



2012 - 2013  
Annual  
Report



**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE GEORGE AND LISA ZAKHEM KAHLIL GIBRAN CHAIR FOR VALUES AND PEACE**

Prepared by the Gibran Chair Staff  
The Department of Anthropology  
The Center for International Development and Conflict Management  
The University of Maryland  
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**Contents**

About the Chair	3
Dr. Suheil Bushrui	3
Charles Malik Lecture on Human Rights	4
The Leila Tannous Dawton Memorial Lecture	4
Inaugural Lecture of Professor David Cadman: “My Work”	5
Kahlil Gibran Entry in <i>The Encyclopedia of Islam 3</i>	5
<i>The Prophet</i> , translation by Mrs. Hilda de Windt Ayoubi	5
<i>The Enduring Legacy of Kahlil Gibran</i>	6
<i>William Butler Yeats’s Search for a Spiritual Philosophy</i>	6
<i>The World’s Favorite Love Poems</i>	6
Major Lectures, International Interviews	7
I ran to Iran: Season Two Episode Two—“O Beleaguered Prophet”	7
The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace Conference: Reflections on Human Dignity	7
Interview in <i>Cedar World</i>	7
PBS Television Segment: Mystical Publishing Miracle—Gibran’s Enduring Legacy	7
Major Awards and Honors	8
Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar Award: Distinguished Faculty Mentor	8



## About the Chair

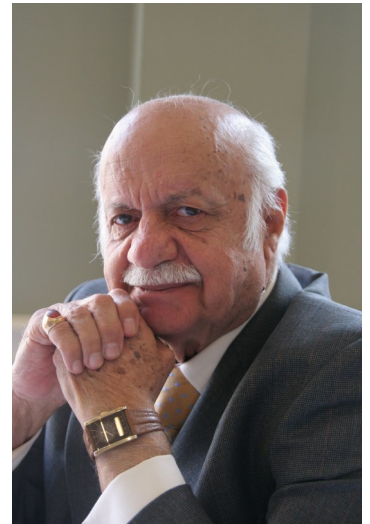
The George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace is established in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park. The Chair is dedicated to exploring and celebrating Gibran's life and works. It develops a holistic approach in addressing the moral and social determinants of public justice and peace. Scholars working under the auspices of the Kahlil Gibran Chair examine matters of cultural pluralism, human rights, and the role of the arts, poetry, and literature in promoting international communication and cooperating. These studies emphasize the enduring human, ethical, moral, and sacred values which Gibran has advocated in his writings and which are essential to the creation of a world vision based on the principle of "unity in diversity." The Kahlil Gibran Chair is dedicated, therefore, to advancing studies about political and moral healing in a world beset by conflict and confused by a rapid change in the human condition.

The Chair, in particular, helps advance the understanding of the country and people of Lebanon, the culture and civilization of the Middle East, relations among people of different religions, faiths, and cultures, and issues of peace and conflict resolution.

## Dr. Suheil Bushrui

Professor Suheil Bushrui (B.A., Ph.D., Hon L.H.D) is Research Professor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology and the first incumbent of The George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland. He is a distinguished author, poet, critic, translator and media personality, well known in the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. Widely recognized for his seminal studies in English of the works of W.B. Yeats, Professor Bushrui is also the foremost authority on the works of Kahlil Gibran.

Professor Bushrui's main interests are in the areas of ethical and spiritual values, human rights, and environmental ethics. He teaches a course on the Spiritual Heritage of the Human Race, which highlights the work of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on environmental sustainability.







## Charles Malik Lecture on Human Rights

April 3, 2014

Coinciding with the seventieth anniversary of Lebanese independence on 22 November 2013, the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland is inaugurating The Charles Malik Annual Lecture on Human Rights. The establishment of the Malik Lecture is as a prelude to the planned launch of a related Charles Malik Legacy Project.

Although officially representing what was then the newly independent Republic of Lebanon, Charles Malik became a major figure on the world stage as one of the most respected and influential diplomats of the twentieth century. He is perhaps best remembered for leading the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

The Charles Malik Annual Lecture on Human Rights will be inaugurated on April 3rd, 2014 at a ceremony held at the University of Maryland (UMD). A distinguished scholar well versed in human rights, generally, and Malik’s life and work, in particular, will deliver an address, which in due course will be published and circulated by UMD. Professor Habib Malik—President and CEO of The Charles Malik Foundation—will be the guest of honor at the lecture.

The George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace is also planning to establish the Charles Malik Legacy Project, which will be dedicated to researching, documenting, and critically analyzing the Lebanese statesman’s international thought, broadly defined. In-depth studies of Malik—based on his diplomatic addresses, public lectures, and official and unofficial writings (both published and unpublished)—will provide key insights into past, present, and future global realities. The proposed Malik Project will at all times seek the guidance of, and coordinate its efforts with, Professor Habib Malik and the Charles Malik Foundation.



## Leila Tannous Dawton Memorial Lecture

February 14, 2014

Leila Tannous Dawton was the first woman broadcaster and Radio Program Editor whose voice internationally enriched the British Broadcasting Corporation Cultural and Literary Programs in Arabic. Through her remarkable work at the BBC, Leila Tannous Dawton united the Arab world in a way that no

other person could have done. Serving as Lebanon’s unofficial ambassador everywhere, she took the lead in founding the British Lebanese Association, and her home became the center of Lebanese diplomatic, cultural, and literary activity, and she devoted the last two decades of her life to the service of Lebanon. Towards this end, she served on the International Advisory Board of the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland, which is deeply indebted to the many services she has rendered.

In honoring her memory today, the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace announces the establishment of an annual memorial lecture, which will be announced on the first anniversary of the passing of Ms. Leila Tannous Dawton on February 14, 2014. The event, which will take place in London in collaboration with the British Lebanese Association, will also be the launching of two books which were very much inspired by Leila Tannous Dawton: *The Literary Heritage of the Arabs* (Saqi Books, 2012) and *The Enduring Legacy of Kahlil Gibran* (to be published 2013).





## Inaugural Lecture of Professor David Cadman: “My Work”

October 17, 2013

On October 17, 2013, David Cadman delivered his inaugural lecture as Honorary Visiting Professor of the George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace. Professor Cadman’s affiliation with the Chair will bring his international prestige to support the work of the Chair, especially with the creation of an international seminar, to be entitled “Peace Amongst the Religions”.

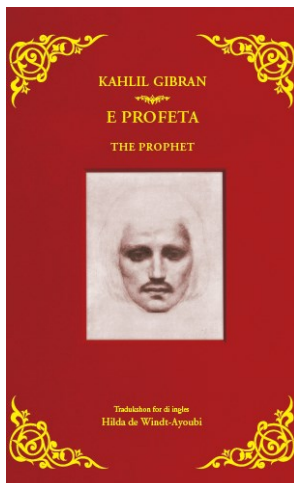
Professor Cadman is involved at the highest levels of interreligious dialogue world wide, publishing work that draws upon the teachings of the great spiritual traditions, such as *Holiness in the Everyday* (2009) and *A Way of Being* (2010). He is also a distinguished Visiting Professor at the University College, London and a Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge. Professor Cadman also works closely with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on issues of environmental sustainability. His affiliation with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will no doubt be of enormous benefit to the Chair, as it has already resulted in two publications: *Selected Speeches and Articles by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales* (2006) and *Harmony: A Crisis of Perception* (2009). A new collaboration between the Gibran Chair and Professor Cadman will result in another volume of the speeches and articles of His Royal Highness.



## Kahlil Gibran Article in *The Encyclopedia of Islam 3*

(to be published 2014)

Professor Suheil Bushrui was approached by the editor of the prestigious *Encyclopedia of Islam* series to contribute an article on Kahlil Gibran for the new volume of their book. Including the biography of an individual who is not a Muslim, but in fact a Maronite Christian, is a testament to the universal recognition of Kahlil Gibran’s message of intercultural and interreligious understanding. The publication is now in its editing stages and will be published in the very near future.



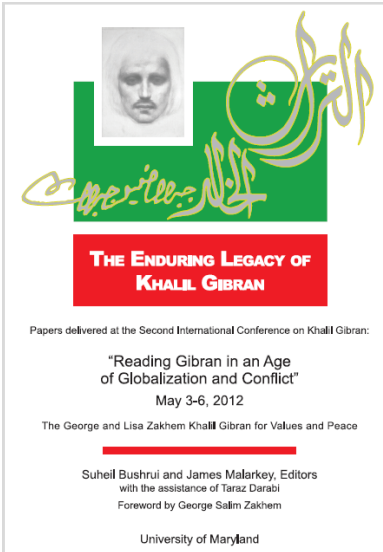
## *The Prophet*, translation by Mrs. Hilda de Windt Ayoubi

(To be published by CDL Press, 2013)

The George and Lisa Zakhem Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace and the International Association for the Study of the Life and Works of Kahlil Gibran are delighted to announce the completed translation of *The Prophet* into the Papiamentu language, which is widely spoken in Curacao, by University Lecturer Hilda de Windt Ayoubi. Mrs. Ayoubi is currently working at the University of Curacao teaching Spanish, grammar, and literature.

Regardless of the fact that very few people know anything about Papiamentu, every time Gibran is translated into a new language, he is, in fact, newly born. The immortal message of *The Prophet* is a great message indeed, no matter the language in which it is expressed, or the

geographic location where it is published.



## *The Enduring Legacy of Kahlil Gibran*

(To be published by Greyden Press, 2013)

In May of 2012, the University of Maryland hosted the Second International Conference on Kahlil Gibran, entitled "Reading Gibran in an Age of Globalization and Conflict". The conference focused on Gibran's life and work, as well as his art and artistic contributions, and was attended by Gibran scholars from twenty different countries.

The collection of twenty papers that were presented at the conference have been compiled into a single collection under the title *The Enduring Legacy of Kahlil Gibran*. Each paper is unique in very many ways, and the collection represents the impressive proof of the lasting influence of Kahlil Gibran world-wide. These important scholarly papers represent the most recent research on Kahlil Gibran, his contemporaries, and the issues they addressed connected with the theme of globalization and conflict. Topics

included range from the influence of Kahlil Gibran in places such as Italy, France, Lebanon, China, and Australia, to important themes of Gibran's work including morality in business, unity in diversity, and the feminine mystique found in his artwork. The collection is now in the press and is expected to be in print before the end of the year.

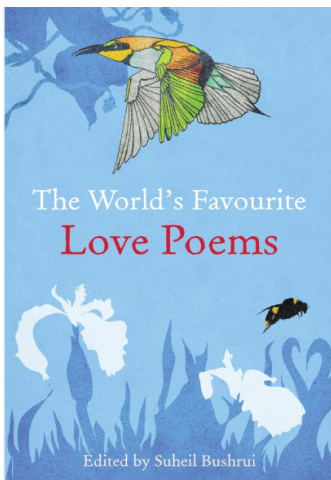
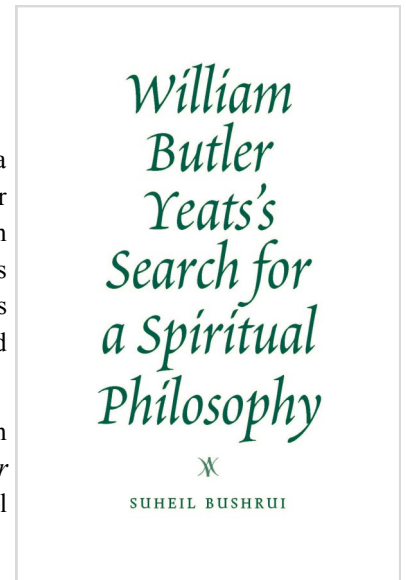


## *William Butler Yeats's Search for a Spiritual Philosophy*

(Published by Temenos Academy, London, July 2013)

When Yeats wrote "most of us who are writing books in Ireland today have some kind of a spiritual philosophy" he was, of course, making a remark particularly relevant to himself. For Yeats, that personal philosophy underwent continuous formulation and reformulation throughout his life. In the process, he drew not only on the culture and philosophies of his native Ireland - although Ireland always remained a focal point on which other influences converged - but ranged widely through the cultural heritage of other nations for inspiration and ideas.

Organized as a tribute to Her Majesty's recent visit to Ireland and the reconciliation between Ireland and Great Britain, this publication by The Temenos Academy, entitled *William Butler Yeats and His Search for a Spiritual Philosophy*, was originally delivered by Professor Suheil Bushrui on July 7, 2011.

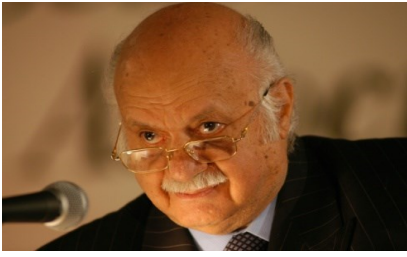


## *The World's Favorite Love Poems*

(Published by Oneworld, London, January 2013)

In this charming anthology, Professor Suheil Bushrui presents a varied collection of the world's favorite love poetry from around the globe and down through the ages. The first compilation with a truly international coverage, this inimitable volume contains nearly two hundred works from some of the foremost writers in history, including Goethe, Shakespeare, Ibn Arabi, and Rumi, as well as poetry from the indigenous peoples of Africa, Australasia, and the Americas.

Oneworld Publications released a new edition of this book in January, 2013. On Valentines Day, the book release was commemorated with a special book launch at the distinguished Neyla Restaurant in Washington D.C., where Professor Bushrui read selections from the book and signed personal copies.



## Major Lectures, International Interviews

Professor Suheil Bushrui continues to lecture on a myriad of topics to a variety of different audiences across the United States and Western Europe.

### I Ran to Iran: Season Two, Episode 2— “O Beleaguered Prophet!”

October 2, 2013

Professor Bushrui was interviewed in August of 2013 by Mr. Brian Zegeer and Ms. Katayoun Varizi, producers of the London based radio program entitled “I ran to Iran”. The program seeks to connect a Western audience with topics of cultural and political importance in Iran and the Middle East, particularly those passed over by the conventional news media. Professor Bushrui gave a detailed account of Kahlil Gibran’s teachings, and the importance of his message today not only for the Middle East, but for the world at large.

### The Bahá’í Chair for World Peace Conference: Reflections on Human Dignity

April 3, 2013

In this working conference, the Bahá’í Chair brought together human rights theorists, philosophers, psychologists and political scientists in an effort to explore the concept of human dignity from various perspectives. Professor Suheil Bushrui was invited to present his paper entitled “Towards a Principle of Human Dignity” which focused on the potential of the universal principle of human dignity to serve as a unifying force for mankind.

### Interview in Cedar World

August 2013

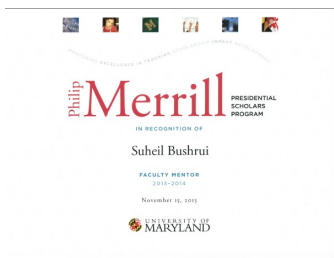
### PBS Television Segment: Mystical Publishing Miracle—Gibran’s Enduring Legacy

July 12, 2013

Professor Bushrui participated in a special segment on Kahlil Gibran on the PBS program “Religion and Ethics Newsweekly” regarding the enduring literary legacy of the renowned poet Kahlil Gibran. The program, which provides a well-rounded testimony about Gibran’s appeal, features an interview with Professor Suheil Bushrui, and was also announced in a Huffington Post Article written by Dr. David Tereshchuk, contributing producer of the program, and was published on July 11, 2013.



## Major Awards and Honors



### Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar Award: Distinguished Faculty Mentor

One of Professor Bushrui's students, Mr. Austin Lee, was nominated as a 2013-2014 Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar. The award recognizes academic excellence in the University of Maryland's students, as well as the important role that teachers and faculty have as mentors. Dr. Bushrui was named by Mr. Lee as the faculty mentor who made the most impact on his academic achievement. A special luncheon, held on November 15 and hosted

by the Office of the President, was held in honor of the selected students and distinguished faculty mentors.

