

THE ANIS MAKDISI PROGRAM IN LITERATURE

A. SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AMPL) was inaugurated at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Beirut in October 2002. The aim of the program is to promote and support interdisciplinary dialogue, develop literary and humanistic studies at AUB, and encourage openness to different cultural forms and traditions in literature, in keeping with the approaches elaborated in the work of Anis K. Makdisi. The Program fosters intellectual dialogue and scholarly exchange among members of different departments, their students, and visiting scholars. The Program's activities include seminars, lecture series, workshops and conferences on various topics in cultural and literary studies, in order to provide a forum for scholarly dialogue among the various academic communities in Lebanon. In addition, two student scholarships are awarded annually; a graduate fellowship to support graduate studies in literature at AUB, and an undergraduate scholarship for undergraduate studies. A centerpiece of the program is the Anis K. Makdisi Memorial Lecture, held annually at AUB, and given by a leading scholar or author. The Program has continued its varied activities in the academic year 2014-2015 (multilingual events as noted below, in terms of an international conference, a week-long workshop, the Memorial lecture, various invited talks, in addition to three publications). AMPL continued working closely together with different programs and departments at AUB as well as with educational, academic and cultural institutions and intellectuals from Lebanon and abroad. Most of the events have been covered by media and press, and on online forums as well.

B. PERSONNEL

1. Director

El-Bizri, Nader

2. Advisory Committee

Ahmad Dallal

Sirene Harb

Maher Jarrar

Assaad Khairallah

Saree Makdisi (UCLA)

3. Graduate Assistant

Fall Semester

Nuwayhid, Wissam

C. EVENTS

“Anfeh Unveiled” (archaeology and heritage preservation)

A Public lecture by Nadine Panayot Haroun (Balamand University)

September 28, 2015

“The Impact of the Protestant and Catholic Translations of the Bible on the Arab Renaissance”

A Public lecture by Amin Albert Rihani (Notre Dame University)

November 2, 2015 (organized in association with the Near East School of Theology)

“Philosophy and Religion as a ‘Way of Life’”

A regional colloquium organized in association with Notre Dame University, the University of Mashhad in Iran, and the Cedars Institute in Lebanon

November 19, 2015

“Celebrating the English Translation of an Anis Makdisi Arabic Poem”

A cultural community-outreach event organized in association with the AUB English Department and the Ahliyah School in Beirut

December 7, 2015

“Absence: The Manifestations of a Recollected Presence”

A poetry reading session by May Muzaffar (Poet based in Jordan), organized in association with the AUB English Department and the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies

December 8, 2015

“Issam Mahfouz: Pioneering Poet and Playwright”

A symposium organized in association with the Center for Lebanese Cultural Heritage (Lebanese American University) and Al-Madina Theater in Beirut

February 3, 2016

“A Muslim-Christian Shared Holiday in Lebanon: On Virgin Mary and the Annunciation”

A roundtable organized in association with the Issam Fares Institute

March 24, 2016

“Charles Malik the Philosopher: Reflections on Process and Impact”

An international conference organized in association with the Institute for Lebanese Thought at Notre Dame University
March 30-31, 2016

“The Ikhwan al-Safa' and their *Rasa'il*”

A public lecture by Ian Richard Netton (University of Exeter)
April 4, 2016

“The Sea is Our Life: Seaborne Exploration in Medieval Islam”

A public lecture by Dionisius A. Agius (University of Exeter)
April 5, 2016

“Arab, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies”

A state-of-the field workshop organized in association with the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, the Civilization Studies Program, the Jafet Library and the Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter
April 4-5, 2016

“Liberal Arts and the Modern University”

An international forum organized in association with the Civilization Studies Program and the Center for Arts and Humanities, with participations from Columbia University, the American University in Cairo, Notre Dame University, the Lebanese American University, Balamand University
May 5, 2016

D. PUBLICATION

Publication in 2016 in association with Dar al-Farabi (Beirut) of a poetry book in Arabic by the late poet and playwright Issam Mahfouz

E. PROJECTS

Hosting the “Lotus Project” to document and study the legacy, impact and relevance of the works of the anti-colonial writers of the Afro-Asian Writer's Association (AAWA) and their journal *Lotus* that was published in Arabic, English and French from Cairo and Beirut from the 1960s to the late 1980s.

Nader El-Bizri
Director