



## **Dr. George N. Atiyeh Award 2022 Report**

**By Leili Seifi**

### **Chair of the Dr. Atiyeh Committee**

The George N. Atiyeh Award is an annual affair in hopes of recognizing aspiring Middle East subject specialist librarians. This year's committee also extended the call for applicants to other institutions in the region. So the committee promoted the call through all international network such as MELA website, MELA Social Media, IFLA-L, Iranian LIS forums, The Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III), Middle East Chapter (ASIS&T), ALA accredited institutions, LinkedIn Page, and other institutions in the region. After two reminding received 28 applications from Iran, Pakistan, Canada, and USA. Out of the total received applicants, the committee awarded Ayah Elkossei, MLIS / a Specialization of Archives Management at Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis.

Also because of the strong resume of Trevor Brabyn MLIS student at the San José State University recognized as the honor applicant.

Ayah Elkossei currently getting her dual masters in both Library & Information Sciences -with a specialization in Archives Management- and in History.

In February 2022, she started two archives internship positions, at the Lithuanian Archives Project (LAP) and the Lemont Public Library (LPL). She was responsible for organizing, processing, scanning, arranging, and describing Lithuanian-American archival materials for different collections. Using the organization's database, ArchivERA, she made the information visible to patrons and helped create a historical narrative for Lithuanian-American history in Chicago. She is designing two

physical exhibits and two virtual exhibits on the library's interesting history from its own archival collection. After her internship, she was accepted to be a part of the Chicago Area Archivists (CAA) Steering Committee, where she now serve as the communications manager. She work at the Chicago History Museum's Abakanowicz Research Center as a photocopy and scan assistant where she photocopy and scan archive collections that researchers request. She has a strong background in Middle Eastern history, and intend to establish a Middle Eastern American Archives Project in Chicago, IL.

**Dr. George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee Members:**

Aicha Azzaous, Northwestern University, Evanston IL, U.S.A (Member)

Guy Burak, New York University, New York, U.S.A (Member)

Maurice Hines, American University of Cairo, Egypt (Member)

Leili Seifi, University of Birjand, Birjand, Iran (Chair)