisbury's life and legacy—including new material on his connections to Old Lyme CT—at the Florence Griswold Museum in April, 2017. In addition to my regular acquisitions in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, I was able to take advantage of a one-time windfall and some additional library funds to make significant additions to the collections in both print and electronic formats, and in a variety of languages, among them: Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library (electronic, full-text); 6 rare periodical titles in Ottoman Turkish (print); and a collection of printed materials in Turkish, in collaboration with Turkish Lector **Özgen Felek**."

Muhammad Aziz wrote an article in Arabic for the *Yemeni American Newspaper*. The article dealt



with some aspects of the thought of Muhammad Mutawalli Al-Sha'raawi in his commentary on the Qur'an. On May 20th, 2017, he welcomed a grand-daughter. His son Yusuf has graduated from SCSU and remains there for graduate school; his sons Abdul & Zakaraya are joining CCSU.

In addition to continuing as NELC's DGS, this past year **Eckart Frahm** has seen his edited volume, *A Companion to Assyria*, published both in print and online as part of the Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World. The volume is a collection of original essays on ancient Assyria written by key international scholars. He is pursuing ongoing work on the Cuneiform Commentaries Project, and in 2016 gave invited lectures Berlin, Harvard, Rome, Geneva, Munich, and Heidelberg. In April he delivered the 14th Casper Lecture at Marquette University (Milwaukee), "The rape of Clio: History, memory, and the cultural heritage crisis in the Middle East." At Yale, together with Irene

Peirano Garrison in Classics, he taught the ARCHAIA core seminar on the topic “Fakes, forgeries, and the making of Antiquity.”

In March, a second season of work at Atri (Sohag, Egypt) was conducted by the Yale Monastic Archaeology Project (**Stephen J. Davis**, Executive Director / Principal Investigator / Epigraphist; **Gillian Pyke**, Archaeological Director; **Alberto Urcia**, Digital Archaeologist). In addition to the excavation of a 6-pillared hall (connected to distribution of food and to storage), the team studied wall writings that confirmed the site as the location of a women's monastic community connected with the late ancient White Monastery Federation, known for its fifth-century CE leader, Shenoute of Atri. The project is funded by the Simpson Fund.



Ben Foster reports that administrative oversight of the Yale Babylonian Collection has been transferred to the Peabody Museum of Natural History. The collection itself will stay in Sterling Memorial Library, with **Agnete Lassen** remaining as associate curator/collection manager. The administrative move, which comes after a year of consultative review by colleagues from IPCH, SML, YUAG, and the Peabody, is intended to enhance the use and conservation and to expand access to this unparalleled collection (see p. 9).

In the past academic year **Sarab Al Ani** was awarded an AAPPL tester certification from ACTFL (for interpersonal listening/speaking and presentational writing). Among many workshops and presentations this year, she co-organized the First Language Teaching & Technology Mini-Summit at the CLS; organized, designed, and

managed a workshop on Using Authentic Videos for Second Language Teaching at the winter conference of the New York Arabic Teachers Council; and presented at the Consortium Symposium, speaking on “Language enrichment programs for children in the New Haven community.” She also hosted Tunisian Light Calligrapher Karim Jabbari for a workshop in her Arabic class; supervised, edited and helped students of Advanced Arabic to publish their work in *Accent* magazine; and in May Sarab attended a Summer Institute on Course (Re)Design at the CLS. This Fall, she holds a CLS professional development fellowship to design and create online tasks for a course of Levantine Arabic.



In **Dina Roginsky's** spring class “State and society in Israel”, students visited the Yale Fortunoff video archive for Holocaust testimonies. The Director, Stephen Naron, explained and showed testimonies in Hebrew and English. Students also met with Yale Professor of Psychiatry Bruce Wexler, who designed the comparative study of Israeli and Palestinian school textbooks (the Wexler Report). Also in the spring, Dina was a moderator and discussant of the post-film discussion of “Jews and Muslims, Intimate Strangers: Narratives at War” a CMES-hosted screening run by Liran Yadgar of the Judaic Studies program.



In the summer Dina participated in several academic conferences, and presented on such subjects as “Language in action: a Theater workshop

in a Hebrew classroom" (NAPH); "Emphasizing multi-vocality in Israel Studies teaching"; "(Wo)man and nature in kibbutz ceremonies: Biblical, Palestinian, and German influences" (Association of Israel Studies); "The politics of belonging in Diasporic food-based interactions" (Canadian Sociological Association); and her ongoing project on Hebrew as a heritage language as manifested in given names at The World Congress of Jewish Studies (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem).

"Hebrew as heritage" is also the focus of Dina's CLS professional development fellowship in fall 2017. Dina is also working with a dance scholar from Israel on a co-edited book, titled *Points of Contact: Dance, Politics, and Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel*. Finally, this year Dina had the pleasure of advising **Abigail Elder's** NELC senior thesis, "Musical Diplomacy in Practice: Polyphony as a Case Study." In this important ethnographic work Abby used her advanced Hebrew skills and her knowledge of Arabic, in combination with her professional musical abilities, to explore how classical music brings together Jewish and Arab youth in Israel to study and perform. Abby is working with Dina on revising her thesis for publication in an academic journal (see p. 2).

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Miriam Müller, Simpson postdoctoral associate in Egyptology, has left Yale to take up a permanent position as a University Lecturer at Universit  t Leiden.

Adel Allouche, long-time associate of the Department, and Lecturer in History, retired from teaching at the end of June. We wish them both the very best of luck and happiness.

WILLIAM KELLY SIMPSON

Professor of Egyptology and Near Eastern Language, Civilization and Literature

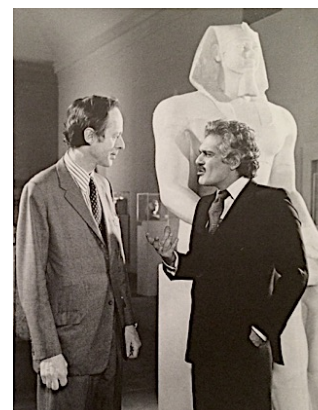
Kelly Simpson died March 24, 2017, aged 89. He was a Yale faculty member from 1958 until his retirement in 2004. We



quote from the tribute to him at his retirement: "You have made Yale one of the world's leading centers for the study of the art, archaeology, language, literature, and civilizations of ancient Egypt. ... Your

forty-seven years of teaching, museum, and field-work leave a legacy few among the pharaohs of your predecessors have equalled. You were simultaneously curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Professor at Yale, all the while teaching and directing the dissertations of the next generation of Egyptologists. Beautiful objects you have given to galleries and museums grace more than one gallery, including Yale's own. Your colleagues attest that your philology has been exact, your field methods exemplary, your historical sense broad but disciplined, and your artistic sense unerring."

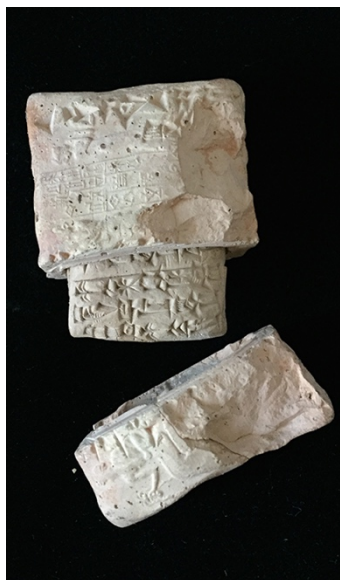
Kelly Simpson was uncommonly generous to Yale and to NELC, establishing the William K. and Marilyn M. Simpson Fund for the support of Egyptology across the University. We salute his contributions of all kinds. NELC will hold a memorial conference for Professor Simpson at Yale on October 7, 2017.



Kelly Simpson with Omar Sharif by the colossal statue of Mycerinus in the MFA, Boston, 1970s

GIFT TO THE BABYLONIAN COLLECTION

Cuneiform tablet in sealed clay envelope, c. 2050 BCE



In commemoration of his 50th Yale reunion, Dr. Kenneth Ott '66 has made a magnificent gift of Babylonian clay tablets, cylinder seals, stamp seals, and scarabs to the YBC. The artifacts were acquired by Lawrence Ott '37, Ott's father, who was inspired in classes by the then-curator, Ferris Stephens. Scholars and teachers are already

using the materials in the classroom. "The use of the Lawrence Ott collection objects added an incredible dimension to the class. Every day I

Chalcedony weight in the shape of a duck



knew I would be interacting with pieces of ancient history thousands of years old," says Emma Hastings '17. "I touched some of the first

pieces of writing, rolled out cylinder seals that humans carried 5,000 years ago, examined the clumsy writing of a student who wrote his first tablet 4,000 years ago, and saw letters full of liveliness and personality from people who long ago perished. For every subject we covered — be it accounting, religion, science, or literature — there was always an object to help enhance our understanding of the past." **Agnete Lassen** adds, "I'm also excited that we are getting this substantial collection of scarabs because it is

something that is underrepresented here in the Yale Babylonian Collection. One of the most important items in the new acquisition is a very rare amulet made of serpentine which we are so excited to add to our collection here."

HEBREW FLOURISHES

Shiri Goren, Director of the Hebrew program, writes: "We have had a productive year. In October we organized and hosted the Annual Professional Development Seminar for Hebrew Professors, "Assessment as a means of enhancing Hebrew acquisition." This 3-day seminar drew 47 university professors and K-12 Hebrew teachers from around the country. On the second evening, we hosted a farewell event for **Ayala Dvoretzky**, which celebrated her 31-year long career of teaching at Yale, as well as Ayala's strong commitment to mentoring. Following the success of the Hebrew Pedagogy Seminar, **Shiri Goren**, **Dina Roginsky** and **Orit Yeret** have collaborated in co-authoring an article on the seminar's content for the academic Israeli journal [Hed Haulpan](#) (#106, Spring 2017, pp. 55-72). Yeret's Advanced Hebrew class visited the Yale Art Gallery for a special presentation of works by Israeli artists. In the spring, a few days before the Jewish holiday of Passover, Nanette Stahl, the Judaic Studies librarian, introduced students to the library's vast collection of historical Haggadahs. In April we held a screening of the Israeli film "The kind words" (Shemi Zarhin, 2015) as part of the CMES film series, in conjunction with the 2017 Jewish Film Festival of the JCC of Greater New Haven. A reception preceding the screening offered a tasting of Middle Eastern food featured in the film. As in past years, the Program worked closely with the multilingual student magazine *Accent*. Dina Roginsky continued to provide academic advising to the magazine's editorial board, and all faculty worked with the Hebrew students who submitted their articles for publication in the magazine."

SPOTLIGHT ON TURKISH

"To some, the Turkish Program at Yale might seem a tiny program, but to those who know it better, it is a big family made up of undergraduate students from different Departments; graduate students mostly from the History Department; auditors from the local communities in Hamden, New Haven, and Woodbridge; visiting scholars and fellows; a Turkish Fulbright Teaching Assistant (**Sidal Öner**); a graduate Teaching Assistant (Birce Gökalp); an undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Hazal Özkan); a tutor (Taha Ramazanoğlu); and lovers of Turkish from the International Fox Fellowship Program (İsrafil Boyacı), the Department of Religious Studies (Ahmed Tahir Nur), as well as a NELC postdoc (Güzel Öztürk). What has brought all these people together are their passion and curiosity for the richness of the Turkish language, culture, cuisine, and literature; its long and complicated history; and its crucial role in the current political situation not only in the Middle East but also in the world.



2016-17 was a busy and fun year. Our events received support from NELC, CMES, the Hellenic Studies

Program, the Fox International Fellowship, and Turkish Kebab House. We watched popular Turkish TV series and movies that are not known worldwide (yet!); wrote and shot our own TV series and films in Turkish; visited local Turkish communities and restaurants; read and wrote poems, novels, stories, legends; sang Turkish songs; learned how to make Turkish food; had heated and honest discussions over current politics in Turkey. In the Fall, in addition to the

weekly Language Table, the Program held Turkish Afternoon gatherings, in which FLTA **Sidal Öner** introduced the richness of the Turkish culture to curious and intelligent audiences. We presented different aspects of Turkish folk dances and cuisine, learning how to make sigara böreği, a Turkish cigar shaped pastry, and aşure ("Noah's Pudding"). On 11/13, we visited the Yale Art Gallery to discuss the artwork in Turkish. In December the first Turkish Program Film Festival



was held. Advanced students wrote, acted, and directed a film in Turkish which was shown to a large crowd, including the Yale Turkish community. Our distinguished jurists selected the best film ("Fasulye," or "Beans"), actor (Samuel Aslaner), actress (Sara Bulbul), and best director (Caderyn Owen Jones).

In the winter, afternoon events extended the Program's vision to Turkey's neighboring cultures, namely Greece and Russia. We held two co-organized gatherings: a Turkish-Russian Afternoon with Ekaterina Voronina, the FLTA for Russian, and Julia Titus, the Russian instructor from Slavic Languages and Literatures; and a Turkish-Greek Afternoon with the Greek instructor, Maria Kaliambou from the Hellenic Studies Program. We talked about characteristics of Turkish and Russian cuisines, and taught each other how to make both cultures' respective salads. We were very honored to have our very own **Dimitri Gutas** as our honored guest to share his experiences and wisdom regarding learning a new language and translation practices at the Turkish-Greek Afternoon.

The Program also worked with the Fox International Fellowship at Yale. We screened a Turkish film for the Fox Fellows with Sudha Tiwari. We also co-organized the Soup & Talk

Series, which was initially launched by another Fox Fellow, **İsrafil Boyacı**—who will be teaching Turkish in NELC in the fall! The Series was held bi-monthly to provide the Turkish community at Yale with opportunities to share their research with other students, scholars, and visitors. Since these gatherings were open to anyone on campus, they soon attracted non-Turkish Yalies who had interest in Turkey and its culture. An international symposium, co-organized with Sinem Erdoğan Işkorkutan (Boğaziçi University in Istanbul), titled “Recent perspectives on ceremonies, rituals, and festivals in the Ottoman world” was held in the spring term. CMES at the MacMillan Center, NELC, The Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Fund at Yale, and a USDE Title VI National Resource Center Grant generously sponsored this 3-day long conference. The final event of the year was the Turkish Night (4/25), enriched by our students’ poems, dances, songs, and skits.

We had fun in the Turkish Program all year long. Why don’t you join the craziness of the Turkish Program in 2017-2018, so that you don’t feel left out! Please visit our website to learn more: <http://campuspress.yale.edu/turkishprogram/>

— **Özgen Felek** (Lector in Turkish and Ottoman Turkish; Coordinator of the Turkish Program)

NELC GROWS

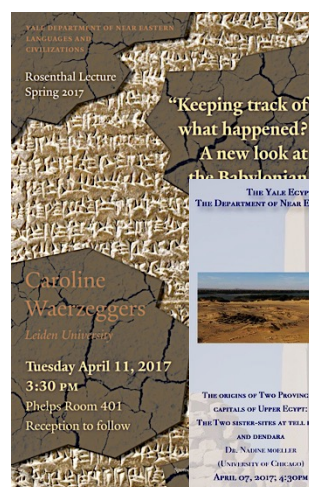
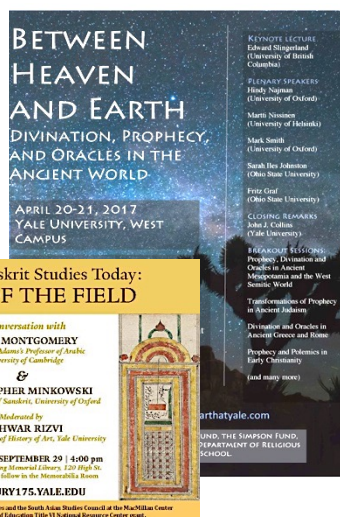
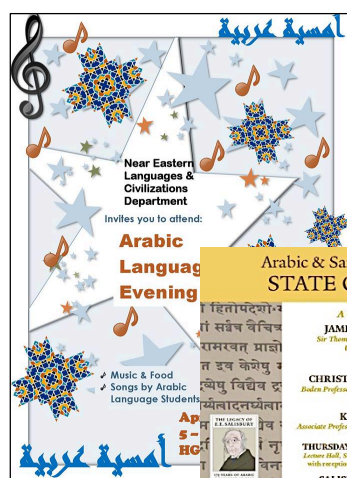
NELC’s new Director of Undergraduate Studies, **Jonas Elbousty**, is proud to announce that in addition to the three May 2017 graduates (see p. 2),



the Department boasts six continuing majors. Elbousty, Senior Lector in Arabic and director of Yale’s summer Arabic program in Rabat—together with his teaching colleagues—has worked hard this year to make NELC’s attractions better known.

Introducing a Senior Thesis Salon; hosting diversity gatherings with Arabic music, Hebrew film, Turkish drama, and Persian food; designing opportunities for students to showcase their thesis research; and convening a Curriculum Committee to discuss coordination and enhancement of course offerings across the Department, Elbousty and the NELC faculty have transformed the undergraduate program. 2017-18 should see even greater energy and excitement!

SELECTED EVENTS 2016-17



NEW GRADUATES JOIN NELC

The Department welcomes six new graduate students to pursue advanced degrees:

- **Niki Awad**, from the University of Hartford, for an MA in Egyptology
- **Kevin A. Butts**, from the University of Texas at Austin, for a PhD in Arabic
- **Kayla Dang**, from Ohio State University, for a PhD in Arabic
- **Evelyne Koubkova**, from Charles University, Prague, for a PhD in Assyriology
- **Myungin Sohn**, from NYU Abu Dhabi, for a PhD in Arabic
- **Sergio Tang**, from Yale University, for a PhD in Assyriology

DIVERSITY IN NELC

NELC gratefully acknowledges the help of the Deputy Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development for generously contributing to the Department's ongoing efforts to showcase diversity and inclusivity in its activities. The fruits of the Dean's contributions are reported on throughout this *Newsletter* and on our new FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/nelc.yale.edu/>

This 4th issue of NELC NEWLETTERS was compiled and edited by Chris Kraus, with input from S. Toorawa and A. Perez-Cabello

Please send us your news! Email Miguel.perez-cabello@yale.edu or send to the address below

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