



**College of Languages, Literature and  
Social Sciences**



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## “Youth Revolt: The Future of the New Middle East”



Dr. Reza Aslan

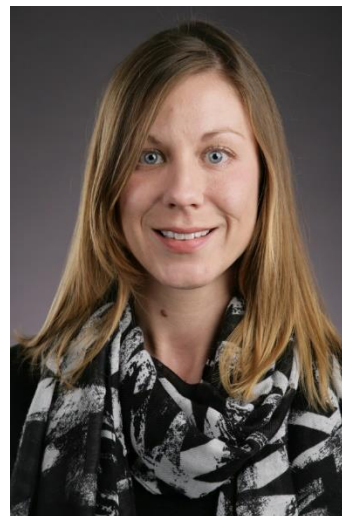
On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, the college will host the **Annual Imam Khattab Lecture on Islamic Thought**. The annual event is scheduled to take place in the Nitschke Auditorium on main campus at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Aslan is the New York Times bestselling author of several highly acclaimed books. “We are truly honored to have someone of Dr. Aslan’s stature visit our campus and share his thoughts with us,” noted Jamie Barlowe, Dean of The College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. The event is free and open to the public. Call Deb Corkins at 419.530.4616 for more information.



Dr. Willie L. McKether

Last October, Dr. Willie McKether was appointed Associate Dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. Prior to joining the dean’s office, McKether served as chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology where he is an Associate Professor of anthropology. He earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Grand Valley State University, Master of Business Administration Degree from Saginaw Valley State University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University. McKether earned his doctorate degree in Business Anthropology in 2005 from Wayne State University. McKether is a founding member of *Brothers on the Rise* mentoring program at The University of Toledo as well as the Edrene Cole African American Oral History Collection in Toledo. McKether was awarded the *Outstanding Teaching Award* in 2013 and the *NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2014.

### **New Faculty Introduction**



Dr. Melissa Baltus joined the department of Sociology and Anthropology as the new Archeology professor in Fall 2014. Her work involves the ways in which religion, violence, and political-religious movements interplay in the development of social complexity, the

formation and abandonment of cities, and large-scale social change. Dr. Baltus is currently in the process of developing a field school and reopening the archeology lab for classes.

We asked Dr. Baltus why she chose archeology as her profession and she said, “I was fascinated with old buildings and cemeteries as a child, wondering what life was like for people in the past. I love history, but also the ‘puzzle’ that archaeology provides in trying to figure out past lives from the things people threw away.”

Dr. Baltus was attracted to Toledo’s strong commitment to undergraduate education and the dedication to finding and building new opportunities for students. She is excited that Toledo provides the opportunity for professional growth and looks forward to revitalizing the archeology program. She is excited to have the opportunity to develop an undergraduate research program here at UT.

### **New Faculty Introduction**

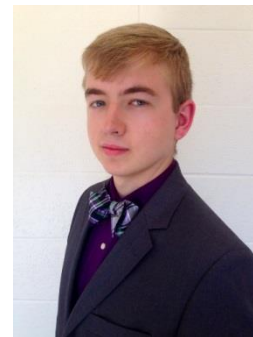


Dr. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch joined the history department at UT in Fall, 2014. She earned her undergraduate and PhD in American History from the University at Buffalo in New York, where she specialized in early American history. She is especially interested in the history of race, gender and politics in the South. She published her first book *Brothers of a Vow: Secret Fraternal Organizations and the*

*Transformation of White Male Culture in Antebellum Virginia* (University of Georgia Press) in 2010. The book “explored how fraternal orders like the Freemasons and the Odd Fellows ameliorated class tensions among white men in Virginia in the decades before the Civil War”. Her current work explores the life of Mary Willing Bryd, a widow in Revolutionary Virginia “whose plantation was raided by Benedict Arnold and Lord Cornwallis during the American Revolution”.

Dr. Pflugrad-Jackisch is delighted to have the opportunity to work with doctoral students of History. She is also excited to be at a large urban university that has the diversity of faculty and the student body that we have here at UT. She stated that UT reminds “me of all the things I really loved about the University at Buffalo..”. Dr. Pflugrad-Jackisch looks forward to continuing her research and writing and to working with her new UT colleagues. She hopes to ignite an “interest and passion for history” in UT students, even those who are not interested in pursuing a degree in history.

### **Undergraduate News**



Samuel Duling is a second year student pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics with college and departmental Honors. Samuel is a dedicated campus leader who serves in multiple capacities, primarily as a Resident Adviser of the Honors Living and Learning Community, an Ambassador and Senator for the College of Languages, Literature, and Social Sciences (LLSS), and

Historian for Student Government. In addition, he works in the Office of New Student Orientation Programs as a New Student Orientation Leader during the summer and an office staff member during the academic year. In 2014, Samuel was awarded the Dean's Essay Prize in the category of Short Prose for his essay, *Happiness, Equality, and Other Problems with Democratic Society*. Currently, he is coordinating an internship with the City of Toledo this summer to prepare for his participation in The Washington Center Program this fall.

Samuel describes himself as a diligent, compassionate and tenacious leader who aspires to pursue a career in public service and eventually earn a graduate degree in public administration, perhaps even a law degree. Samuel is a proud LLSS student, grateful for the opportunity to pursue his true passions, "The University of Toledo continues to empower me to best serve my community. The humanities and social sciences allow me to exercise judgment on matters of meaning and significance with regard to such essentially undefined terms as justice, equality, and even terrorism."

#### **UT Student Wins Pronunciation Award at the 16th Annual JASCO Contest**

Lindsay Bodi, a senior at the University of Toledo, minoring in Japanese won the Pronunciation Award at the 16th Annual JASCO Japanese Speech Contest held on Saturday, March 7. Annually, contestants from all universities in Ohio undergo a rigorous selection process from which ten contestants are selected to compete in the speech contest. Lindsay's award is a testimony not only to the Japanese Studies Program and her mentor for this contest Kasumi Yamazaki, but also for the department of Foreign Languages, College of LLSS and the University of Toledo.

#### **LLSS – Center News**



Jeanine Diller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Religious Studies

The college's Center for Religious Understanding is dedicated to helping students and the community make sense of the world's religions and their complicated interactions through teaching, programming, service activities and research. Housed in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, the Center for Religious Understanding started as a loose collection of religious-based programs and activities between 2000 and 2009, and culminated into a Center in 2010 under its first director, Dr. Jeanine Diller.

Dr. Diller, who initially came to The University of Toledo in 2008 as an adjunct professor to teach the Philosophy of Religion course in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, was hired as an assistant professor in 2010. Professor Diller was born in Cleveland, Ohio but her family moved to Toledo when she was two years. She attended school in the Ottawa Hills school district before attending The University of Michigan where she earned her Ph.D. philosophy, with an emphasis in the philosophy of religion.

The Center for Religious Understanding delivers its mission through interrelated programs, including: 1) *Creative education about religion*,



2) *Multifaith Dialogue*, 3) *Service Learning*, and 4) *Research*.

### ***The Creative Education about Religion***

programming includes the Center's signature lecture series where national experts on Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, and Eastern religious thought are invited to campus for a free lecture. Programming here also includes a *Televised Mini Series* called "*Faith Matters*," which are half hour shows of interviews with nationally renowned experts about contemporary issues in religion, such as religion and capital punishment, religion and violence, women in contemporary Islam, and religion and consumerism.

***Multifaith Dialogue*** includes programming that fosters conversations between students and members of the wider community where participants are encouraged to talk to one another and learn about "the other's" culture and religious beliefs. One such program is called *Holi Toledo*, scheduled to take place April 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 in the Field House. *Holi* is an Indian Hindu holiday celebrated each spring with participants showering one another with festive colored powders. In the April 8<sup>th</sup> event, in order to get the powders, students must visit booths occupied by "other" students where they ask questions about that student's religion or culture. What started as an event that would hopefully draw 200 participants has evolved into an event that garners nearly 400 brightly-powdered religious learners according to Diller.

***UT Service Learning*** – Through this program, students and community members from difference religions provide an after-school program and college awareness for at-risk youth grades K-8 at a Toledo Public School. This year, the team has focused on Chase Academy which will bring students to UT's campus eight times over the course of the school year.

As one of several critically important Centers in the College of Languages, Literature and Social

Sciences and the university, The Center for Religious Understanding provides an invaluable space in which to filter local, regional and national events as well as provides a place for understanding religions of the world in a way that binds us to a single humanity.

For more information on any of these programs or events, please contact [cfru@utoledo.edu](mailto:cfru@utoledo.edu) or [419-530-6190](tel:419-530-6190), or visit their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/utoledocfru>.

### **Retirements**

**Matthew Wikander**, Distinguished University professor, retired from the Department of English in May. Dr. Wikander, who came to the University in 1987, was a very popular teacher, particularly of Shakespearean drama, and also served, at different times, as undergraduate and graduate adviser. He authored three books that were highly regarded in his field, most recently *Fangs of Malice: Hypocrisy, Sincerity, and Acting*.

**James Campbell**, Distinguished University Professor, retired from the Department of Philosophy in May. He has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Innsbruck and the University of Munich. He is the author of *The Community Reconstructs: The Meaning of Pragmatic Social Thought; Understanding John Dewey: Nature and Cooperative Intelligence; and Recovering Benjamin Franklin: An Exploration of a Life of Science and Service*.

**Diane F. Britton**, Professor, retired from the Department of History in June. Dr. Britton specialized in Public History, late 19th and 20th century U.S., and Ethnic America, and has directed public history projects that have resulted in books, exhibits, oral history projects, and public programs in Northwest Ohio.

**Peter Linebaugh**, Professor, retired from the Department of History in May. Since coming to the University in 1994 he received grants from

the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, the Fulbright, and Mellon fellowship programs to support his research. He is the author of a number of prominent works, notably *The London Hanged*.

**David Davis**, Professor, retired from the Department of Philosophy in June. Dr. Davis was the author of five books, mostly in the area of environmental and energy policy. He taught courses on public administration, environment, the presidency, personnel, organizational behavior, management of non-profit organizations and public policy.

**Barbara Chesney**, Associate Professor, retired from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in May. Dr. Chesney, who came to the University in 1989, specialized in social psychology. During her tenure at the University, Dr. Chesney served as a department chair and published a number of articles as well as a book.

### **Classroom Safety**

Safety encompasses our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Future issues we will address different ways to keep our campus environment safe. We start with our seasonal threat, **Flu**. The three basic protective steps include: **Strengthen your body**: get sufficient sleep and eat in a way that helps strengthen your defenses (amino acids). **Create a germs-unfriendly environment**: disinfect and clean daily. **Practice good personal hygiene**: wash hands frequently and use the hand sanitizers that are all around the campus. **Protect others**: you may start infecting others a day before you show any symptoms and up to five days after getting sick.

in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences.

Gifts to UT may be made online at:  
<https://give2ut.utoledo.edu>.

For more information about giving, please contact Mary Galvin, principal gifts officer for the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences at 419.530.4134 or [mary.galvin@utoledo.edu](mailto:mary.galvin@utoledo.edu).



### **The CLLSS Committee for Communications and Marketing:**

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Senior Associate Dean, College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

#### **Willie L. McKether**

Associate Dean, College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

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#### **Mara Martinez**

Student Representatives

#### **Tiffany Whitman**

College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

### **Donor News and Giving**

The support of our alumni and friends is paramount to the success of our educational programs. Your generous financial support will impact the lives of current and future students.