

**RETIREMENT OF JOHN EISELE  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES**

John Eisele received his B.A. from the University of Chicago with a major in Linguistics. He earned his Ph.D. in the Department of Linguistics and Near East Languages & Civilizations from the University of Chicago. Professor Eisele joined the faculty of William & Mary in 1994 as an Assistant Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures. He was promoted to Associate Professor at William & Mary in 2000.

Professor Eisele has served William & Mary in countless ways. He has been on a number of university and Arts & Sciences Committees, including most recently the advisory committee to the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Faculty Affairs Committee. Professor Eisele has also been a highly effective, long-standing member of numerous committees within the Department, including the Personnel Committee, the Policy Committee, and has served time and time again as the Program Director for the Arabic Studies program. In the wider academic community, Professor Eisele has held leadership positions throughout the course of his career in the most prestigious U.S. organization in his field, the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA). He served as President in 2012-2014, Executive Director in 1999-2007, and currently serves a third term on the Executive Board. In 2022, Professor Eisele received the AATA's "Lifetime Achievement Award," given annually in recognition of a colleague for distinguished scholarship and service to the profession.

As a scholar, Professor Eisele's research interests and publications have focused on Arabic dialects, especially Egyptian colloquial Arabic, and Arabic media, especially cinema. Professor Eisele has had a significant impact on his research field through his co-authored, multi-volume Arabic language textbook series, funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant of \$728,000.

The major focus of Professor Eisele's career, however, has been on our students. For thirty years, he has provided unwavering leadership for the Arabic Studies program, and developed countless new courses for our students, including innovative and popular first-year seminars like "The Culture of Arab Food," "Hollywood on the Nile," and "The Arab World Through Film." His courses in Arabic linguistics, language, and literature, especially his "Introduction to Arabic Dialects" and "Arabic Media" have formed the curricular foundation for our Arabic Studies program.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of John Eisele; expresses its deep appreciation for his thirty years of service; and approves a change in status from Associate Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures to Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures, Emeritus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy delivered to Professor Eisele with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.