

FULBRIGHT FOCUS

The AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program

ACCESS Students in Ramallah Welcome Secretary of State Clinton



The following article, about U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's trip to the Middle East in March, will be of interest to Fulbright alumni in the region. The English Access Micro Scholarship Program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department's Office of English Language Programs, a sister office to the Office of Academic Exchange Programs, which sponsors the Fulbright Program.

On March 4, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Special Middle East Envoy George Mitchell, visited an English Access Microscholarship Program class in Ramallah to participate in a classroom discussion with students. The U. S. Department of State-sponsored English Access Microscholarship Program provides scholarships for after school language

instruction for bright, disadvantaged 14–18 year olds. In Ramallah, the program is administered by AMIDEAST.

Secretary Clinton spoke to the students about Women's History Month and some of her own heroes growing up as a young person in America. "They were talking about Sally Ride, who is one of the people I most admire in our country. I told them that many years ago, I had the idea that I could be an astronaut—which obviously was never going to happen for a million reasons—but that a young woman named Sally Ride had that dream and kept working hard and achieved it."

Secretary Clinton's visit was memorable to these young people. "I will never forget this amazing and beautiful day in all of my life," declared one student. Another young woman explained that the meeting had encouraged her "to continue my education in English and to learn about American culture."

The Access Program provides a foundation of English language skills to talented, non-elite 14–18 year olds worldwide through after school classes and intensive summer sessions taught in a student-centered learning environment. Engaging students in conversation and enrichment activities that focus on American cultural and social topics helps bring English alive in ways that traditional, textbook-focused learning cannot.

Approximately 44,000 students in more than 55 countries have participated in the program since its inception in 2004. AMIDEAST works with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State to administer the program through U.S. Embassies in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem for the West Bank and Gaza. The program is popular in the West Bank and Gaza, where over 4,000 Palestinian youth have participated, and more than 8,000 applied to fill the 1,000 slots available this year.

Before departing, Secretary Clinton underscored the importance of the English Access Microscholarship Program and other educational programs to the peace process. "Education is the undergirding of any prosperous and successful society. It will be essential to our shared efforts to work toward a two-state solution...."



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Returning Home

Over seventy Fulbright and Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program grantees gathered together in Washington, DC to discuss issues they may encounter when returning home March. Participants in the workshop learned how to cope with the stress of reentry, market themselves for a job, and enjoyed meeting their fellow Fulbrighters in Washington, DC.

Everyone is enthusiastic about seeing their families and friends, having a good home cooked meal, and implementing what they have learned in a professional setting. However, reentry can be a very stressful time period. One speaker, Debbie Hefferon, stated that some grantees returning home become restless and find personal relationships have changed. One issue that many grantees foresaw was maintaining the privacy they had grown accustomed to in the United States. She discussed ways to cope with the stress such as encouraging grantees to have an open dialogue with family and friends, and being empathic towards their loved ones.

Another issue many grantees face when they return home is job hunting. Camille Franklin from the career services at George Washington University discussed how to organize a resume, write an effective cover letter, and interview do's and don'ts. Her message was to remember that you have to market yourself for the job that you want. She further stressed that networking is a good job hunting strategy. There are two great opportunities for Fulbright grantees to network: the Fulbright Alumni Association (<http://www.fulbright.org>) and the Department of State alumni website (<http://alumni.state.gov>). The State Alumni website offers grantees a chance to network with other Fulbright grantees from around the world (<http://alumni.state.gov/fulbright>), create a profile page, and access scholarly journals for research.

The weekend ended with a tour of Washington, DC. Workshop participants visited the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Capitol building.

What Fulbrighters stated about their experience:

"The Fulbright Program will advance my chances of getting a job because it is highly recognized." Lamis Sleiman, Lebanon (Syracuse University)

"Being a Fulbrighter is not only a wonderful living experience, but is also a lifelong commitment. Our role as Fulbrighters is to be active actors in impacting our societies and making positive changes in our world." Safia Trabelsi, Tunisia (Brandeis University)



"I like the Fulbright Program because it gives me the opportunity to observe American culture and values, and become more familiar with Americans." Mokhles El-Sysy, Egypt (Purdue University)

"The Fulbright Program offered me a rich experience which allowed me to become more aware of the various cultural and social aspects of the world. My experience in the United States has also allowed me to grow on various levels. When I looked back at the past two years, I realized that I learned more about myself and my home country by coming to the United States and participating in the Fulbright Program." May Sayrafi, West Bank (Washington State University)



Group photo from the re-entry workshop

One Alumnus' Struggle for a PhD

Dr. Abdelkader Cheref, Algeria

Assistant Professor of English and French
Islamic Azad University

When I was a lecturer at the University of Oran, in Algeria, I had the honor to spend the academic year 1993-94 as a Fulbright grantee at The University of Texas-Austin. When I returned to Algeria, I completed all the requirements for my Ph.D. in Comparative Literature.

Nevertheless, personal and political circumstances in Algeria prevented me from defending my dissertation. Because of my "too liberal" and "too feminist" opinions, and because I resolutely refused to amend the 'incriminating sections, my dissertation, which had been supervised by Professor Mia Carter from UT-Austin, was unfortunately rejected. I then launched a time-consuming bureaucratic battle with the Dean of the Faculty and the committee members. I tried my utmost on several occasions to persuade the committee not to penalize my political opinions. I also insisted on the fact that my political opinions are a personal matter, and should not be mixed up with the defense of my Ph.D.; but in vain.

In view of those appalling circumstances, I started exploring various possibilities to defend my Ph.D. dissertation in a British university, known for its academic excellence, and without any external financial support; I was ready to run the extra mile and pay for the whole procedure. That was the only way out. And this is how Professor Emma Murphy who I met in Durham, England during an international conference, recommended the University of Exeter, and this is how I first contacted, in early 2005, Professor Nadje Al-Ali, Director of Post Graduate Studies, and Professor Tim Niblock, then Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

I sent them a complete dossier and they gave my dissertation to Professor Mohamed-Salah Omri to assess it and they decided that I should register for at least three semesters at Exeter in order to update the whole work. I accepted the suggestion on the spot. After eight long years of wrangling, I managed to transfer my registration to the University of Exeter on June 1, 2005 and, with the supervision of my new advisor – Prof. Omri – started reshuffling and updating the whole research.

On June 22, 2007, I successfully defended my Ph.D. in comparative literature, and on July 9, 2008, I got my certificate during a long-awaited and memorable graduation ceremony in Exeter. This is my story, an epitome of every academic who refuses indoctrination and who cherishes freedom of thought and expression.

My dissertation is entitled "The Triumph of the Muzzled: A Postcolonial Feminist Reading of Selected Narratives by African-American and Maghrebi Women." The originality of the work stems from bringing together texts by women writers where the private conflates with the public. Through the study of six African-American and Maghrebi texts written by women, this dissertation compares the ways in which African-American and Maghrebi women find their voice. Alice Walker, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Assia Djébar

(Algeria), Leila Abouzeid (Morocco), and Souad Guelouz (Tunisia) engage in issues of women's subjugation, their access to power and economic resources, and also their legal and social standing. Presently, I am working on a book version in order to have it published by Routledge.

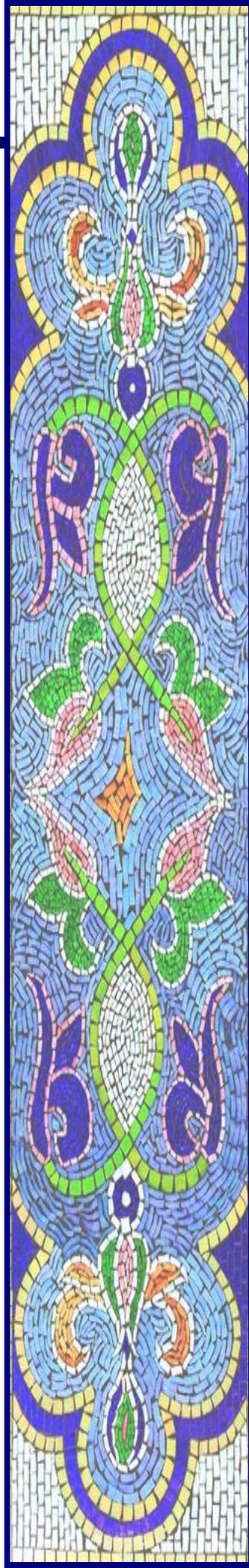
Regarding my research, the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, in its Spring 2006 special issue on Women's Activism and the Public Sphere, has published one of my essays titled: "Engendering or Endangering Politics in Algeria?: Salima Ghezali, Louisa Hanoune & Khalida Messaoudi." As a freelance journalist, and with articles such as "Apathy Mars Algerian Parliamentary Election," "Neo-Tarzanism: Gaddafi's legendary petulance," "Bouteflika, Chirac and the colonial legacy," and "The European bunker and the misery of Africa," which appeared in the Dubai-based daily *Khaleej Times*, I have authored various pieces on human rights issues in the Maghreb.

Recently, I have submitted two different chapters for two edited books. Peter Lang AG and Routledge will publish them this year. The first chapter is about *Assia Djébar and Cultural Memory*, and is titled "Cultural Memory and Resistance in Assia Djébar's *Vaste est la prison*" (English translation: *So Vast the Prison*). As for the second chapter which is on *Women as Agents of Change in the Middle East and North Africa*, it is titled "Assia Djébar and Malika Mokeddem: Neo-colonial Agents or Post-colonial Subjects?" I am also working on an essay titled "Challenging and Resisting the Nation-State: Women's Movements in the Maghreb." This chapter will appear in *Mapping Arab Women's Movements*. A volume edited by Nawar Al-Hassan Golley and Pernille Arenfeldt from the American University of Sharjah.

In February 2009, I presented a paper entitled "Disorganize and Demobilize: The Neo-patriarchal Algerian State and Women's Political Marginalization," at The Middle East Studies Council Conference on "The Everyday Functioning of Politics and Dissent in the Maghreb" at Yale University. On June 1, 2009 I was at Princeton presenting a paper entitled "Reserved Seats? or 'Deserved Seats?' State Feminism, Gender Quotas, and Co-optation in the Algerian Governance Structures," Gender Quotas in North African Parliaments: Pathways to Empowerment, Accountability, and Political Participation? Department of Near Eastern Studies International Conference, Princeton University, June 5-7, 2009.



Professors Tim Niblock (left) and the Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Gerd Nonneman (right), was on July 9, 2008, after the Graduation Ceremony.



Alumni Development Grant Profiles

Shaima Al Arayedh, Bahrain

Fulbright Grantee, 2004-2006 at Mississippi State University

I attended the 2008 ACADIA (Association of Computer Aided Design in Architecture) conference titled "Silicon and Skin" in Minneapolis, MN. Conference sessions spanned three days and included work focusing on design and its myriad of focuses – architectural, interior, urban planning, and product design. The McNamara Alumni Center, designed by architect Antoine Predock served as an inspiring venue for the conference sessions and keynote lectures. The work presented generally investigated the intersection of design principles, developments in the natural sciences, and technological advances in computation. Keynote lectures by several leading practitioners and thinkers in the field of architecture and design who are at the center of experimentation and investigation punctuated the morning and afternoon conference sessions. Detailed abstracts of each paper presented can be found here:

http://www.acadia.org/acadia2008/?page_id=82

Five workshops were conducted between October 13 and 15, 2008. The workshops proceeded the conference sessions and focused on recently emerging advances in digital environments and their possible integration in architecture and other design disciplines. This served as a valuable background to help understand and appreciate the challenges presented in the paper sessions.

I participated in the Grasshopper and Generative Modeling for Architecture workshop overseen by McNeal Associates. Work created in this workshop was pre-



Conference Paper Presentation Sessions

sented on the evening of the October 15 along with projects produced from other workshops. I attended that presentation and had very interesting and inspiring conversations comparing and contrasting the capabilities of the different modeling environments. There are several blogs devoted to technological innovations that posted some of the discoveries from the workshop. (Please see this link as an example: <http://designreform.net/2008/10/26/acadia-grasshopper-projects/>)



Grasshopper and Generative Modeling for Architecture Workshop

I met with colleagues and collaborators from the DRIL (Design Research and Informatics Lab) from Mississippi State University over lunch and dinner and discussed how current innovations in the fields of computation and biological sciences could impact our research agenda and work that focuses on sustainable architectural design in general and on housing in particular.

Through attending the ACADIA '08 conference, I gained insight into cutting edge research in terms of the theoretical discussions evolving around the impact of advances in computation and biological sciences on the field of design in general and architecture and planning in particular. This is especially relevant in light of ecological challenges that have become the center concern of the design and architecture profession in the past few years and the potential aforementioned advances to tackle sustainable development challenges.

The Fulbright Alumni Development Grant enabled me to get direct feedback from leading figures in design and computation, as I was able to discuss ideas directly and ask for advice. Moreover, the inspiring venue spurred lively discussions and was an opportunity to brainstorm and discuss interdisciplinary ideas with colleagues having different backgrounds and interests.

As a Planning Researcher at the Planning Studies Section in the Urban Planning Affairs Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain, I oversee the implementation of the Planning Vision for the year 2030. This vision takes into consideration the principles of sustainable development and tackles development challenges posed by rapid economic development, sprawl and the resulting deterioration of the natural environment.

Through meeting and discussing with colleagues during and between the conference sessions, I was able to complete a 2-year project with Professor Larry Barrow, Associate Professor at Mississippi State University. The book, entitled, "The Global Housing Crisis: An Industrial Design Opportunity in Architecture" was published by the German publishing firm VDM Verlag in December 2008.

Alumni Development Grant Profiles

Karim Souidi, Tunisia

Fulbright grantee, 2003-2004, at the University of California Berkeley



I arrived in San Francisco, CA on January 9th, 2009. I stayed seven weeks in San Francisco and one week in New York. I returned home on March 6th.

The purpose of my visit was to cooperate with Dr. Larry Dale, economist and scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Professor Michael Hanemann, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley. I intended to get as much help as possible to finish my dissertation within a few months. Well, the good news is that I received more help than I expected, to the point that I extended my stay for three more weeks. In fact, Prof. Hanemann has been very interested in my subject area of studying irrigation water usage. He has been eager to help me out with some technical difficulties in my dissertation. The big news, however, was that Prof. Hanemann has been willing to cooperate with me and work together to write one or two papers. This is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. He wants us to stay in touch through the internet and keep exchanging files. This is a great honor for me.

In 2005 and 2006, I spent most of my time collecting field data in four irrigation districts in the Cap Bon, in northeastern Tunisia. I had a very interesting database about irrigation water use on the district and farm. This data is very valuable in agricultural economics because researchers can model "real" farmers' behaviors and techniques to answer policy and empirical questions that arise in the field of water management. My main concern in my dissertation has been to check if "water transfers" also called "water markets" could solve the water problems in the Tunisian irrigation sector. For the two years that I have spent in the irrigation districts I have come to understand "real world" complex situations. This knowledge helped me help Prof. Hanemann to understand the reality of the Tunisian irrigation sector. I also handed Prof. Hanemann a 60-page document (part of my dissertation) in which I describe in detail both the theory behind the topic and the real situation in Tunisia.

I also cannot ignore the role of Dr. Larry Dale. He gave me insightful ideas about my topic. Dr. Dale was in Tunisia for a World Bank mission back in 2000, and he contributed to a study on the irrigation water sector in Tunisia. So that was helpful to me in the sense that he knows some aspects of the local issues. In fact, while I was there I already started working on a similar study like his previous work and I found some results that he and I checked together and turned out to be consistent.

As mentioned above, my collaboration with Prof. Hanemann has been very fruitful and productive. The fact that my survey data was perfectly ready and that I prepared detailed questions beforehand has helped me benefit much from Prof. Hanemann's guidance. Be-

sides, Prof. Hanemann gave me ideas and thoughts that had never crossed my mind up to that point. His creative thinking has blown my mind. I learned new techniques and approaches to tackle the problem. He shifted my attention to a totally new path. Thanks to our conversations, I see my dissertation question with different lenses. Even though the new ideas are very challenging, I am more than willing to use them in my dissertation and beyond.

I hope that I will share my skills and knowledge that I learned from all my visits to Berkeley. After my Fulbright experience, I have been willing to share the skills I learned in Berkeley with my colleagues. I have offered guidance and advising for my closest colleagues. But I hope the circle will one day get bigger to include more people. Maybe my college students have been the ones who benefited the most from my Fulbright experience in Berkeley. I can clearly see the respect my students and my colleagues have for me thanks to the skills I apply to show them the light. As the slogan of UC Berkeley says, "Let there be light!" A good starting point would be to start by the smallest circle of friends and co-workers. Spread your knowledge, share your skills and let the snowball effect do its work! In practice there are two ways of sharing my knowledge. The first is formal, when I do my best to teach my skills to college students. The second is informal when I share my skills through informal conversations with my colleagues and friends. But very recently, I've been pleased that my fellow friends/colleagues asked me to prepare a sort of seminar for them to share the knowledge I received in the U.S.

What is the Alumni Development Grant?

The Alumni Development Grant is sponsored by the Department of State and AMIDEAST to enhance the professional development of Fulbright alumni from the Middle East and North Africa region. It gives the opportunity for alumni to conduct collaborative research projects, or attend a professional conference.

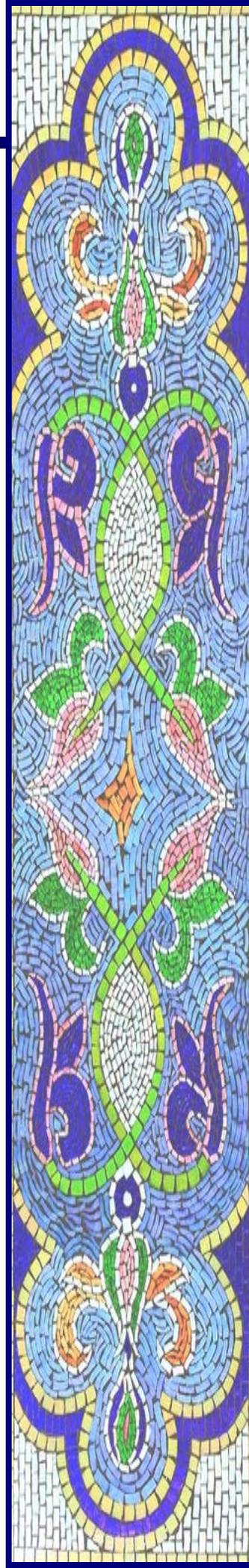
The grant provides for up to \$2,500 and is eligible for activities in the United States or the Middle East region. Other limitations may apply, please see website for complete details.

Other examples of previous Alumni Development Grant activities include:

- Embarking on a study tour of micro-credit projects in Egypt
- Visits to an American research institute or company to identify possible collaborative research on electrical industry restructuring

For details on how to apply for the alumni development grant, please visit the following link:

http://www.amideast.org/fulbright/alumni_information/development_grants.shtm



Spotlight on Marie-Jose Tayah

Marie-Jose Tayah, *Lebanon*
Fulbright grantee, 2006-2008 at Eastern Mennonite University

After completing her M.A. in May 2008, Marie-Jose returned to Lebanon for the summer, where she submitted a proposal for a Peace and Conflict studies minor at Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon. She also designed three classes that address Lebanon-specific needs:

9 credits Core Minor requirements:

[POS 315](#) Conflict Analysis and Intervention: a multitrack approach

[POS 405](#) Diasporas: Conflict and Peacebuilding

[POS 425](#) Understanding and Creating Social Change

The proposal was approved and the program has been posted on the NDU, Louaize website: <http://www.ndu.edu.lb/academics/fpspad/dps/mpeace.htm>

She also has authored a political analysis entitled "Post-Doha Lebanon: A Three Month Journey," for *Libano Em Revista*, a political and cultural trimester publication for the Lebanese Diaspora in Brazil, Issue Number 2.

<http://www.libanoemrevista.com.br/>

With Thaddeus David Hicks, she has led a workshop entitled "Introducing Peace and Conflict Paradigms in Departments of Political Science and Criminal Justice: Lessons Learned" at the Annual Conference of the Association for Conflict Resolution in Austin, Texas on September 25, 2008.

<http://www.acrnet.org/conferences/ac08/Webagenda.pdf>

The session focused on the unprecedented challenges that have accompanied humanity's transition into the 21st century. Since there is an attempt to respond to these new socio-political phenomena, much effort and resources have been earmarked for the establishment of new criminal justice, political science and security studies programs across the United States and around the world.

The presentation was broken down into the following sections: (1) Differences and similarities in the terminology used by the "contesting" disciplines; (2) The traditions, the paradigms and the theories that the disciplines operate from; (3) The literature that the disciplines build on; (4) The subfields of these "contesting" disciplines where opportunity for collaboration exists; (5) The challenges faced in the process.



Competence Development: when and where?

Khawla Konyna, Syria

Fulbright grantee, 2000-2002 at Harvard University

"What are your objectives?" One of my trainers asked me four years ago. My answer was: "to be productive and in good health". As simple as it seems, being productive requires a lot of work since it necessitates attainment of many competencies on demand in the group of people whom I choose to make myself useful for.

Once that statement was made, it became clear to me that major changes in my life were triggered whenever the learning potential of my position had been exhausted. After the first entry to real-life experience in 1991, I came back to academia when I started teaching to get a diploma of higher education in pedagogy in 1992; then I came back again when I started working at Damascus Chamber of Industry as an application developer and database administrator in 1997 to get a Master's degree in computer science. The same driving force even made it possible for me to transfer into a completely different culture and educational system when I got the Fulbright scholarship and got admitted at Harvard University in 2000.

In Dec. 2002, my new function as an HRD coordinator and a counter-part of a German HR consultant involved further exposure to the business environment. Gradually, the reflection on the negative impact of lacking some or all of management-related competencies on the work atmosphere - hence on the quality of life- induced my appreciation of such competencies.

In March 2006, I moved on into a more engaging opportunity in the office of the Vice Minister of Industry where on one hand the tasks stimulated the integration of knowledge covering a wider scope of topics in order to build a solid case, and on the other hand, with direction and encouragement from my own boss, I started discovering the dramatic change in the amount of development achieved based on good management practices.

I could see demonstrations of how fundamental it is to avoid mismanagement on different levels as well. Realizing that, I was challenged by my new endeavor because it combined elements of both the academic and professional worlds, and I decided that the next logical move for me would be to get a higher education degree in management and business practices.

Exploring my options of graduate programs, I concluded that the EMBA program at the Higher Institute for Business Administration (HIBA) was my best option because it does not require me to leave my job and it provides the ingredients of academic study within the parameters of applicable business theory. The EMBA Program was delivered by HIBA in Syria, Dauphine University in France, and St. Joseph University in Lebanon.

It combined national and international faculty with a diverse student body to make it the ideal environment in which to broaden knowledge of management and business in Syria. The EMBA program gave me the training in finance, marketing, and strategic management with an international perspective. Armed with a graduate degree in Informatics and significant professional experience, I had the background and commitment to succeed in HIBA's rigorous EMBA program. Now, I'm looking for opportunities to implement what I've learned as a more competent professional.

If you would like to write an article for the next alumni newsletter, please email Stephanie Whitlatch at swhitlatch@amideast.org.



Fulbright Grant is a Turning Point

By : Saied Abdel Hameed Hassan

A Fulbright Alumnus, 2006-2007

Conservation Trainer

ARCE Field School in Luxor

In May 1994, I received a Bachelor of Arts in "Conservation and Restoration of Fine Arts" from Cairo University. I have been working for the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) as a conservator since March 1995. Despite the lack of money and facilities SCA provided, I managed to do lots of work, especially conservation of Coptic icons and wall paintings. Sometimes I had to buy needed materials and tools with my own money.

Then, I worked as a Conservator for a joint Egyptian-Netherlands project for Conservation and Restoration of Medieval Masterpiece Icons in Egypt, doing conservation of medieval icons from different churches in Egypt. Through 1997-2001, I worked as a Conservator for Egyptian-American Joint Project for Documentation and Conservation of Coptic Icons, directed by the American Research Center in Egypt; I documented in excess of 1,000 Coptic icons in the churches of Cairo and conserved and restored icons from several churches in Old Cairo. In 2003, I was nominated to be the head of Conservation of Coptic Icons and Mural Paintings Department of Supreme Council of Antiquities, Cairo, responsible for planning, training, conservation, documentation and reporting on conservation of icons in Old Cairo churches.

In June 2007, I got a Fulbright non-master's degree grant for nine months at the Getty Conservation Institute/University of California at Los Angeles conservation training program where I received training and instruction in many conservation techniques.

In addition, during the period of my grant I visited many international museums and conservation laboratories to exchange experience and information with professionals from all over the world.

When I came back to Egypt, I had several plans and dreams to give back to my country during my two-year home residency requirement. It was not easy at all to change things with the difficult routine and lack of facilities in the Supreme Council of Antiquities. After 3 months of trying very hard, I decided to help my country and SCA by working for The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). After the experience and education I got as a Fulbrighter, I was qualified enough to be offered a high-level position as a conservation trainer.

In September 2007, I got the position of Deputy Assistant Director for Conservation and Chief Egyptian Conservation Instructor for the Luxor East Bank Groundwater Lowering Response Project in Luxor, Egypt. I worked directly with the Assistant Director of the project and was responsible for teaching and training during a joint USAID/ARCE field school for Egyptian conservators employed by the Supreme Council of Antiquities; this included classroom instruction as well as on site instruction and supervision of students undertaking conservation work at the Temple of Khonsu, located in the Temple of Karnak complex, Luxor, Egypt. During the last two seasons we trained 50 conservators and technicians working only in the Luxor area and we are planning to train 50 more in the next two years.

In this way, I gave back to my country in an excellent way by training Egyptian conservators and technicians on how to best care for our priceless antiquities. Finally, I would like to thank the Fulbright staff in Egypt and in the States for giving me that great opportunity.

Alumni News

Bahrain

Dr. Hoda Al-Mutawah (1998-2000)

After finishing her studies in the U.S., Dr. Hoda returned to Bahrain to work as a producer and director at Bahrain TV. She currently teaches and advises students at the Department of Mass Communications at Bahrain University. She was featured in "Women this Month," April 2009. Employing what she has learned through her life experiences and education, Hoda teaches her students to be critical thinkers and ethical, credible journalists. She also believes in the importance of teaching students life skills such as how to work in a team, how to give the best and ways they can help their country.



Jordan

Anud Abbassi (2001-2003)

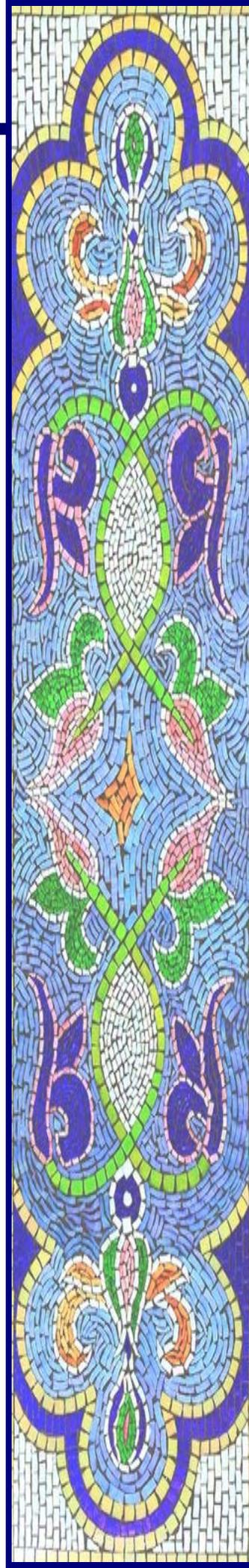
Anud is currently working as an external collaborator with the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) on a project called SOS.travel, a web portal that will provide timely and transparent information to tourists in anticipation of, or in response to, natural and man-made crises. It will allow for quick coordination and response among major players in the tourism industry in order to mitigate the negative effects that such events can have on tourism, which is a major source of income especially in developing countries.

In March 2007, she presented a paper in a women's studies conference at the Complutense University in Madrid. They recently published a selection of papers presented at the conference in a book entitled "Sites of female terror: en torno a la mujer y el terror". The paper was entitled: "Women and Free Trade: Colonization of the 21st Century". Here is a link of the publication <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/libro?codigo=352253>

Sima Mango (2001-2003)

Is the Residential Asset Manager with Saraya Development Group, which is the consulting firm for Saraya Holdings. Saraya is a property developer in the Middle East and it is currently pursuing other projects outside the region. Their projects are in Jordan (Amman, Aqaba and Dead Sea), UAE (Ras El-Khaimah), Oman (Bandar Jissah) and Russia (Sochi). Saraya is the leader of mixed-use projects where gated communities have residential, retail and entertainment components. Sima is responsible for the residential units (grand villas to beach club duplexes and lofts) in all of these projects and enjoys bringing the dreams of the customers to life creating a safe haven for them to escape to. Please visit the website: www.sarayaholdings.com.

Sima has attained the Project Management Professional Certification (PMP) since her Fulbright (MBA) and has written a few articles with the Jordan Business Magazine on Project Management. It is a constant gratification being able to utilize her legal background, her MBA, PMP and the global experience of Fulbright to achieve to the best of her abilities and know that she is what she would never have been had it not been for all of those.



Morocco

Abdallah Malki (1993-1996)

He was appointed by King Mohamed VI as Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Moulay Ismail in Meknes in March 2008. He was a Fulbright grantee in 1993-1996

He has published a translation of Gary Radford's *On ECO* into French. It appeared under the title of SEMIOTIQUE D'UMBERTO ECO (*Semiotics of Umberto Eco*) in 2007. He also published an article in SEMIOTICA 2008 and another one in an edited book about L'INTELLECTUEL ET LE POUVOIR (*The Intellectual and Power*).

Fatiha Jillali Monette (2004-2006)

After graduating from Cornell University, Fatiha worked as the regional coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) department at the Grameen Foundation. She assisted microfinance institutions with financial advisory and technical assistance, engineered guarantees that leveraged multi-million dollar loans in local currency to scale up poverty alleviation efforts and negotiated with the Ministries of Finance and local banks in favor of microfinance institutions.

In June 2006, she was selected as Moroccan of the month by the website of Moroccans in the US (www.wafin.com). She is the founder and director of www.muslimrolemodels.com, has contributed editorials to the International Herald Tribune and on the Business Week Economics blog. In addition, she is the co-founder, editor and director of the video series Coffee Break with Dr. Jamaluddin. Currently, she works from home on translations in English, French and Arabic and provides advanced French and Arabic tutoring lessons.



Syria

Yousef Hassan (2003-2005)

Yousef is finishing his PhD in human molecular nutrition this August. He has also contributed to several articles:

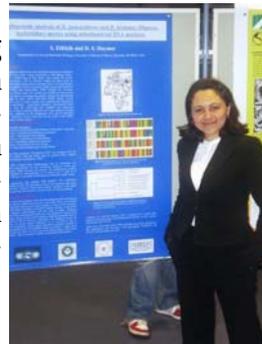
- Yousef I. Hassan and Bullerman L. B. (2009): Wheat bran as an alternative substrate for macroconidia formation by some *Fusarium* species, *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, 77(1), pp. 134–136.
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Alumni News

Tunisia

Samia Elfekih (2007-2008)

Is currently teaching plant biology at the University of Tunis and writing her doctoral thesis in the field of genetics and molecular biology. In March, she was awarded with funding by the "Royal Entomological Society" in Great Britain to give a talk at the biannual meeting of the German Society for General and Applied Entomology (DGaaE) in Gottingen Germany. Her lecture was entitled "High levels of genetic variability in medfly populations (Diptera: tephritidae) from the southern Mediterranean Basin."



West Bank/Gaza

Dr. Said Abusalem (1997-1999)

Won the honorable mention award for the research project entitled "Home healthcare nurses care errors" from the APHA 2008 geriatric section and conference in San Diego last October 2008.

Yemen

Adel Aldhahab (2004-2005)

In the end of 2008, he expanded his law firm Alsanabani & Aldhahab Law Office by opening a North American branch in Hamilton, Ontario. With ten attorneys, four branches in Yemen, a North American branch and partnerships with law firms in the U.A.E, Jordan, Egypt, Oman and the U.S., his firm now ranks one of the best three law firms in Yemen.

This encourages remarkable companies to retain his firm such as G4S, the largest security company in the world, Subway restaurant and Baker and McKenzie. Also, this makes his firm eligible to testify as expert witnesses in remarkable cases such as an antitrust case before a court in Florida that is worth one billion dollars.

The goal in the next five years is to make the firm distinguished on the regional level. To achieve this goal, he plans to open a branch in Dubai and another one in Detroit, Michigan, in addition to hiring five senior lawyers. To get more details about his firm go the website www.lawyemen.com.

If you have interesting news that you would like to share with your fellow Fulbright Alums for the next alumni newsletter, please email Stephanie Whitlatch at swhitlatch@amideast.org. We look forward to learning about all of your accomplishments!



Spring 2009 Graduates

Anan Habeeb, IASP, PhD in Arabic Language and Literature (in progress), University of Indiana Bloomington
Saleem Khateeb, IASP, MA in Clinical Psychology, University of Detroit Mercy
Dareen Khattab, IASP, MA in International Relations and Affairs, University of Notre Dame
Ameed Saabneh, IASP, PhD in Demography and Population Studies (in progress), University of Wisconsin
Hanna Chalhoub, Lebanon, LLM, University of Arizona
Carla Haibi, Lebanon, MA in Food Management, New York University
Alain Hasrouny, Lebanon, MA in International Relations and Affairs, Tufts University
Mohammad Loufti, Lebanon, MA in International Economics, Tufts University
Mohammad Wail Aaminou, Morocco, MBA in International Business, Duke University
Fadwa Chaker, Morocco, MBA in Business Administration, Duke University
Tarik Chmiti, Morocco, MS in Building and Construction Site Management, Georgia Institute of Technology
Najoua El Bourkadi, Morocco, MS in Biochemistry, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Amine Ghouli, Morocco, MA in International Relations and Affairs, American University
Youssef Idaghdour, Morocco, PhD in Genetics, North Carolina State University
Amina Iraqi, Morocco, MA in Communication and Media Studies, American University
Hanane Khaoua, Morocco, MA in Communication Studies, Emerson College
Marouane Laouina, Morocco, MA in Anthropology, Columbia University
Waseem Alhusami, Syria, MS in Human Resources, Perdue University
Loubna Aljoura, Syria, MA in Journalism, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Rajaa Altalli, Syria, MS in Applied Mathematics, Northeastern University
Waseela Hamam, Syria, MA in Linguistics, State University of New York at Buffalo
Nadia Hamzeh, Syria, MA in Film Production and Directing, Chapman University
Abla Hassan, Syria, MA in Philosophy, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Anas Salah Eddin, Syria, MA in Biomedical Engineering, Florida International University
Manar Shabouk, Syria, MA in Linguistics, University of South Carolina
Amine Allam, Tunisia, MBA, University of Rochester
Youssef Cherif, Tunisia, MA in Classical Studies, Columbia University
Youssef Gaigi, Tunisia, MBA, Boston University
Jihene Rbiai, Tunisia, English Literature, SUNY/Potsdam (non-degree)
Benar Azez, Iraq, EMPA in Public Administration, Syracuse University (Graduating mid-July 2009)
Sherif El-Negahy, Egypt, LLM, Pepperdine University
Nizar Al Wazir, Gaza, MBA, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Shadi Saleh, Gaza, MA in Architecture, University of Cincinnati
Mira Al Mukarker, West Bank, MBA in Strategic Planning, Marylhurst University
Ramzi Asali, West Bank, MA in International Development, Ohio University
Dima Yaser, West Bank, MA in Architecture, Pennsylvania State University
Rania Ma'ayeh, West Bank, MA in TESOL, West Chester University
Mohammad Abu Khater, Jordan, MS in Electrical Engineering, Purdue University
Bashar Anbtawi, Jordan, MS in Computer Engineering, Texas A&M University
Samer Dabbas, Jordan, MS in International Studies, Johns Hopkins University: SAIS
Rami Al-Horani, Jordan, PhD in Medical Chemistry (in progress), Virginia Commonwealth University
Delia Hussein, Jordan, MA in Clinical Psychology, Argosy University: San Francisco Bay
Nawal Al-Jawhari, Jordan, PhD in Conflict Resolution (in progress), NOVA Southeastern
Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Jordan, MA in Social Science, University of Chicago
Suleiman Mohammad, Jordan, Joint Program MPH/MID-GSPIA Public & Global Health, University of Pittsburgh
Duaa Salameh, Jordan, PhD in English Literature (in progress), University of Wisconsin, Madison
Ayad Derbal, Libya, LLM/International Human Rights Law, Notre Dame
Ahmed Eddhir, Libya, MS in Professional Studies, RIT
Hend Iriham, Libya, MA in International Development, Ohio University
Amjad Shagrouni, Libya, MA in Public Health, Brown University
Nedal Swehli, Libya, MBA, University of Pittsburgh
Zainab Allaith, Bahrain, MS in Teaching Culture & Instruction, Texas A&M University
Leena Alolaimey, Bahrain, MA in Liberal Studies, Dartmouth College
Shatha Alwardi, Bahrain, International MBA, University of South Carolina-Moore School of Business
Irfan Zardadkhan, Bahrain, PhD in Aerospace Engineering (in progress), Old Dominion University
Said Alghenaimi, Oman, MA in Educational Instructional Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia
Intisar Alnaaimi, Oman, MBA, Duquesne University
Hussain Alnoumani, Oman, MS in Petroleum Engineering, Texas A&M University
Ahmed Alrahbi, Oman, MA in TESOL, Northern Arizona
Hesham Alghannam, Saudi Arabia, MA in International Political Studies, Monterey Institute for International Studies
Amna Al Zaabi, UAE, MA in Professional Management & Leadership, School for International Training
Ebrahim Alkhshbi, Yemen, MA in International Development, Ohio University
Mutahar Almurtafha, Yemen, MA in Health Education, Idaho State University
Fatoom Alwadi, Yemen, MA in Non-Profit Management, School for International Training
Yousef Bamahra, Yemen, MA in TESOL, University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Abdulkareem GHAZI, Yemen, MA in Nursing Administration, Kent State University
Ameen Sanad, Yemen, MA in International Affairs, American University

Current Student Updates

Mira Mukarker, West Bank, was nominated by Marylhurst University to receive the “Who’s Who Among Students” award, given to outstanding campus leaders for their academic and community accomplishments.

Shatha Alwardi, Bahrain, has been volunteering with United Nations-affiliated NGOs in Africa, assisting them online with launching fundraising campaigns for free primary education in southern Cameroon, malaria and shoe aid projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, and aid in Morocco.

Mustafa Aimer, Algeria, attended the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, a conference about global poverty and hunger. He was able to share a unique perspective as an Algerian Fulbrighter and a native African.

Hanna Chalhoub, Lebanon, was awarded the Munger Prize for Scholars in International and Business Law. The Munger Prize is awarded annually to a University of Arizona student based upon outstanding scholarship and enduring achievement in the areas of international and business law.

Amer Mahdi Doko, Syria, was the first student, in his program at Carnegie Mellon to get an internship offer from Cisco Systems, San Jose, CA. Amer also won the Keith Block Entrepreneurship Award. He was elected for Public Affairs Chair of the Muslim Students Association at Carnegie Mellon University.

Anas Salah Eddin, Syria, was elected as the secretary of the Graduate Student Association, the biggest association on campus with a budget of over 100,000 USD. She also represented her school (Florida International University) in Tuscaloosa, AL at the NAGPS (National Association of Graduate Professionals) Southern Chapter.

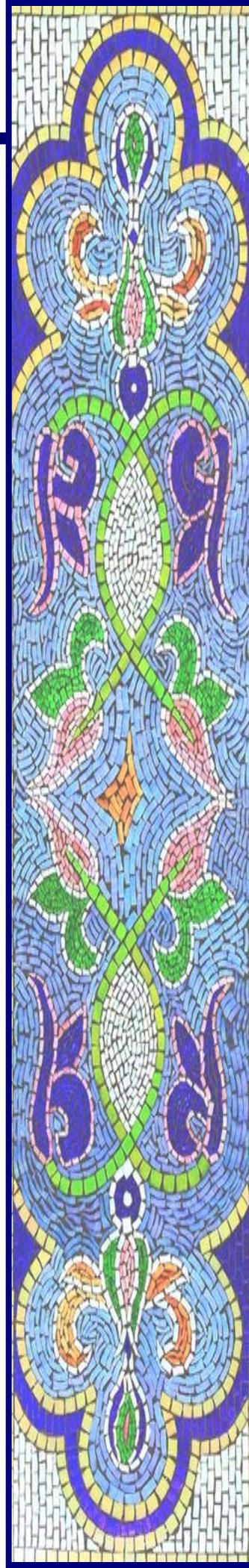
Hazem El-Wissimy, Egypt, organized the MIT Student Delegation to Egypt, which took place in January. They met with some of the most prominent members of Egyptian business families, in addition to Citadel Private Equity Investment Group, and the Minister of Investment.

Sherif Elnegahy, Egypt, was selected to attend the 2009 Chicago Fulbright Foreign Student Enrichment Seminar at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, Illinois from March 5 – March 8, 2009, where he participated as a panel speaker, presenting his experience with the Egyptian anti-cyber crimes association to over 160 Fulbright scholars from all over the world.

Ahmed Safi, Gaza, won the AAG Water Resource Specialty Group Ph.D. Student Paper Award. His winning paper is titled, "Water Technology Transfer to Poor Communities: Concerns, Limitations and Opportunities." The award is part of the annual AAG meeting conducted this year in March in Las Vegas.

Radia Benzehra, Algeria, helped French nuns to serve almost 200 meals for people in New York at “Fraternite Notre Dame,” which was originally a soup kitchen.

Kaldoun Bshara, West Bank, won the 2009 Dr. Dard Magnus Rossell Memorial Award for Merit for Graduate Research in Anthropology.



Announcements

The Fulbright Association's 32nd Annual Conference is coming to Washington, DC October 29 through November 1, 2009!

The Fulbright Association's annual conference is held each fall and attracts alumni from throughout the U.S. and around the world. The conference provides an important forum for the discussion of international issues and developments in the field of international educational and cultural exchange. Federal officials, members of the private sector and representatives of international NGOs participate.

It will be held at the Madison Hotel, 1177 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The topic is to be announced, please visit the website for more details: http://www.fulbrightalumni.org/olc/pub/FBA/cpages/about_us/about_us.jsp.

Check out the State Alumni website, where you can:

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- Post news stories about your alumni activities and personal achievements.
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