

FULBRIGHT *Focus*



May 2007 Edition

The AMIDEAST Newsletter of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

AMIDEAST Celebrates Fifty Years in Egypt

AMIDEAST was founded in 1951 and began operations in the Middle East soon thereafter. It opened its doors in Cairo in 1956 at a time of growing tensions in Egypt as well as the region—tensions that would return repeatedly over the ensuing decades. Throughout them all, AMIDEAST/Egypt kept its doors open, providing valued services and an ongoing channel for people-to-people communication. Its information programs sought to improve American understanding of the Arab world, and it encouraged contacts between American and Egyptian leaders in government, business, and education. Since its earliest days, it has steadily worked to enable thousands of Egyptians to gain access to higher education in the United States.

Today, AMIDEAST/Egypt operates offices in Cairo and Alexandria. Last year, over 30,000 students enrolled in English language and professional training, and nearly 100,000 individuals utilized AMIDEAST's advising and testing services, which help students gain greater access to educational opportunities in Egypt



H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak delivers the keynote address.

and abroad. AMIDEAST also works with numerous program sponsors to recruit and prepare students for U.S. study, manage their scholarship programs in the United States, and further cultural exchange between Egyptians and Americans. Since 1972, AMIDEAST has worked with the bi-national Fulbright Commis-



AMIDEAST President Ambassador Theodore Kattouf addresses reporters. Former AMIDEAST President Ambassador William Rugh, left, looks on.

sion to help administer the U.S. Department of State-funded Fulbright Foreign Student Program in Egypt. Over the past thirty-five years, more than seventy talented Egyptians have benefited from this prestigious program.

To mark its 50th anniversary in Egypt, AMIDEAST held a gala dinner on December 5, 2006 and a symposium the following day, entitled, "Egyptian Education and Training for the Global Economy." Nearly 500 Egyptian and American officials, educators, business leaders, and AMIDEAST alumni attended the celebration. During these 50th anniversary events, guests heard from special guests H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Dina Habib Powell, and Egypt's Minister of Higher Education Dr. Hany Helal.

H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the gala's keynote speaker, expressed her country's appreciation of "fifty years of fruitful collaboration" between AMIDEAST and Egypt. She noted

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that “AMIDEAST has built bridges between Egypt and the United States, even during times when relations were tenuous.” Because of AMIDEAST, the first lady went on to say, “many Egyptian students have benefited from the scholarships that have enabled them to study in the United States, realizing their dreams. They have now returned home to take on their role in the development of our society.”

During the symposium the following day, Egyptian and American leaders in the fields of business and education focused on factors that will determine Egypt’s economic future, including education, training in the skills needed in the marketplace, international educational exchange, and prospects for creating new jobs in Egypt’s growing economy.



Dina Habib Powell, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, interviewing at the Anniversary Gala.

Minister Helal opened the session with an address that described his government’s efforts to introduce broad educational reforms, particularly in science education and soft-skills training. He said that the

“It is clear that AMIDEAST will continue to build bonds between our countries and train future leaders in business and government”

- Dina Habib Powell, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

country would need a “revolution” to transform it from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Dina Habib Powell, paid tribute to AMIDEAST. In her keynote address, she praised AMIDEAST as a “symbol of excellence in international education” and “a bridge of understanding” between the American and Egyptian people. The Egyptian-born Powell, who oversees U.S. Department of State-sponsored international educational and cultural exchange programs, underscored the importance of these programs to strengthening relations between the U.S. and Egypt. “It is clear that AMIDEAST will continue to build bonds between our countries and train future leaders in business and government,” she added.

Morocco Hosts Fulbright Alumni Conferences

The Fulbright Association and the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association joined forces, and together with the Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange and the U.S. Department of State, organized five days of programming for Fulbright alumni from around the world in Marrakesh, Morocco from November 3—7, 2006. The 29th Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association kicked off the alumni events from November 3—5, 2007, and the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Conference followed from November 6—7, 2007. Both conferences were open to Fulbright alumni from around the world. Kate DeBoer and Elisa O’Keefe from AMIDEAST/Washington, DC and Fouzia El Azhari from AMIDEAST/Rabat attended.

29th Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association: Fulbright Alumni: Expressions in Civil Society

The 29th Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association opened with a reception, hosted by the Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE). Evelyn A. Early, Public Affairs Counselor from the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, delivered special welcome remarks. Over the next two days, there were a variety of work-

shops offered during the conference ranging from “Women and Civil Society” to “Expressions of Cultures on Curricula.” Workshop panelists were largely comprised of Fulbright alumni and current professors and academics. After each session, participants networked with their Fulbright peers and made connections with colleagues from around the world.

Marrti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland and recipient of the 2000 J. William Fulbright Prize for Interna-

tional Understanding, spoke during the Annual Banquet on November 4, 2006. Mr. Ahtisaari, a career diplomat, has served as peacemaker in some of the world’s most troubled areas. He spoke of his unique role as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process of Kosovo. The next day, during the plenary luncheon, Alex Counts, Fulbright alumnus and president and CEO of Grameen Foundation USA (GFUSA), spoke of his time as a Fulbrighter and his

training under Grameen Bank founder and managing director, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Fulbright fellow to the United States in 1965-1966 and the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Mr. Counts has been recognized for leading an organization that greatly contributes to reducing poverty, galvanizes resources for its mission, and plans for sustainability.

The Fulbright Association, with the support of the U.S. Department of State, sponsored a global Fulbright Alumni Technical Assistance Seminar for representatives of national Fulbright alumni associations and alumni groups forming associations. The seminar offered capacity-building for the leaders of alumni associations around the world. Panelists discussed ways to promote the Fulbright program, best practices in alumni association building, public relations, fundraising and leadership development. Participants asked questions specifically about the development of their country's alumni association and talked with other participants about their own unique situations. Rick Ruth, from the U.S. Department of State, spoke about the alumni association resources available on the State Alumni Website (<https://alumni.state.gov>). The Fulbright Association will soon publish a best practices manual intended to help alumni associations strengthen their capacity.

Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Conference: *Morocco in Western Art*

The Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Conference began with a special art exhibit entitled "Bridging Cultures through Art: A Fulbright Alumni Art Exhibition." The exhibit included a variety of artwork, photographs, sculp-

tures, and still life paintings, created by Fulbright alumni from around the world. The opening reception was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, Thomas Riley.

The workshop focused on the representation of Morocco in Western film, literature, and art. Workshop panelists were comprised of Moroccan and American professors and academics who spoke about the myth and mystique associated with Morocco in Western art, such as in works by Matisse, Shakespeare, and Joyce. Ahmed Radi, a presenter and alumnus of the Moroccan Joint Supervision program, discussed Marjorelle's representation of Morocco as rich and artistic on the one hand, but influenced by French colonialism and



Professor Hassan Mekouar, middle, being honored as International Conference Chair.

constructed within an Orientalist framework, on the other hand.

Hassan Mekouar, President of the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association, delivered the opening address. He spoke about the development of their alumni association and of the initial difficulties in organizing an international conference. However, they were able to successfully organize a large event with little institutional support and no permanent staff. In fact, the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association was quite successful in their

fundraising efforts and was able to provide a delicious lunch near the Palais de Congres and a tour of Marrakesh. The conference concluded with a *1001 Nights* Moroccan folklore dinner.

Congratulations to the Fulbright Association and the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association for hosting such an enriching experience!

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Apply to win a Fulbright Alumni Development Grant!

AMIDEAST awards bi-annual grants up to \$2,500 for Fulbright alumni to attend a professional conference or seminar, conduct a collaborative research project, complete a short-term training program, or participate in a professional visit with colleagues in their field.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must be alumni of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program administered by AMIDEAST.
- Applicants must have fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement.

THE NEXT ROUND OF APPLICATIONS WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2007

For a complete list of grant guidelines, please visit the AMIDEAST website at: http://www.amideast.org/programs_services/exchange_programs/fulbright/grants/guidelines.htm

Online applications are encouraged. Please contact Elisa O'Keefe at eokeefe@amideast.org with any questions.

Recent awards have funded: attendance at an *Information and Knowledge Management* conference in Arlington, Virginia; community-based urban social research with colleagues in Washington, DC; participation in a conference entitled *Linguistics in the 21st Century: Perspectives and Challenges* in Athens, Georgia.

National Security Language Initiative



In January 2006, President Bush launched the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) to further strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st century through strategic language learning. Foreign language skills are essential to engaging foreign governments and peoples, especially in critical world regions, to encourage reform, promote understanding and convey respect for other cultures. These skills are also essential to the economic competitiveness of the nation. The NSLI initiative focuses resources on improving language learning across the educational spectrum and emphasize the need to achieve mastery of critical languages.

The NSLI initiative will dramatically increase the number of Americans learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi and others through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through university and into the workforce. The President requested \$114 million in FY07 to fund this effort, of which \$26.7 million will support programs managed by the Department of State. The NSLI Initiative is a coordinated U.S. federal government program that includes the Department of Education, Department of Defense, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of State.

State Department programs are providing new opportunities for American high school students, teachers, undergraduates and graduate students to study critical need languages abroad and are strengthening foreign language teaching in the U.S. through exchanges and professional development. Programs include:

Intensive Summer Language Institutes: Awards scholarships for intensive overseas summer language institutes. There were 4,200 applications for 167 critical language scholarships for beginning, intermediate, and advanced study in Arabic, Indic and Turkic languages in 2006. Institutes in Chinese, Korean, Russian and Persian will be added in 2007. Open to American undergraduate and graduate students.

Gilman Scholarships: Provides financial support to pursue overseas study in critical need language countries in semester or one-year programs for college credit. Supporting more than 200 students in 2006-2007. Open to American undergraduates who are Pell grant recipients (financially-needy).

U.S. Fulbright Student Program: Provides up to six months of intensive critical language training before the regular Fulbright grant period begins. This year, forty awards were made for study in Arabic, Indic and Turkic languages. In 2007, will expand to include Chinese, Korean, Russian and Persian languages.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants: Provides teaching assistants in critical need languages to U.S. universities, colleges and high schools by bringing native speaking teachers to the United States for one academic year at the beginning of their careers. More than 200 critical language teaching assistants have been placed in U.S. classrooms in 2006.

Teacher Exchange: Provides critical need language teachers to U.S. secondary schools by bringing native speaking teachers to the United States for one academic year. Ten Chinese teachers and two Arabic teachers are participating during the 2006-2007 academic year. Also, in 2007, there will be opportunities for American teachers of Chinese to undertake intensive summer study abroad.

Youth Exchanges: (1) Summer Language Institutes: Provides U.S. high school students the opportunity to study foreign languages abroad in intensive six- to eight-week summer institutes. In 2006, 46 American students studied Chinese and Arabic in Beijing, Amman, and Cairo, with plans for expanding the program in 2007; (2) Academic Semester or Year Abroad: Will provide U.S. high school students the opportunity to spend high school semester or year abroad studying critical need languages in Russia, China, Turkey, India, and the Arab world.

Alumni News & Notes

BAHRAIN

Emma Salari – 2003-2005, *Master of Business Administration, University of North Texas* – is a portfolio manager at Ahli United Bank and a part-time professor of finance and economics at New York Institute of Technology. She received an award of recognition from the Prime Minister of Bahrain during a national Education Day ceremony. Emma is the proud mother of a seven-month-old son.

EGYPT

Rawya Rageh – 2005-2006, *Master of Science in Broadcast Journalism, Columbia University* – is a news producer for Al-Jazeera English. After graduation, Rawya briefly returned to the Associated Press, where she was employed before her Masters program. She worked in Baghdad from July through September 2006 covering the Saddam Hussein Anfal genocide trial. Rawya recently moved to Doha, Qatar and began working with Al-Jazeera English network – the first all-news international network to broadcast from the heart of the Middle East.

Abeya Mokhtar – 2004-2006, *Master of Arts in Economics, University of Illinois-Chicago* – is an assistant economics lecturer.

Ahmed El Demery – 2005-2006, *LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights, St. Thomas University* – is working as the Prosecutor General of Egypt, Division of International Cooperation and Human Rights. He is responsible for investigating and prosecuting severe cases of human rights violations. He has been selected for an internship at

the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

JORDAN

Radi Annab – 1998-2000, *Master of Business Administration, Georgetown University* – is the Associate Director of Business Development for AIG Global Investment Group in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He recently passed the Chartered Financial Analyst Level II examination and is presently sitting for the Level III exam in June 2007.

Rasha Bader – 2002-2004, *Master of Business Administration, Vanderbilt University* – is a freelance management consultant focusing on strategy and marketing.

Susanne Ramadan – 1995-1997, *Ph.D. in Modern and Contemporary American Literature with a focus on F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania State University* – is currently employed in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Jordan and working on a promotion to Associate Professor. Her research interests have expanded to include 19th century American dark vision writers, 20th century drama, feminism, 20th century Arab women writers, and 19th century British literature.

Lubna Qunash – 2003-2005, *Master of Business Administration/Master of Arts, The George Washington University* – is now a private equity analyst. She recently received her Chartered Financial Analyst title.

Shada Wadi-Ramahi – 1998-2000, *Ph.D. in Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Rush University* – be-

came the Chief Medical Physicist at the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan in April 2006. In June 2006 she obtained the American Board of Radiology certification in the specialty of Therapeutic Physics making her the only Jordanian citizen to hold this board certification.

Fadi Bouri – 2004-2006, *Master of Business Administration in Investment Management, Willamette University* – graduated with highest honors, Beta Gamma Sigma, Pi Alpha Alpha, and Dean's Award for academic, professional, and community development. He recently joined the investment banking division of Rasmala Investments, operating out of Dubai International Financial Center in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He focuses primarily on single private equity deals, mergers and acquisitions, and private placements. Fadi represented Willamette MBA at the MBA World Forum in Dubai, UAE, and Cairo, Egypt in December.

Ashraf Al Daoud – 2003-2005, *Master in Computer Systems Engineering, Boston University* – is pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering at Boston University. He received the 2005-2006 Dean's Research Fellowship from the College of Engineering at Boston University. His recent article, "Loss-Cognizant Pricing in Networks with Greedy Users," will appear in an early 2007 edition of *Elsevier International Journal of Computer and Telecommunications Networking*. Ashraf will join a Boston University team of volunteers in spring break 2007 to work with "Building Together (RT)" in Omaha, Nebraska to rebuild and repair homes for the elderly and disabled.

Raghda Quandour – 2001-2003, *Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation and Organizational Leadership, Eastern Mennonite University* – is in the process of establishing a not-for-profit leadership organization which will provide knowledge, skills, and research to meet leadership challenges in Jordan. Since graduating, Raghdha has worked for the U.K. International Development Department (DFID), where she managed the small grants scheme and helped in the closure of the DFID office at the Embassy in Jordan; managed a U.S. State Department-funded pilot project on “Media Education and Democracy” in Jordan; compiled the Jordan 2004 Conflict Prevention Indicators; designed and conducted conflict management training to bank branch managers; and coordinated the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies’ (NESA) inaugural conference in Jordan.

Issa Sasa – 1992-1994, *Master in Pediatric Dentistry, University of Iowa* – is currently the head of Pediatric Dentistry at Tawam Hospital, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. Issa is the recipient of the 2005-2006 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry “Outstanding Lecture of the Year” award.

LEBANON

Charbel Antonios - 2003-2004, *non-degree research, Virginia Tech University* – is an instrumentation and control engineer in Dar el Handasah, Lebanon.

Pauline Y. Aad – 2002-2003, *non-degree research, Oklahoma State University* – is a Ph.D. student in Animal Breeding and Reproduction at Oklahoma State University. She expects to graduate in Fall 2008. In 2005 she

received her Masters in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University. Pauline is a recipient of the 2006 President Leadership and Service Recognition Award at Oklahoma State University and has published five peer-reviewed journal articles in the *Journal of Endocrinology, Domestic Animal Endocrinology, and Peptides*.

Yahya Anouti – 2004-2006, *Master of Science in Mining and Mineral Engineering, University of Texas at Austin* – is a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in Lebanon.

Rim Lakkis – 2004-2006, *Master of Engineering in Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Arizona* – is an IT administrator with Schneider Electric Lebanon. She writes, “during the war in Lebanon, we all thought we wanted to leave the country. But I realize now that war is over that my country needs me more than ever.”

Fadia Jradi – 2005-2006, *Master in International Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire State University* – is an income generation officer in the Microfinance Program of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Fadia credits the Fulbright program for advancing her intellectual, professional, and academic levels, which ultimately lead to a promotion as program manager.

Karma Ekmekji – 2005-2006, *Master of Public Administration, Columbia University* – participated in the Rick Hooper Fellowship Program at the United Nations Headquarters Department of Political Affairs from September 2006 to March 2007. Karma will be getting married on July 7, 2007.

Nadia Manasfi – 2005-2006, *Master of Arts in Learning Science, Northwestern University* – recently moved to Frankfurt, Germany to start a job as a project coordinator assistant for a project entitled “Establishment of a Middle Eastern Biodiversity Research, Training, and Conservation Network.” The project is funded by the German government and aims to bring together German, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Yemeni scientists conducting research on Middle Eastern biodiversity. Nadia is keen on starting her own research in the field soon and hopes to contribute to Lebanon despite doing so from a distance.

Youssef A. Haddad – 2000-2001, *non-degree research, University of Texas at Austin Department of Education* – has been a Ph.D. candidate in the Linguistics Program at University of Florida since 2004. He expects to graduate in summer 2007. His dissertation deals with South Asian languages. Youssef recently received the Russell Dissertation Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for Spring 2007. He and his wife, Soraya, welcomed their new daughter, Elena, on November 1, 2006.

Makram Geha – 2002-2003, *non-degree research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln* – is a Ph.D. student in Animal Breeding and Genetics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was named a Young Dairy Scholar and was an invited speaker at the American Dairy Science Association Midwest meeting in Des Moines, Iowa from March 19-21, 2007.

MOROCCO

Maria Hanzazi – 1994-1996, *Master of Arts in Literature, Fairleigh Dickinson University* – is currently an EFL

teacher at the Language Center of Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. She coordinates a course titled "Academic Listening, Speaking and Note-taking." Maria was awarded a Fulbright Alumni Development Grant in 2004 to become a certified TOEFL teacher from San Diego State University. She is looking at the option of publishing an ESL textbook called "Learning English through Fiction Film, the Documentary Film, and the Animated Film."

Mina El Glaoui – 1986-1988, *Master of Science in Broadcasting, Boston University* – owns a company specializing in cultural and fashion event organization. She is seeking collaboration with artists and designers interested in taking part in collective events.

Layla Barrit – 2000-2002, *Master of Science in Computer Science, Case Western Reserve University* – is an IT manager at Brink's Morocco.

Lina Laraki – 2002-2003, *LL.M., New York University School of Law* – was admitted to the New York bar as an attorney in 2004 and to the French bar as an Avocat à la Cour in 2005. After her LL.M. she worked for an international law firm in Casablanca before moving to Paris, where she specialized in cross-border matters at a Franco-American law firm. In summer 2005, she moved to Zurich to become a compliance officer at Zurich Financial Services.

Najlae Benbarek – 2004-2006, *Master of Science in Journalism, University of California-Berkeley* – is working at *Grand Angle* magazine in Morocco. Her first journalistic piece was a forty-two minute segment on foreign volunteers in Morocco. Her characters were a French social

worker, Chinese doctor, and American Peace Corps volunteer.

Ziad Ghanimi – 2004-2006, *Master of Advertising, University of Florida* – is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida. He was nominated best international student by the Faculty of the College of Journalism and Communication. Ziad spent the summer of 2006 in India volunteering for Project Concern International – an American NGO focusing on HIV/AIDS, street children, empowerment of women, and vocational training. The project was funded by the Coca-Cola World Citizenship Program at the University of Florida.

Meriem El Harouchi – 2001-2003, *Master of Arts in International Relations and International Economics, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies* – is a delegate of the European Commission in Egypt focusing on good governance, rule of law, and human rights.

Abdallah Malki – 1993-1996, *Indiana University* – is currently a professor and an associate dean for scientific research, cooperation, and student affairs. He is in the process of publishing a book by the School of Arts and Humanities in Meknes, Morocco.

Karim Laraki – 1983-1986, *Cornell University* – is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations.

OMAN

Said Al-Riyami – 2003-2005, *Master of Business Administration in International Business, University of Texas at El Paso* – is the office director for the Executive President of the Oman Medical Specialty Board.

SYRIA

Antranig Dirkrouryan – 2003-2005, *Master of Fine Arts in 3D Computer Animation, Academy of Art* – has been working as an animator in the field of advertising. During his stay in the U.S. he won a Spring Show Animation award during a 2005 festival. His short film graduation project was recently accepted to the Castelli Animate Animation Festival in Italy.

M. Jawdat Audeh – 2000-2002, *Master of Arts in English Language Teaching, Georgia State University* – currently provides educational consultation to international schools in Saudi Arabia regarding their educational content and materials. He is also introducing U.S. and U.K. school programs to private national schools, particularly math, science, and English for the first time in Saudi Arabia. After lecturing in Syrian Virtual University (2003), King Saud University (2004), and the Institute of Public Administration (2005), Jawdat made a slight move away from teaching into educational consultancy by working for Pearson Education, the world's leading education company. He is the U.S./U.K. Schools Educational Consultant and Sales and Marketing Executive.

Ahmed N. Almansour – 1997-1999, *Master of Arts, Arizona State University* – began Ph.D. studies in English in 1999 at the Ohio State University. In 2003 he took a leave from his program to conduct research and deliver lectures in Saudi Arabia. He finished his Ph.D. studies in 2005 and is now an assistant professor of English in the Department of English at King Saud University.

Mohammad Naffakh – 1999-2001, *Master of Business Administration,*

Duquesne University – currently runs a personal consulting business. He is an institutional modernization and development expert, working with EuropeAid projects for Syria and executing other personal consulting projects in Syria and the region. Since returning from the U.S. four years ago, his career has been mainly divided between institutional development consulting and interim management for private companies. He is working to clearly define the interim management concept as a subcategory among the management consulting business services. Mohammad has managed: ALAKARIA, a mid-size startup in the real estate market; Future Switch, a small IT company; and IMT, a small high tech contracting company.

Mais Khlaifat – 2001-2002, LL.M., *University of Houston Law Center* – is head of the legal section at the Executive Privatization Commission.

Nadwa Al-Jundi – 1998-2000, *Master of Arts, Georgia State University* – is an assistant professor in the English Department at Tishreen University in Lattakia, Syria. She earned a Ph.D. in English Literature at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in 2005. Her dissertation was titled, "Bridging East and West: Displacement as Social Critique in Lord Byron's and P.B. Shelley's Orientalist Works."

TUNISIA

Karim Souidi – 2003-2004, *non-degree research, University of California-Berkeley Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics* – received the Fulbright Alumni Development Grant in June 2006 to conduct collaborative research at the University of

California-Berkeley on water economics.

Mounir Khélifa – 1990-1995, *Master of Arts, Ph.D. in English, Yale University* – is a professor of English literature. He has been appointed as an advisor to the Minister of Higher Education.

Khaled Barkaoui – 2002-2003, *non-degree research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* – is a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Wael Aguir – 2003-2005, *Master of Arts in Accounting, Texas Tech University* – is currently pursuing Ph.D. studies at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Jamel Jemni – 2003-2004, *non-degree research, University of South Florida* – is currently an assistant in the Faculty of Letters and Humanities in Sfax, Tunisia. Jamel is very interested in cultural exchange and has been working with his wife on homestay programs mainly in the U.K. and Malta. He and his wife believe in investing in the younger generation to ensure a more promising future. They already began their first summer camp for teenagers in Chaffar, Sfax, Tunisia in collaboration with the Florida History Program at the University of South Florida.

WEST BANK/GAZA

Rami Hamarna – 2003-2005, *Master of Public Health/Health Management and Policy, University of North Texas* – is a health coordination officer at the World Health Organization (WHO). After returning from the U.S., he worked with the Italian Cooperation as a health projects officer in the Gaza Strip before joining the WHO.

Reem Musleh – 2001-2003, *Ph.D., Michigan State University* – has been working as a researcher, trainer, and environmental engineer at Birzeit University, West Bank since December 2005.

Ruba Khalil – 2004-2006, *Master of Business Administration, Sam Houston State University* – is managing a reform project for the United Nations Development Program: Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP). The project aims at increasing revenue generation options as well as enhancing decentralization at the Palestinian local government.

Belal Abu-Hijleh – 2003-2005, *Master of Business Administration, Sam Houston State University* – recently accepted the chief financial officer position of the Coca-Cola National Beverage Company. He hopes this new position will enhance his professional career and provide him the opportunity to reflect on the knowledge and skills he acquired during his stay in the U.S.

Abdallah Kurras – 2000-2001, *Master in Modern American and Postmodern Literature, Indiana University of Pennsylvania* – is the deputy-chairman of the English Department at Al-Azhar University in Gaza. He is also deputy dean of the Faculty of Intermediate Studies for Academic Affairs. He teaches courses on 19th and 20th century American literature and literary criticism. Abdallah is working on a number of research papers to be published in different journals.

Ismat Mikky – 1997-1999, *Master in Nursing Education, University of Hartford* – is an assistant professor at the Islamic University of Gaza and University of Connecticut School of

Nursing. He completed a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Connecticut in April 2006. His recent awards include the Carolyn Ladd Widmer Research Award in acknowledgement of excellence in the field of nursing research, May 2006; and the Mary & Katherine Connelly Nursing Scholarship Fund, September 2003.

Asem Qamhiyeh – 2004 – 2006, *Master of Science in Accounting and Information Systems, University of Texas at Arlington* – now works as an IT auditor for Deloitte and Touche in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Imad Abu Jebara – 2004-2006, *Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management Information Systems, Auburn University* – is currently working as a consultant. His titles include Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Financial Manager (CFM).

Nadia Abdulhaq – 2000-2002, *Ph.D. in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, University of Florida* – is an assistant professor at the University of Jordan College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Speech and Hearing Department. Her awards at the University of Florida include: Gibson Dissertation Fellowship, 2005; Outstanding Academic Achievement, 2005; Grinter Fellowship, 2002-2004; and the O. Ruth McQuown Scholarship for Women, 2002.

Rasem Kamal – 1999-2000, *LL.M., Master of Arts in International Law* – is currently working as a lawyer. After working three years for the USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission, during which he managed and led USAID's justice sector reform efforts in the West Bank and Gaza, Rasem joined the Palestine Investment Fund

(PIF) headquarters in Ramallah in August 2006. Rasem assists the CEO and provides legal and policy advice in managing a \$1.2 billion portfolio. Additionally, Rasem manages PIF's North America portfolio.

Mohammed Mosheer Amer – 2001-2003, *Master of Arts in TESOL, St. Michael's College* – received a Ph.D. research scholarship in linguistics at the University of Melbourne in Australia. He is currently in the second year of his studies and plans to finish by early 2008.

Nihad M K Almughany – 1989-1990, *Master of Architecture, Catholic University of America* – is now assistant to the mayor for urban planning and building control for the Municipality of Gaza. He is also acting head of the Architecture Department at Palestine University. Nihad received a Fulbright Alumni Development Grant for collaborative research. He is also working to publish a book about the prevailing planning and building regulations in Gaza.

YEMEN

Abu-Bakr Al-Hamid – 1992-1994, *Master of Arts in English Literature, Simmons College* – completed a Ph.D. in comparative literature in 2005. He is now teaching literature and translation at Aden University, Yemen.

Lina A. Al-Eryani – 2003-2005, *Master of Arts in International Development and Social Change, Clark University* – is now working as a program manager for the Women in Technology Program (WIT) in Yemen. This program is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) under the supervision of the Institute of International Education

(IIE) in San Francisco. It is implemented by SOUL for the Development of Women and Children. The program provides scholarships for women in basic and advance computer skills. This year she received a fellowship through the Netherlands Fellowships Program, sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, to attend a four-week course in program management and administration in Ede, Holland.

Mohialdeen Alotumi – 2004-2006, *Master in TESOL, Murray State University* – teaches in the Department of English at Lebanese International University. He received a certificate of recognition from the EU during an election observation mission.

Adel Al-Dhahab – 2004-2005, *Master of International Law, Northwestern University* – currently works as a legal consultant.

Wael A. Makki – 2004-2005, *Master of Business Administration, Monterey Institute of International Studies* – is an operations officer with the International Finance Cooperation of the World Bank Group. His program has trained more than 9,000 small and medium sized enterprises. Wael was married on August 24, 2006.

If you would like to be included in the next edition of *Fulbright Focus* send your update to Elisa O'Keefe at eokeefe@amideast.org.

Solidarity and Memories at Virginia Tech

A Virginia Tech Fulbright alumnus offers his reflections

I want to extend my deepest, sincerest, and most profound sympathies to the families of the Virginia Tech victims. I want to ask Allah to grant those families and the university community patience and strength during this hard time and protect us all with his mercy.

I was at my sister's home when I first heard about this horrible shooting. I was shocked to see all the casualties among my fellow students. My tears started to fall at this horrific news.

Immediately, the beautiful moments I had spent at Virginia Tech jumped back to mind. When the Fulbright interview committee told me that I had been selected as a candidate for the Fulbright fellowship, they asked me to start researching American universities. A friend of mine had studied at Virginia Tech with a Fulbright grant and he recommended that I apply there as well since it has a strong Engineering program. In addition, when I asked my relative, who is a professor at University of Ohio, about Virginia Tech, he told me people will "raise their hats in respect when they hear that you graduated from Virginia Tech."

My family and I have good memories from our time at Virginia Tech. We used to go to the practice field on holidays to enjoy the quietness and peacefulness of the place—my children and I used to have running competitions there and sometimes I won and the sometimes they did. I remember a time when we were at the practice field that a police officer in his patrol car shouted to us the Islamic greeting "Asslmu Alikoum" that means peace upon you. My children and my wife were so surprised to hear this greeting in Arabic and on the Virginia Tech campus. I think he got to know that this is a typical Middle East greeting and he wanted to make us feel safe and warm by using it.

Suddenly, this quiet and peaceful place turned into a scary one. I spent most of my time at Virginia Tech at McBride Hall, which is just next to Norris Hall where the shootings occurred. While I was never afraid, I sometimes came to my office at McBride early in the morning or left after midnight and used to wait for my wife to pick me up from there. Unexpectedly, I saw that exact place on the TV screen—full of law enforcement officials and ambulances. It was so sad to see that it was in that place where some of my fellow students lost their lives while others were carried out to the hospitals. It was a terrible thing to watch that safe and beautiful place going through all that chaos and sadness.

I pray to Allah to make the Virginia Tech campus again a peaceful one. A place where people with different nationalities and cultures continue to meet, get to know each other, build forever lasting relationships, and exchange the message of peace for all the people on the earth.

Again, my deepest condolences and solidarity go to victims' families and to all of those who were affected by the horrible shooting.

-Muhammad Abu Saqer is a Fulbright alumnus from Gaza.

He received a Master of Science in Computer Science from Virginia Tech in 2005.

Department of State Announces New International Fulbright Science and Technology Award

Designed to provide top-level students in science and technology with the U.S. government's most prestigious and valuable scholarship, this new Fulbright award for Ph.D. study at America's leading universities was created to attract the most highly qualified young women and men to the world's preeminent higher education institutions. Winners were chosen through a rigorous, multi-tiered, merit-based selection process consisting of in-country competition and review, field and discipline merit review by top-level U.S. academic leaders, and nomination by a blue ribbon Advisory Panel, including a Nobel Laureate and university deans and presidents. Final selection was

made by the Presidentially appointed Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

AMIDEAST is pleased to announce that two winners from the Middle East and North Africa were chosen for this prestigious scholarship. One comes from Lebanon and will be a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering and the other is from Egypt and will be a Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering.

Additional Information/Application Materials

Please contact the U.S. Embassy (<http://usembassy.state.gov/>) or Fulbright Commission (<http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright/list.htm>) in your country of citizenship for additional information or application materials.





Field Office & U.S. Embassy Updates

Bahrain

Bahrain has thirteen nominees for the fall 2007 semester. Fields of study include library science, international affairs, biotechnology and entrepreneurship. In November, Program Officer Jody Griffin and Program Assistant Megan Worley conducted a post-nomination orientation for the new nominees via video conference. Nominees had an opportunity to ask questions about placements, finalizations, and the Fulbright program.

Egypt

AMIDEAST is currently placing thirty nominees from Egypt at U.S. universities for the fall 2007 semester. The fields of study range from landscape architecture to linguistics to international communication. Program Officer Stephanie D'Souza traveled to Cairo in December and conducted a post-nomination orientation for all the new nominees. She guided them through the university selection and finalization process and spent time individually going over their goals.

Lebanon

Despite difficult conditions in Lebanon this year, AMIDEAST is placing twelve nominees at U.S. universities. The nominees come from a variety of disciplines, including food management, broadcast journalism, and orchestral conducting.

Libya

The Fulbright program in Libya is in its first year under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy. There are twelve nominees with an array of academic interests in the health fields, including public health, epidemiology, and health administration. Other fields include economics, political science, and electrical engineering.

Morocco

The twelve Moroccan nominees are interested in the fields of business administration, anthropology, geography, and bioengineering. Program Coordinator Kate DeBoer and Program Officer Elisa O'Keefe traveled to Rabat in November and led a post-nomination orientation for the new nominees. They reviewed the university selections, placement, and finalization process with the nominees.

Oman

Oman has selected eleven nominees for the 2007 fall semester. These nominees have a variety of academic interests including

instructional design, petroleum engineering, and nursing education. Other fields include human resources and TESOL.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is in its second year with the Fulbright program and has selected ten nominees. Their fields of study are diverse and include intellectual property law, oral science, and biological computation. The nominees are also interested in fields such as media consulting and English literature.

Syria

AMIDEAST is placing twelve nominees from Syria in U.S. universities. Their fields of study are quite diverse and include comparative literature, information technology, and applied mathematics.

Tunisia

AMIDEAST is currently placing ten Tunisian nominees in U.S. universities for the fall 2007 semester. These nominees are interested in pursuing degree and non-degree studies in fields such as entomology, finance, and conflict resolution.

West Bank/Gaza

The West Bank has nominated twelve candidates for the 2007 academic year. There are several nominees interested in traditional fields such as business administration, information systems, and TESOL. Other non-traditional fields include plant pathology and interior design. The Gaza office has nominated eleven candidates for fall 2007. The nominees have a strong interest in computer, civil, and environmental engineering. Other fields of study include physical therapy and American literature.

United Arab Emirates

Under the auspices of the U.S. embassy, this will be the first year that the United Arab Emirates is participating in the Fulbright program. They have selected two candidates who will be seeking graduate degrees in business administration and communications.

Yemen

AMIDEAST is currently placing eleven Masters Degree nominees from Yemen. Their interests include nursing administration, health education, NGO management, TESOL, and international development.



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