

April 10, 2015

To: Susan Ackerman, ASOR President

From: Barbara Porter, ACOR Director, Amman, Jordan

Re: ACOR Update since November 2014

The following highlights are provided for the ASOR Board meeting:

- Short Visit by Barbara Porter to CAARI in January and chance to exchange program information with Andrew McCarthy and see their big 'dig'
- Three-day visit by Matthew Adams to ACOR in late January as part of the Directors' exchange funded by P. E. MacAllister; special opportunity to discuss many issues, including library, fund raising, Internet challenges etc. and for him to give a public lecture, which was attended by approximately 140 people and a reception followed.
- Mid-February Barbara Porter lectured on ACOR's role in preserving and presenting Jordan's heritage in Erbil to the Iraqi Center for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage for a program organized by the WMF for Iraqis from the south and north.
- New Administrator Firas Bqain replaced Kathy Nimri at end of 2014. She had been on staff for 24.5 years. He was previously at the British Institute, Amman.
- New ACOR Blog (posted on [www.acorjordan.org](http://www.acorjordan.org) for link to WordPress)
- Initiating new "E-Blast" newsletter (watch for new messages)
- January 2015 at the AIA meeting in New Orleans Chris Tuttle received on ACOR's behalf for the Temple of the Winged Lions project the AIA 2015 Best Practices in Site Preservation Award; a small film clip produced for the AIA 21 April Gala (announced via first ACOR E-Blast postcard)
- Department of Antiquities of Jordan revising regulations for archaeological projects; new fee structure to be implemented in 2016; Barbara Porter on the advisory board of the DOA so part of this discussion process and provides updates to the Dig Directors list maintained by Bethany Walker
- ACOR USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) signed on 10 November and in start-up phase. Awards are now being made to specific archaeological projects and small travel stipends being considered for Jordanians.
- 17-18 April ACOR Board meeting at The Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU, Washington, D.C.
- March 2015 hosted an archaeological study tour from Berlin led by Dominik Bonantz, Johanna Fabricius, and Karin Bartl (resident in Jordan as head of DAI Damascus)
- Summer 2015 ACOR will host students on a Georgetown Arabic program and many archaeological projects in and out; at summer's end an archaeological study group from University of Groningen will be at ACOR
- Fall 2015, new compressed shelving expected to be installed in ACOR Lower Library