



Gerald H. Read Center  
for International and Intercultural Education

## What do Visiting Scholars Do While At Kent State University?

### In His Own Words: Dr. Jamal Al Khateeb

This year has been excellent so far, research-wise as well as socially. I have had numerous opportunities to upgrade my knowledge about best practices in college teaching, scientific research, and university-community partnerships, and access extensive literature pertinent to evidence-based practices in teaching students with disabilities in the USA. My interactions with respected faculty members, and to a lesser degree, with students in EHHS have been just great. I have also had numerous opportunities to meet and interact with scholars and students from many countries particularly China. In addition, I have been participating in scholarly activities, and exchanging expertise and knowledge in the area of early childhood special education policies and practices. I hope I can utilize knowledge and experience gained to reshape the special education programs by developing new courses and evaluating current courses at the University of Jordan.

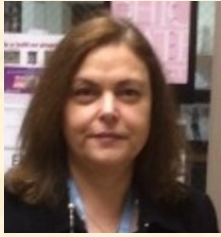
My main professional objective was to write and publish a book about Arab Americans with disabilities. Disability among Americans of Arab descent captured my interest over the past few years. Having publishing two articles last year about this population in refereed journals published in the US, I noticed that not one journal article addressing Arab Americans and special education in the US had been published.

Thus, I realized the need for the information about Arab Americans having a disability. This information would be valuable to Arab American parents navigating the special education system in the US as well as special education and related service providers with this segment of the American population. Therefore, I wanted to write and publish a book that sheds light on this forgotten sub-minority of a marginalize and stereotyped minority in the US, the Arab Americans.

The book is completed and under review by a major publisher. I am indebted to both Kent State University and the University of Jordan for their support which enabled me to achieve this long-sought objective.



Dr. Muna Al Hadidi and Dr. Jamal Al Khateeb visit a private Christian School as part of their study & research at Kent.



## Writing Articles, Shaping Policies, Revamping Courses, and Exploring Best Practices.

I am Muna Alhadidi, a professor of special education from the Department of Counseling and Special Education, Collage of Education, the University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan. Even though I could have chosen to spend my sabbatical in other university in my country, I chose to come to the USA.



It is my honor that people in the field of special education in the Arab countries acknowledge my contributions to the field, and as a graduate of the Ohio State University, it is my responsibility to explore and describe new trends and issues through my publications as well as research, teaching, consultations, program development; and being an advocate for enhancing services and practices in the field.

During my sabbatical, I almost finished writing a book on best practices in teaching students with visual impairment. As well, I am working on research concerning policies and challenges of teaching students who have blindness and low vision in Jordan and the United States of America.

In addition, I have been participating in scholarly activities, and exchanging expertise and knowledge in the area of early childhood special education policies and practices. I hope I can utilize knowledge and experience gained to reshape the special education programs by developing new courses and evaluating current courses at the University of Jordan. Further, I plan to introduce current applications to early childhood education in Jordan, and explore the potential for future relationships between Kent State University and the University of Jordan in the field of special education.

— Dr. Muna Al Hadidi



### Invite a Fulbright Scholar to your Department

The Outreach Lecturing Fund allows International Fulbright Scholars to travel to other universities to give departure lectures, hold lectures in classrooms for students, meet with faculty for exchange of ideas or work with community and school partners. CIIE would cover the expenses which are required (local transportation, lodging and meals.) This is one way to help internationalize your program or a specific class, to develop relationships with well established international experts here on Fulbright scholarships at other universities. Check out the website [www.cies.org/](http://www.cies.org/)