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Welcoming Letters

Wesley Theological Seminary is pleased to host the Abdelkader Education Project Forum.

How does an event like this come to be at a Christian seminary? It began when I encountered John Kiser and his research on *The Monks of Tibhirine* 20 years ago and I saw in his work a desire to understand the faith of these Christian monks and the way they interacted in a Muslim culture.

This seminary desires to foster a confident and gracious Christian mission toward those of other faiths. We believe that happens best when we encounter those who are rooted in their own traditions. In the words of Psalm 42: “deep calls to deep.”

And then, I was excited to read the draft of Commander of the Faithful. The emir’s value for interfaith dialogue is that he is a devout Muslim. His story is stunningly relevant and compelling. Since then, so much good work has been accomplished worldwide in bringing his message to light as an exemplar.

There is no better place than Washington, and no better time than now for this Forum to take this project to a new level. We pray for its success.

Sincerely,

David McAllister-Wilson, M.Div., D.Min.
President, Wesley Theological Seminary

www.wesleyseminary.edu
Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today at Wesley Theological Seminary. We are especially thankful for the wholehearted support of its president, David McAllister-Wilson, in hosting this celebration of Emir Abd El-Kader al Jaziary, known by many Algerians as their George Washington. We are also honored by the gift of time and energy of our many speakers and program participants. The program in your guest packet provides a full description of today’s topics.

Our Forum marks the 10th anniversary of the Abdelkader Education Project, and its campaign to revive the memory of this international hero of yesteryear. It also marks the Emir’s 210th birthday. His relevance for today is evident to all but the most blinkered of minds...a man of moral courage, broad intellect, empathy and faith. Abd El-Kader’s religion was not a safety belt holding his identity together, but a platform for understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s creation. At a time when differences sow discord rather than celebration, people of all faiths and cultures can find common ground through this Bedouin scholar, warrior and humanitarian who emerged from his struggles with France a moral hero for the world.

We hope today’s forum will launch you on a journey of discovery and inspiration.

John W. Kiser
Co-founder of the Abdelkader Education Project

Kathy Garms
Executive Director and Co-founder of the Abdelkader Education Project

www.abdelkaderproject.org
The Program

8:30 AM: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Daisy Kahn, Mistress of Ceremonies

9:00 AM: MORNING SPEAKERS

WELCOMING REMARKS
David McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary

His Excellency Madjid Bouguerra, Ambassador, The Embassy of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria

Kathy Garms, Executive Director & Co-founder, Abdelkader Education Project (AEP)

WHY DOES ABDELKADER MATTER TODAY?
John Kiser, Author & Co-founder, Abdelkader Education Project

CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES
Tamara Shehadah, Our Muslim Neighbor Ambassador
“The Abdelkader Ambassador Program, Nashville, TN”

James Patton, President, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD)
“Abdelkader and Salafism”

Daisy Khan, Executive Director, WISE
“Abdelkader as Role Model at Home and Abroad”

EDUCATOR VOICES
Tamar Miller, AEP Curriculum Development Director
“Courage and Confidence in the Heartland”

Azhar Hussain, President, Peace & Education Foundation, Pakistan
“Abdelkader’s Reception in Pakistan”

12 NOON: LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

“A Muslim Hero for Today: Building Global Community”
Kathy Garms, Executive Director & Co-founder, Abdelkader Education Project
Lakhdar Brahimi, Former Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister, United Nations diplomat

**ABDELKADER GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS**
(Student Essay Winners)
Michelle Perez, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey; William Virgili, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey; Animesh Josh, Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa; Shawdi Sani, Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, California

**2:00 PM: AFTERNOON SPEAKERS**

**SECURITY & DIPLOMACY VOICES**
Andrea Bartoli, PhD, Dean, Seton Hall School of Diplomacy

Mohamad Mirghahari, Abdelkader Fellow, Seton Hall School of Diplomacy
“Educating the Military”

Major Matthew H. Peterson, US Marine Corps
“Cultural Literacy & Cargo Pants Koran”

**SPIRITUAL VOICES**
Valentin Aksilenko, Author, Leaving Afghanistan
“Abdelkader, Tolstoy & Russia Today”

Mark Danner: Researcher, Middle East Analyst
“Mobilizing the Unknown Abdelkaders”

Dr. Robert Dickson Crane, Co-founder of Armonia Journal
“From Islam to an Enlightened Understanding of Catholicism”

**SUMMATIONS**
Sayyid Syeed, President, Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

David McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary

**4:00 PM: PROGRAM ENDS**
Opportunities for Q & A throughout the program. Speakers subject to change
The Emir’s path to worldwide fame began with a bungled French occupation of Algiers in 1830. The occupation spawned a resistance movement from which Emir Abd El-Kader emerged as France’s most tenacious opposition leader. His strength was rooted in his faith, moral authority, keen intelligence, physical stamina, natural military prowess and knowledge of tribal ways. His most effective weapons were his diplomatic astuteness, desert-hardened horses and his Jewish intelligence network that kept him informed of the political divisions in France caused by its colonial adventure. He earned the respect of French generals and the gratitude of his French prisoners for the humane treatment he insisted they receive. Newspaper accounts of his valor and chivalry won him admiration as far as the American Midwest, where a new settlement was named in his honor; today, Elkader in Clayton County, Iowa.

French scorched earth tactics and desire to dominate all of Algeria led to widespread defections among Abdelkader’s tribal allies. After fifteen years of struggle, and wanting to avoid the useless suffering of his people, the Emir surrendered voluntarily in 1847, believing it God’s will. In exchange, he negotiated free passage for his family and followers to the Middle East. Following the fall of the French monarchy two months later, the new republican French government disavowed the agreement and the Emir and his extended family were held in French captivity for five years. Over twenty-five members of his entourage died of pneumonia, cholera and depression brought on by the damp cold of the abandoned chateaus that
became their prisons. Angry and shamed for having trusted France’s word, Abdelkader resisted bribes of the Ministry of War to remain in France, insisting that the government honor its promise. The Emir publicly endured the injustice with a grace, piety, and dignified stoicism that won over many French and European notables. Giving in to pressures from both within and outside France, the newly elected President Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte granted the Emir’s freedom in 1852.

The Emir lived out his days in Damascus teaching, studying and engaging with its diverse intellectual community. When anti-Christian riots broke out in 1860, the Emir took thousands of Christians under his protection, including French, American and Russian diplomats. When the rioters clamored at his door, the Emir brandished his sword, while invoking Islamic law to protect the innocent. His moral courage earned him global acclaim from the likes of President Lincoln, Queen Victoria, Pope Pius IX and Tsar Alexander II.

The Emir later wrote “What I did was merely obedience to our sacred law and to the precepts of humanity...When we think about how rare are the real champions of truth, and when one sees ignorant people who imagine Islamism is about severity, hardness, excess and barbarism, it is time to repeat these words: ‘Patience is godliness, trust in God.’”

Upon his death in 1883, The New York Times eulogized the Emir, “The nobility of his character won him the admiration of the world...He was one of the few great men of the century.”
Brief History of Colonialism

1789  
Beginning of French Revolution,  
US Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia

1793  
The Terror instituted to defend the Revolution

1798  
Turks capture Oran from Spain  

1799  
Napoleon Bonaparte invades Egypt & Syria

1804  
Napoleonic Code revolutionizes European society  
Haiti declares independence from France, thousands of whites massacred

1808  
Birth of Abd el-Kader  
Tecumseh leads revitalization of Shawnee

1815  
Defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo  
Creek Indian war in US;  
Spain sells territories east of Mississippi

1827  
Dey Hussein strikes French consul with fly swatter

1830  
Gen. de Bourmont leads punitive expedition to capture Algiers,  
abdication of Charles X in favor of Louis-Philippe;  
US Congress passes Indian Removal Act, enabling forced deportation of Indians west of Mississippi river

1832  
Muhi al-Din cedes leadership of jihad to Abd el-Kader  
Seminole Indian Wars

1834  
DeMichels Treaty makes Emir an ally

1837  
Treaty of Tafna  
First “Afghan War” British troops massacred in retreat from Kabul;  
Victoria I becomes queen of Great Britian

1839  
Jihad resumes  
First “opium war” forces Chinese to cede Hong Kong
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Gen. Bugeaud named governor of Algeria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International troops push Egyptians out of Syria</td>
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<td>1843</td>
<td>Duke of Aumale captures emir’s smala,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abd El-Kader becomes a fugitive under Moraccan protection</td>
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<td>British troops conquer Sindh region of India</td>
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<td>1845</td>
<td>France pressures Moroccan sultan to deny asylum to Abd el-Kader</td>
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<td></td>
<td>British conquer Sikh region of India;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>President Polk champions “Manifest Destiny”</td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>French troops massacred by Mustafa Ben Thami</td>
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<td>US declares war on Mexico, seizes New Mexico and California</td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>Abd el-Kader negotiates surrender to Gen. Lamoricière</td>
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<td>Navaho wars begin in American southwest</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>Abd el-Kader and entourage imprisoned in France</td>
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<td></td>
<td>California Gold Rush;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>British annex Puinjab</td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>Abd el-Kader liberated by Louis-Napoleon</td>
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<td>British invade Burma</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>Abd el-Kader exiled to Damascus</td>
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<td>US hostilities with Teton Souix</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>Druze rebellion;</td>
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<td>Abd el-Kader intervenes to save Christians in Damascus</td>
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<td>Apache go on warpath in Arizona</td>
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<td>South Carolina secedes from the Union</td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>Opening of Suez Canal, Abd el-Kader among dignitaries present</td>
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<td>Vatican I council opens</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>French defeated by Prussians at Sedan, ending it’s image of</td>
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<td>invincibility in Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nez Perce Indian Wars; defeat of Chief Joseph</td>
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<td>1883</td>
<td>Death of Abd el-Kader</td>
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<td></td>
<td>French invade Senegal, Madagascar;</td>
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<td>US Civil Rights Act of 1875 declared unconstitutional</td>
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"All the religions of the Book rest on two principals—to praise God and have compassion toward his creatures..."

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“All creatures are part of God’s family, and those most loved by God are those who do the most good for His family”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“The prophets are like men who have a common father, but each has a different mother...”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“Our God and the God of all the communities different from ours are in reality all one God... He reveals himself to Muslims as beyond all form, to Christians in the person of Jesus Christ and monks...”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“We are not allowed to assume the task of governance by reason of ambition, pride, or love of power, but to fight for the cause of God to prevent fratricidal blood-letting among Muslims, to protect their properties and pacify the country as required by the fervor of faith and patriotism.”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855
“... If you think God is what the different communities believe – the Muslims, Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians, polytheists and others – He is that, but also more. If you think and believe what the prophets, saints and angels profess – He is that, but he is still more.”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“None of God’s creatures worships him in his entirety. No one is an infidel in all the ways relating to God. No one knows all God’s facets. Each of his creatures worships and knows him in a certain way and is ignorant of Him in others. Error does not exist in this world except in a relative manner.”

Emir Abd El-Kader, 1855

“The human spirit is like an army in battle, constantly exposed to disorganizing forces that are countered only by the discipline of good order and rituals rightly performed...”

Muhi al Din
father of Emir Abd El-Kader

“Those who belong to the religion of Mohammed have corrupted it, which is why they are like lost sheep...”

Letter to bishop Pavy by
Emir Abd El-Kader, 1860

“To maintain family relationships friendship must be built into them; afterward friendship supersedes blood...”

Lalla Zohra
mother of Emi Abd El-Kader
DAISY KHAN is an award-winning speaker, author, activist, commentator, and the Founder of Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE), a women-led organization committed to peace building, gender equality, and justice for Muslims around the world. She is a media commentator on topics such as women rights, Islamophobia, Islam in America. She has received twenty awards & honors for promoting women’s rights and enhancing interfaith relations. In 2017, she collaborated with 72 authors to publish WISE Up report, knowledge ends extremism and in 2018, Born with Wings, her spiritual memoir, received a starred review from Publishers Weekly.
Speaker Bios

AMBASSADOR MADJID BOUGUERRA graduated from the National School of Administration and the University of Algiers and has been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria since 1975. He served as junior diplomat in Tanzania and with the United Nations in New York and then Ambassador to Zambia (1987-1990); in Niger (1992-1997); China (2001-2005); Germany (2009-2013) and the United States of America since February 2015. In between these posts, he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Director of Africa (1990-1992), then Director General of the same Department (1997-2001), then Director General of Multilateral Affairs Department (2005-2007) and later as Secretary General of the Ministry (2007-2009). Ambassador Bouguerra was

THE REVEREND DR. DAVID MCALLISTER-WILSON assumed the office of President at Wesley Theological Seminary in 2002, and has served the institution for nearly 40 years as part of a team that made Wesley one of the nation’s largest and leading theological schools, preparing approximately 1,300 men and women for ministry a year. With a strong interest and focus on leadership development, he helped to establish the G. Douglass Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley. A member of the Virginia Annual Conference, McAllister-Wilson was ordained Deacon in 1988 and Elder in 1993. McAllister-Wilson received a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Northridge, in 1983. He earned his Master of Divinity (1988) and Doctor of Ministry (2001) degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary.
appointed by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, on September 2013, as Minister Delegate in charge of Maghreb and African Affairs. He served in that capacity until his nomination to the current post, February 23, 2015.

Ambassador Bouguerra has been member of the Algerian delegations to numerous regional and international conferences. He was also a member of the mediating Algerian teams in a number of conflicts, like in Mali, Niger, Ethiopia-Eritrea. He lectured in many institutions and was decorated in Mali and Niger.

KATHY GARMS, AEP Co-founder and Executive Director, revived and reorganized Elkader’s sister city program with Mascara, Algeria. Friendships were rekindled and relationships strengthened between the U.S. and Algeria. Kathy organized the 2008 Elkader launch of John Kiser’s biography, Commander of the Faithful, the Life and Times of Emir Abd El-Kader. Together they told the Abdelkader Story and created the Abdelkader Essay Contest that evolved into the 501c3 non-profit Abdelkader Education Project of today with its many components. Kathy has led AEP’s efforts and continues to expand its network at home and abroad through education and outreach. Kathy and her husband live near Kathy’s hometown of Elkader where they raised their three sons.
JOHN W. KISER is co-founder of the Abdelkader Education Project. He is also the author of two books on French Algeria: Commander of the Faithful, the Life and Times of Emir Abd El-Kader (2008), and The Monks of Tibhirine, Faith Love and Terror in Algeria (2002), which subsequently became an award winning film "Of Gods and Men" in 2010. As the chairman of a family foundation, he actively supports projects aimed at countering ignorance of Islam and the danger that Islamophobia presents to the security of America. Prior to spending a year in France in 1995, when he became interested in learning more about the Islamic world, Kiser had a twenty year career consulting for U.S. companies interested in acquiring intellectual property rights to technologies in the Soviet Bloc.

TAMARA SHEHADAH is a neuropsychology graduate student who grew up and studied in Nashville, TN. She is actively engaged in pursuing and promoting harmonious bonds across different interfaith communities through public theology and activism. Her volunteer community service includes time at local public schools, mosques, hospitals, homeless shelters, and nursing homes for the elderly and has earned her AMAC's "Unsung Heroine" and Hands on Nashville's "Strobel" Awards. She is a recent graduate of Faith and Culture Center's “Abdelkader Ambassador” program; actively seeking to build bridges and lasting relationships across communities through empathy. She currently works in the Genetics Research Department at Vanderbilt University Hospital and serves as Operations Director at the Islamic Center of Nashville.
TAMAR MILLER consults to social benefit organizations and institutions of higher learning. She is Project Lead for engaging educators in using and adapting Abdelkader Education Project curricula; and is Project Lead for the Goldziher Prize for Journalists, based at the Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, Merrimack College in Andover, MA. She is former Executive Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East at Harvard University. Her three daughters are the inspiration and motivation for the lifelong quest for justice and peace.

JAMES PATTON is President and CEO of the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy. He has conducted international development, conflict transformation and social reconciliation for more than two decades, building collaborative networks and programs with the entire spectrum of social and political actors in complex conflict environments. He is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Senior Visiting Fellow at Brigham Young University’s Wheatley Institution, and co-author, with Rev. David Steele, of the forthcoming U.S. Institute of Peace publication, Religion and Conflict Guide Series: Religion and Reconciliation. James holds a Master of Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.
AZHAR HUSSAIN, as a Pakistani-American and a Muslim, has been personally affected by global extremism and sectarian violence in Pakistan. Today, he leads a critical effort to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary for peace and reconciliation. As VP of Preventive Diplomacy at the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD), Azhar headed the Madrasa Enhancement Program in Pakistan. Azi then became the president of the Peace & Education Foundation (PEF), where his mission to change madrasa education continues, including training madrasa teachers and leaders and working with universities to develop certificate programs for them.

LAKHDAR BRAHIMI, Algerian & UN diplomat (retired), participated in the liberation movement of Algeria, representing the National Liberation Front (FLN) and Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, to Indonesia & South-East Asia (1956-1961). He served as Ambassador to Egypt (1963/70) and UK (1971-79), was Deputy Secretary General of the Arab League of States (1984-90), and mediated the end of Lebanon’s Civil War (1988/91 – Taef Agreement), was Foreign Minister of Algeria (1991/93), then started a new career as UN Under-Secretary General, leading several peace missions, in South Africa (1993-94), Haiti (1994-96), Afghanistan (1997-99 & 2001-03), Iraq (2004) and Syria (2012-14). In 2000, he chaired the Independent Panel on UN Peace Missions, producing the landmark Brahimi report. Brahimi is a member of The Elders, a group of retired statesmen and personalities brought together by Nelson Mandela, and is active in a number of other global civil society institutions.
PROFESSOR ANDREA BARTOLI is the Dean of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. He works primarily on peacemaking and genocide prevention. Dr. Bartoli has been involved in many conflict resolution activities as a member of the Community of Sant’Egidio of which he is the Representative to the UN and the USG. Previously he was the Dean of the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. He has been the Founding Director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University.

MOHAMAD MIRGHAHARI served as Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) during the Obama administration, prior to that he spent 13 years in key leadership positions within the Department of Defense, in support of counterterrorism initiatives that have significantly impacted mission-critical outcomes across the globe. He has served in posts worldwide, including Bahrain, Afghanistan and Oman. Mohamad received the Secretary of Homeland Security’s Award for Excellence 2016, along with numerous other commendations and awards from DOD, The Pentagon and NATO. Mohamad still serves as a special advisor to both DOD and Special Operations Command.
MAJOR MATTHEW H. PETERSON is a Marine with over twenty years of service in the infantry. He has served as an anti-tank gunner, scout sniper, platoon commander, company commander, and operations officer. He has completed seven deployments overseas, including tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. His personal awards include the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device, the Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with combat distinguishing device. He has degrees in philosophy, government, and organizational leadership. He is currently the operations officer at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., and lives with his family in northern Virginia.

VALENTIN AKSILENKO, a former senior K.G.B. official who in the early 1980s helped manage North American espionage operations for the Kremlin. Valentin is the author of Leaving Afghanistan: A Personal Story, a rare book that can seldom be found on the shelves of the bookstores. Written by a high ranking operative of the former KGB and later a member of the Kremlin staff during perestroika, the book offers a unique insight into both entities. For the many who focus on these areas, he has first-hand experience and evidence to consider when researching why perestroika and détente have failed to live up to the hopes of the peoples of two countries.
MARK DANNER is a researcher and business consultant, specializing in business development services for companies seeking to invest in Egypt and Africa. Mark served in the Executive branch of the US Government, where he specialized in Middle East political affairs, and later worked in the banking security and cyber security sectors. He was born in Morocco and received his MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, and pursued Arabic language and Islamic studies in Cairo, Egypt. Mark is active in building Muslim-Christian understanding.

DR. ROBERT DICKSON CRANE was a young Cold War warrior cum student provocateur in East Germany in the 1960’s where he was jailed for 6 months. He later taught a political science course at Harvard; became an advisor to the Nixon administration during Vietnam. He acted as a champion for Indian rights while serving in the Bureau of Indian affairs (he is part Cherokee). Later, as a consultant for Bechtel Corp, he prepared a cultural handbook for employees working in the Middle East. As a catholic, he was taken by the similarities with Islam and later became a Muslim, which he is still today. He has been active in Sufism, had research funded by the Qatar foundation and has a special attraction to the interfaith openness, compassionate justice and spiritual humility of Emir Abd El-Kader.
SAYYID M. SYEED, originally from Kashmir, India, moved to the US in the 1970s. He is the National Director of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), as well as Gen. Secretary of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists and Chair of the Editorial Board of Islamic Horizons, the flagship periodical of ISNA. He has been actively involved in promoting inter and intra faith understanding for nearly 40 years, and was instrumental in getting the Shia-Sunni Code of Honor signed by leaders of both backgrounds in front of about 12000 Muslims in Chicago. Dr. Syeed holds a PhD from Indiana University.
About AEP

AEP – WHAT IS IT? Abdelkader Education Project (AEP) develops educational tools and resources to promote cultural literacy, civility, and respectful engagement between Muslims and non-Muslims by drawing on the life story and values of Emir Abd El-Kader. This once world famous warrior-scholar-statesman-humanitarian of the 19th century is considered by many Algerians as the George Washington of Algeria. He combined deep religious faith with chivalrous humanism and intellectual openness that made him a hero in both the East and West.

WHY IS EMIR ABDELKADER IMPORTANT? His Islam was informed by deep study of divine law and a broad secular education that included: math, astronomy, geography, history and Greek philosophy. In his tradition, God is greater than any religion. Abdelkader’s theology exemplifies inclusiveness, humility and rationality. In 1883, The New York Times eulogized, “...Abd El-Kader deserves to be ranked among the few great men of the century.”

AEP HISTORY. In the Missouri Territory (1846), Timothy Davis, a lawyer in Dubuque named a new settlement on the Turkey River “Elkader” in honor of Emir Abd El-Kader. He had admired the emir from afar thanks to accounts in the British press of this resilient and chivalrous “Arab Chieftain” who wooed and bedeviled the French superpower for fourteen years. It was in Elkader that Kathy Garms organized the 2008 launch for John Kiser’s book, Commander of the Faithful: The Life and Times of Emir Abd El-Kader, inspiring the Abdelkader Education Project to revive Abd El-Kader’s legacy beyond Northeast Iowa.

AEP MISSION. Mitigating fear and ignorance of Islam among Muslims and non-Muslims alike requires exposure to its rich history through people and traditions within Islam that once
made it a great culture of openness, learning and relative
tolerance. AEP has pursued its mission using a core knowledge
base of English and French language literature on Emir Abd
El-Kader, reviving in the minds of Muslims and non-Muslims an
appreciation of Abd El-Kader’s greatness and what “Good
Islam” looks like.

**AEP’S FUTURE.** The Emir’s lived faith-in-action story has
produced a growing national and international network of
like-minded people and organizations in the civic, interfaith,
educational, and security sectors who share concern about the
consequences of the deep ignorance and lopsided media focus
on violence committed in the name of Islam. AEP has the
potential for serving local, national and global communities to
address this ignorance by using Abdelkader as a template for
learning about “another Islam” and better understanding the
challenges ahead.

For more information please contact:

Kathy Garms
kathy@abdelkaderproject.org
(563.329.0448)

Abdelkader Education Project
www.abdelkaderproject.org

Commander of the Faithful:
The Life and Times of Emir Abd El-Kader
www.truejihad.org
2018 ABDELKADER EDUCATION PROJECT (AEP)

AEP Board:
Kathy Garms, AEP Co-founder, Elkader, Iowa
Daisy Khan, New York City, New York
Ann Schodde, Des Moines, Iowa
Yacine Merdjemak, Chicago, Illinois
Matthew Peterson, Washington D.C.

AEP Advisory Council:
John Kiser, AEP Co-founder, Sperryville, Virginia
Belgacem Haba, Saratoga, California
Ambassador Kenton Keith, Washington D.C.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

William and Mary Greve Foundation
Noland Edwards Family Foundation
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