

George N. Atiyeh Prize Winner 2014

First of all, I would like to thank Christof Galli and Laila Hussain Mustafa for serving on the Atiyeh Prize Committee this year.

It is my pleasure to announce that this year the George N. Atiyeh Prize goes to Ms. Heather Hugues.

Heather's academic interest in the Middle East developed through her undergraduate studies in French Literature. As francophone literature from North Africa and the Caribbean featured prominently in her studies, she developed an interest in North Africa which led her to start studying Arabic language.

She then pursued a Master's in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington, where she further studied Arabic, and started learning Turkish. During that time, she was also able to take language courses in both Damascus and Istanbul.

After completing her Middle Eastern Studies Master's degree, she enrolled in an Information Studies program at the University of Texas where she started studying Persian, and worked in the UT Library System both as a student associate and a graduate research assistance. After one year at UT, she took a one-year leave of absence to work for an independent research company in southeast Turkey. And during this year, she conducted research on various aspects of the Syrian Conflict, mostly focusing on the humanitarian crisis in Turkey and Syria. Since September, she resumed her studies at the University of Texas, and is currently working at the Harry Ransom Center where she's involved in digitizing manuscripts for online collections.

Please join me in congratulating Heather, and welcoming her for a word.

Respectfully submitted,

The George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee,

Anaïs Salamon (Chair), Chrisof Galli, Laila Hussain Mustafa