CSULA Emeriti Faculty Biography



Name: Daniel Crecelius

Department: History

Academic rank: Professor

Year appointed: 1964 **Year retired**: 2001
FERP years: 2001-06

City of residence: Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Email: dncrecelius@aol.com

Birth Place: St. Louis, MO

Birth Year: 1937

Marital status: Married **Spouse's name**: Anahid Tashjian

Family information: One daughter, Gia Maria Crecelius

Colleges or Universities Attended:	**Year**	**Degree**
Colorado College	1959	B.A. in History
Princeton University	1962	M.A. in Near East Studies
Princeton University	1967	Ph.D. in Near East Studies

Teaching Experience:

Institution	**From**	**To**
Professor, CSULA	1964	2006
Visiting Professor, Colorado College	1990	1990
Visiting Professor, Cairo University	1992	1992

Courses taught:

World History survey, US History survey, Middle East History, 7th century to 20th century, special topics on Middle East history, both undergraduate and graduate levels

Scholarly/Creative Activity:

Given access to several previously closed archival repositories in Cairo, I was able to explore such fresh topics as the political history of the corps of religious scholars, the `ulama', the social, economic, and political history of the mamluk military caste from the 17th-19th centuries, as well as the political history of 18th century Egypt, and topics of the economic and social history of Egypt in the 18th century. Through the personal intervention of one of the Egyptian vice-presidents, I opened the field of waqf (religious endowments) studies to Western scholarship by being the first Western scholar given open access to the archival collection of waqf deeds, some going back a thousand years, held by the Ministry of Awqaf in Cairo.

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

Agency or Company	From	To
Chair, Department of History	1980	1983
Chair, Department of History	1998	2001

Awards, Honors, Professional Recognition:

- Scholarships and postgraduate research grants from The Woodrow Wilson National Foundation (1959-60); the Ford Foundation (1960-61); Princeton University (1961-62)
- Numerous Fulbright awards for research at al-Azhar University Cairo (1962-63), (the only Christian student at this Muslim seminary), research on Acehnese royal decrees in Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia (1977-78), archival research in Istanbul and Cairo (1991-92), grant to organize an international conference on 18th century Egyptian history and to publish selected papers from the conference (1992), collaborative research award (1995-96), to translate the 400 page 18th century manuscript of Ahmad Katkhuda `Azaban, grant in 2003 to organize an international conference in Cairo on the Ottoman history of Egypt and to publish selected papers from the conference;
- National Defense Foreign Language award (1963-64);
- American Research Center in Egypt research awards (1968-69, 1972, 1979, 1984, 1987);
- CSULA research awards (1969, 1975, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1990):
- Social Science Research Council (1973);
- National Endowment for the Humanities research awards (1980-82, 1983-84, 1987, 1991-92);
- Department of Health, Education and Welfare research award (1973);
- American Philosophical Society research awards (1975, 1980, 1989);
- USIA travel grant (1998); Joseph Malone Fellowship to Saudi Arabia (1998).
- CSULA Meritorious Service awards (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989-award discontinued); Outstanding Professor Award (1974); Outstanding Student Organization Advisor award (2002).
- Invitation in 1980 to spend two weeks at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to discuss topics relating to waqf with a team of Israeli scholars at the university.
- Invitation in 2000 to spend three weeks at Moscow State University and St. Petersburg University to lecture on topics relating to 18th century Ottoman Egyptian history.
- Numerous invitations to deliver researched papers at specialized international conferences in Tunisia, Damascus, Istanbul and Cairo, usually to explore specific topics or to honor French and Arab scholars.

Citations of Selected Publications:

53 researched papers delivered at international conferences, most by invitation and paid for by the host; 49 articles published in scholarly journals; 15 invited chapters in books; 11 edited works, including Eighteenth Century Egypt: The Arabic Manuscript Sources (Claremont, 1990); with `Abd al-Wahhab Bakr, Al-Damurdashi's Chronicle of Egypt, 1688-1755, translated and annotated (Leiden, 1991); with Butrus Abd al-Malik, the first half of volume I of Shaykh `Abd al-Rahman ibn Hasan al-Jabarti's `Aja'ib al-Athar fi al-Tarajim wa al-Akhbar (Stuttgart: 1994); edition and translation, with Hamza `Abd al-`Aziz Badr, Khulasat ma yurad fi Akhbar al-Amir Murad - A Short Manuscript History of the Career of Murad Bey (Cairo: 1992); guest editor, and contributor of the "Introduction" to a special issue on waqf, Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, Volume 38 (August 1995); Fihris Waqfiyyat al-`Asr al-`Uthmani bi Wizarat al-Awqaf wa Dar al-Watha'iq al-Ta'rikhiyya al-Qawmiyyah bi al-Qahirah (Index of Waqfiyyat from the Ottoman Period Preserved in the Ministry of Awqaf and the Dar al-Watha'iq in Cairo (Cairo: 1992). The Roots of Modern Egypt: A Study of the Regimes of `Ali Bey al-Kabir and Muhammad Bey Abu al-Dhahab, 1760-1775 (Minneapolis and Chicago: 1981).

University Service:

Academic Senate; Coordinator for five years of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation competition on campus; numerous committees in the School of Natural and Social Sciences; university selection committees for university administrators.

Personal commentary:

My interest in the Middle East began in the summer of 1957 when, as a sophomore at Colorado College, I was selected to join a group of 42 students from across the US to undertake an 11-week tour of the Middle East. My introduction to the region was to have my passport stolen on the Greek-Turkish border and then to be thrown into a Syrian jail and later expelled back to the border area with Turkey when I didn't have a proper Syrian visa. I survived alone on my own wits for three days in Syrian and Turkish border towns whose names I had never heard until I could obtain a proper visa that permitted me to catch up with my group in Damascus. This experience quickly made a man of me and taught me to survive in tough situations, and alone. I was deeply affected by this summer trip not just to a foreign region, but into a foreign culture. Two years later I was accepted into Princeton University's graduate program in Middle East Studies, from which I obtained a Ph. D. in 1967. I have enjoyed my career immensely as it has been responsible for introducing me to my life's partner, a beautiful and intelligent Armenian student from Aleppo, Syria whom I married in Beirut in 1963, and it permitted us to live wonderfully enjoyable periods of time in London, Paris, Vienna, Istanbul, Beirut, and Cairo while I undertook research in the local archival collections relating to my interest in the Ottoman history of Egypt. Research grants, and the support of a succession of college deans, permitted me, during my university tenure, to live abroad for 17 years, 13 of which I spent in Cairo, a city my wife and I came to know and love, the more so because we could communicate freely with its citizens in Arabic. Such extensive time spent in the Middle East, and 55 years of marriage into a Middle Eastern family, have provided me with a deep understanding of Middle Eastern culture and given me a lifetime of wonderful memories. Through the years I acquired good friends in the region, whether international colleagues from Europe and various Middle Eastern countries, or from an array of "colorful" characters, such as "ecstatic" dervishes in Cairo or simple street merchants in Beirut, Istanbul and Cairo, whose antics I still remember with fondness. I learned how to bargain while sipping coffee with merchant friends in the Cairo bazaar as I watched them fleece innocent foreign tourists. I did not enjoy my numerous dealings with the Egyptian intelligence operatives who were responsible for maintaining various forms of surveillance of my activities in Egypt as early in my career my phone was tapped, my mail was opened, and a microphone was hidden in one of the walls of my apartment. I have been invited to lecture at Cairo University, Alexandria University, Ayn Shams University, Zagazig University, and at universities in Minya and Sohag, where I had to have security guards. My profession also gave me the opportunity to help guide generations of students towards a greater maturity and a better future. Our campus has had only three students win Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation awards in its history. All three were my students in Middle East history. I sent many students to graduate school in Middle Eastern studies and other disciplines and I still maintain contact with several of the students I taught in my earliest years at CSULA. I also guided five groups of my students to Islamic Spain, Turkey and Egypt. My many students remain the jewels in my professional crown. My wife and I still love to travel, an expression of our continued interest in foreign cultures, different belief systems, and other peoples. Luckily, we speak six languages between us (she speaks five), so we can usually interact with the citizens of the countries we so much enjoy visiting.

Date updated: May 2018