This edition of the Near Eastern Studies newsletter highlights the achievements of NES graduate students during the current academic year and illustrates the opportunities available to a graduate student in NES. The newsletter also features members of Near Eastern Studies’ award-winning faculty.

**Graduate Student News**

**Balistreri Awarded Lowry Dissertation Writing Fellowship**
Sixth-year Ph.D. student Alexander Balistreri was awarded the Heath W. Lowry Distinguished Dissertation Writing Fellowship for 2016–17 by the Institute of Turkish Studies. His dissertation, “Creating Nations and States on the Turkish-Caucasian Border, 1850–1950,” examines state- and nation-building in the Turkish-Caucasian borderland region through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.


**Kitlas and Stephenson Named Cotsen Junior Fellows**
Third-year graduate student Peter Kitlas and fifth-year graduate student Lindsey Stephenson have been chosen by Near Eastern Studies as Cotsen Junior Fellows for 2016–17. As Junior Fellows, they will be working with 2016–19 Cotsen Faculty Fellows Cyrus Schayegh and Deborah Schlein in developing new course materials or new ideas about undergraduate teaching, or in other pursuits that are appropriate to the sense of the award as [Schayegh] work[s] to improve [his] teaching skills. Kitlas’s research focuses on diplomatic relations in the seventeenth and eighteenth century Muslim Mediterranean, and Stephenson is working on migration from the south of Iran to Kuwait and Bahrain in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Fields and Schlein Win Fulbrights**
Fourth-year graduate students Daniel Fields and Deborah Schlein were awarded Fulbrights for the 2016–17 academic year. Fields was selected as the inaugural Fulbright for Greece and Turkey. He is based in Thessaloniki and Istanbul through affiliations with the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies at the University of Macedonia and Sabanci University’s Turkish Studies and History departments. His dissertation research deals with the formation of militia groups in the Black Sea region during the final years of the Ottoman Empire and how nationalism worked (or didn’t) on a local and regional level to produce changes in society and power structures and to what extent these changes then contributed to an outbreak of violence across the southern Black Sea littoral in the final years of the empire.

Schlein received a Fulbright-Nehru Research Award to conduct field research at various manuscript collections across India to study Arabic medical manuscript output in India. In particular, her dissertation work focuses on the reception of Arabic medical manuscripts in the context of Indian Unani medicine, and she works specifically on the transmission and usage of the manuscripts of Najib al-Din al-Samarqandi (d. 1222).

**Foster Article Named Most Popular Times Higher Education Story of 2016**
Sixth-year graduate student Zachary Foster’s article, “How not to write: 14 tips for aspiring humanities academics,” was the most popular *Times Higher Education* Story of 2016.
2016. Using actual examples from scholarly writing, Foster offers tips on how to write proper academese in the Humanities. To read this article click on the following link: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/comment/how-not-to-write-fourteen-tips-for-aspiring-humanities-academics. Foster followed up this article with “How (not) to write: nine more tips for academics in the humanities”: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/how-not-write-nine-more-tips-academics-humanities.

Mansour Awarded ITS Summer Language Grant
Second-year graduate student N. A. Mansour was awarded a Summer Language Grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies and spent the summer of 2016 studying Intermediate Modern Turkish at Boğaziçi University. Mansour works on print culture in the Arabic-speaking world, the history of the book, literacy, and global networks of ideas.

Radovanovic Awarded Hyde Fellowship
Fourth-year graduate student Jelena Radovanovic was awarded a Hyde Fellowship for the 2016–17 academic year. Hyde Fellowships are awarded to outstanding doctoral students in the humanities and provide a 10-month stipend to cover expenses of living abroad for up to 10 months, as well as the cost of travel from and back to the United States. Radovanovic’s dissertation explores the urban transformation of Niš in light of two large political and social processes the city underwent in the nineteenth century: the Ottoman Tanzimat reforms and the incorporation of Niš into Serbian territory—a move from an empire into a nation-state—starting in 1878.

Shiliwala Wins CSR Religion and Culture Research Award
Fifth-year graduate student Wasim Shiliwala won a 2016–17 Religion and Culture Research Award from the Center for the Study of Religion. The Religion and Culture Research Awards are for post-generals students and are awarded on the basis of the “overall scholarly merit of the project, the clarity and persuasiveness of the proposal, the applicant’s academic distinction, and the likelihood that the applicant will contribute effectively to and benefit from participation in the interdisciplinary seminar.” Shiliwala’s dissertation project is a comparative study of fatwas (legal opinions) issued at the turn of the 20th century by prominent Egyptian and Indian scholars on topics related to transformations in the realms of technology, society, and politics.

Faculty News
Cook wins President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching
Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael A. Cook received one of four President’s Awards for Distinguished Teaching at Commencement ceremonies Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Cook, who joined the Near Eastern Studies faculty in 1986, “is ... a brilliant and extraordinarily devoted teacher,” who “has basically built the graduate program in Near Eastern studies at Princeton and made it the best program in the country for several decades running.” Cook’s students, who now teach at universities around the world, describe Cook’s seminar “Introduction to the Islamic Scholarly Tradition” as “legendary.” “Undergraduate students also underscored Cook’s commitment to teaching. One former student commented on his ‘mastery of subject, his charisma as a storyteller, and his academic and personal investment in his work, [all of which] were apparent right away.’” To read more about the award click on the following link: http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S46/46/28K49/?section=topstories.

Harb Awarded NEH Grant
Assistant professor Lara Harb has been awarded a “Fellowship for University Teachers” grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities for her project “Mimesis in Classical Arabic Literature.” These fellowships “support college and university teachers and independent scholars pursuing advanced research.”

Reynolds Named NYPL Cullman Center Fellow
Associate professor Michael A. Reynolds has been named a 2016–17 fellow at the New York Public Library’s Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. “At the Cullman Center he will be working on a biography of Enver Pasha (1881–1922), the hero of the Ottoman Constitutional Revolution of 1908, a member of the Young Turk triumvirate, and the Ottoman Minister of War during World War I.

Schayegh Awarded Cotsen Faculty Fellowship
Associate professor Cyrus Schayegh has been named one of two Cotsen Faculty Fellows for 2016–19. The Fellowship “provides opportunities for faculty members recognized as outstanding teachers of undergraduates to develop and teach new courses or make some other distinctive contribution to the undergraduate teaching program, primarily in the humanities and social sciences.” “Established in 1990 by a gift from Lloyd Cotsen ’50, the fellowship is awarded for a three-year term. It provides summer salary, a research grant and a book fund for each year, as well as support for two Cotsen Junior Fellows, who are graduate student assistants, for each fellow.”