

# IN MEMORIAM

**Amy Jo Johnson (1969-2004)**

Amy Jo Johnson, Associate Professor of History at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, died December 2, 2004 of injuries sustained in a November 24 automobile accident.

Born in 1969 in Iowa, Johnson received her B.A. and M.A. (1992) in political science from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She obtained a Ph.D. in History and Middle Eastern studies from Harvard University in 1998. Her dissertation research examined rural development in Egypt prior to the 1952 Revolution and argued the region's reforms were successful because they stressed popular participation and included the integration of social service provisions.

Johnson's book *Reconstructing Rural Egypt: Dr. Ahmed Hussein and the History of Egyptian Development*, was published in hardback by Syracuse University Press and in paperback by the American University in Cairo Press in 2004. This work explored the leading role Dr. Hussein played in the creation of Egypt's rural development projects and how Hussein's ideas continue to serve as a model for several rural reform organizations today.

Although her primary area of interest was 20<sup>th</sup> century Egyptian history, Johnson also published several articles on Middle Eastern and African history, dealing with issues such as popular conceptions of rural development policy, the history of anti-FGM (female genital mutilation) campaigns, diplomatic history, women's rights in Libya, the history of rural education, and 19<sup>th</sup> century travel writing in Morocco.

Before her death, Johnson was in the process of co-editing and contributing a chapter to a book entitled *Re-Envisioning Egypt, 1919-1952* with Arthur Goldschmidt of Pennsylvania State University and Barak A. Salmoni of the US Naval Postgraduate School. She had also begun a biography on Aziza Hussein, who was a leader in Egyptian programs for family planning, reproductive health, women's rights, rural development, child care, and anti-female genital mutilation.

Johnson was a respected, demanding teacher, who was committed to encouraging student scholarship. While at Berry, she taught courses on the Middle East since antiquity, gender in the Middle East, modern Africa, the history of imperialism, and developing nations. In each of her classes, students undertook a major research assignment and in 2002 she was awarded Berry College's Writing Across the Curriculum Award.

Johnson served as the faculty adviser for the Berry College Model Arab League, which was recognized as one of the outstanding Model Arab League chapters among colleges and universities in the southeast and the nation. She was also the faculty adviser of the Berry College Chapter of Amnesty International, the founder of and faculty contact

for Berry's Study Abroad in Egypt program, and the coordinator of the Middle Eastern Studies major, a part of the College's Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

An intelligent, honest, hard-working, gentle, and compassionate individual, Johnson touched the lives of those people who had the good fortune to know her. Her death at such a young age is an immeasurable loss and she is profoundly missed by her family, colleagues, and students. Johnson is survived by her parents, Dennis and Paula Johnson; two sisters, Laura and Amanda; and five nephews.

Christy Snider  
*Berry College*

### Aryeh Shmuelevitz (1932-2005)

Professor Aryeh Shmuelevitz passed away on 20 January, 2005, on his way to an academic conference at Tel Aviv University. The unexpected death of Shmuelevitz was a shock to his family, friends and colleagues, but it was hardly surprising that it occurred at the university. As one of his long-time colleagues described during the funeral at Kibbutz Einat on 21 January, "Aryeh was the continuous memory of the department," a figure that was ever present in the halls of academia since the 1950s.

Professor Aryeh Shmuelevitz was born in 1932 in the Yavniel farming community in the Galilee. He graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, earning his B.A. in Contemporary Middle East Studies and Modern History, in 1956, and his M.A. in the History of Islamic Countries and the History of Islamic Civilization, in 1960. His thesis was titled "Sultan Selim I, 1512-20, as reflected in Elijah Capsali's Chronicle on Ottoman History," under the guidance of Professor Uriel Heyd.

His Ph.D. was awarded from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1981. Its title was "Administrative, Economic, Legal and Social Relations in the Ottoman Empire in the Late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries: The Case of the Jewish Community." Long before he completed his doctorate, Professor Shmuelevitz was lecturing at Tel Aviv University. He began lecturing in 1964, was one of the founders of the Shiloah Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (renamed the Dayan Center in 1983), and became a Professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University. Aryeh was a visiting professor, on various occasions, in French, Turkish, Japanese and American universities.

In addition to dozens of articles in academic journals and proceedings, perhaps the most important academic contribution of Professor Shmuelevitz was the editing and annotation of *Seder Eliyahu Zuta* by Rabbi Eliahu Capsali, on the history of the Ottoman and Venetian empires in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Aryeh also researched and wrote on contemporary Turkey and Iran and followed with great interest the role of religion in modern politics of the Middle East.